

盲人女教師凱文 她的心在中國

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Friendship

By Ceinwen

It had taken some convincing, but I finally got a South American housemate to accompany me to the September Pittsburgh Dragon Boat Festival. I later learned that he was not so much interested in the dragon boats or the Chinese food as in getting to know me bet-



ter. As events turned out, he was not the only one who had this idea. Somehow in the process of finding out how to get something to eat, I overheard some people speaking Chinese and introduced myself. Another woman, who turned out to be Amy Pu, a journalist and editor of the Erie Chinese Journal, joined the conversation. She told me she would like to write about me, so we exchanged phone numbers. I was surprised that she actually called, however, and agreed to meet with her. I told her about myself and showed her whatever pictures I could find which chronicled the various important phases of my life. Since that time, I have appeared in a number of articles in the Chinese newspaper. I had thought there were only two until one of my Chinese friends whom I see infrequently told me she had kept up with me through the articles in the Chinese paper. Ms. Pu usually calls me to tell me when she is coming from Cleveland to Pittsburgh. Times and dates often change with little notice, and when we meet, I have learned to be ready for just about anything interesting. When we part, I usually have enough left-over food from a restaurant dinner to last for several days, and the knowledge that there are several more people I'd like to get to know better. Shortly after we met, she asked me to sing some Chinese folk songs at the closing ceremony of a soccer game between Pittsburgh and Cleveland Chinese teams which I didn't even know existed.

There are two occasions I will never forget. One was the lunar New Year dinner I had at my home. I was supposed to talk about my philosophy of life in Chinese and feed a bus load of people one Sunday afternoon last February. The challenge for me was having dinner for 40 people hot and ready to serve after my talk. Usually on such occasions I am bustling about the kitchen until the last moment. This time I chose a menu of three dishes which could be kept warm for hours with-

out harm, and also baked cakes, pies and cookies. Miss Pu was concerned that I wouldn't have enough food, or that the Chinese people couldn't handle my American cooking, and brought enough food from a local restaurant to feed our household of ten for weeks afterward. The other challenge was my lecture, which had made me worried for weeks, since I'm not sure my Chinese is up to the task. I never even got to the lecture, because after I had sung a few songs in various languages and answered a few questions, I was informed that a few people needed to leave and we had to eat immediately. Everyone left after dinner except the Pittsburgh Post Gazette reporter, who stayed for quite some time asking me questions about my life and the various problems I have had to face as a result of my blindness. The result of this day was a newspaper article which still draws comments from strangers at bus stops.

The other event was last Memorial Day when I was the guest of Mrs. Pu and her family for the weekend. There were several occasions for singing, the most notable of which was the program which was supposed to be a celebration but which turned out to be a benefit for victims of the recent earthquake in Sichuan province. One of the participants was a group of Mongolian singers. Since I had spent time teaching in Inner Mongolia, I wanted to sing them a Mongolian song which had not been on the program. This brought a spontaneous reply from their side, and several songs were exchanged. The next morning, Mrs. Pu accompanied me to breakfast at the hotel where the group was staying.



Since several stragglers had not boarded the bus, I climbed into a front seat and sang several more Mongolian songs in Chinese. The feeling of friendship felt strong enough to touch, and I left with a special Mongolian scarf which had been given to me the previous night at the concert. In all these exchanges, Amy Pu and I have become close friends. I think I could safely say that each of us knows things about the other that we would not like to read about in newspapers. I look forward to deepening friendship in the coming years as well as more fun and adventure.

浦瑛

您好!
很抱歉現在才能回復您。
對於凱文,我想我很難用語言去形容她,沒有見到她之前,我們都不敢太過肯定的對旁人說凱文如何如何不平凡,畢竟我們也只是通過媒體的一些文字或影片,或是別人口中知道她。而在中國,一個身體的重要器官有缺陷的人確實沒有被社會賦予太多的責任和期望。

可是見到凱文,和凱文朝夕相處,我們發現我們的想法是錯的。一個人的生活有沒有色彩有沒有成就和社會有沒有賦予責任和期望並不是最大的關聯,重要的是一個人心里對美,對生存的獨立,對生命的尊嚴在不在于有關。
凱文老師就是這樣一個追求美追求獨立的人。

在雲浮的前六天,凱文老師走進當地的兩所中學,每天至少給八十個學生上課,最多的一天有兩百多的學生走進了她的課堂。凱文有着豐富的教育經驗,面對不同基礎的學生,凱文能夠很快的調整學習的內容和提問的方式,總能給學生實在的收穫。

當然,當凱文唱歌時,我們更願時間是停駐的,因為凱文彈唱的時候,聲音太美,意境也太美。常常連續三



個半小時的上課,學生走了一批,又來了一批,我對凱文說:"凱文您累嗎休息一會吧!"她卻很少接受這樣的建議,有一次我提多了,她對學生說我好煩啊,真是一個可愛的人。

見到凱文之前,我們也能瞭解到她是一個很樂觀的人,所以我當工作壓力大的時候,會把凱文當可以信賴的朋友一樣去交流和傾訴,從她身上我們總能感覺到一種對人生豁達的力量——當你可以改變環境的時候,想辦法改變;而當你無法改變環境的時候,要改變自己。問她生活中有沒有困難,她想一下,給了一個很好玩的答案:也許是每天要爬樓梯吧(因為在雲浮,凱文住在八樓沒有電梯)。可是我要教書呢,所以沒有辦法,我還是要爬啊。
凱文與我住在一起,可是我沒有覺得她需要特別的去照顧,因為她的精力甚至比我們還充沛,我們都睡下了,她還在房間里穿項鍊,讀書。

總之,在很多人看來,凱文是不平凡的。但在她看來,她只是很正常的在做她所能去做的事情。她有一顆上進卻平常的心。我想這點是那些容易迷失,容易浮躁的現代人最需要學習的。

這就是我的所感,祝一切順利!

小龐

一封中國讀者來信

尊敬的凱文老師您好!

您先後 18 次來中國義務指教,真是太了不起,我一家人都很尊重您,您一路上肯定克服不少困難,您不僅意志堅強而且心地善良,這種精神是國際的,是值得學習的,我們在萬里之外歡迎您的

到來,如果人們都象您這樣友好,那大同世界同一個夢想還會遠嗎?

同樣善良的中國公民
馬忠玉 范嶸

友情



2006 年,在匹茲堡一年一度的龍舟節里,我認識了盲人凱文,當時她在參觀中國禮品攤位,我聽到她用一口純真的普通話在問價,我十分好奇,便跟她打招呼,我們很快聊起來,後來我每一次去匹茲堡送報紙只要有時間就想去看她,一晃二年了,我們成了很好的朋友。

2007 年暑假,她已經準備好去西安教中文,沒有想學校臨時說取消了,她打電話要我幫忙,我說給我幾天時間,最後在李敏儒的幫助下她順利去了武漢。就在她回家我請她吃飯的時候,我告訴她匹茲堡實在太難生存了,我說我沒有士氣再繼續做,她說那你就來看看我,我看着她幾乎要哭的樣子,急忙說我繼續送,因為匹茲堡我有一群難得的朋友。

凱文她活得自在,正常人能做的她能做,正常人不能做的她也能做,她對我說,在你的生活里要記住五點:時間:珍惜分分秒秒。勤奮:努力要求上進。能力:學習探索經驗。原諒:諒解善待別人。錯誤:容許自己犯錯誤。從錯中學,讓自己更有智慧。凱文是一個富有愛心樂於助人的美國人,她也是一位知識淵博的責任性很強的人,在她教書的生涯中她曾經教過數學,教過宗教;還教過化學、物理學;教過俄文、西班牙文、法文、英文。她業餘時間喜歡旅遊,喜歡看別的地方,看世界上的人怎樣生活。

凱文她是個盲人。她從小生活在黑暗中,命運給了她太多的艱難和坎坷,她曾痛苦、迷茫、彷徨,但她抗爭、奮鬥、崛起。也是從那以後,她學到了一個真理:"雖然我



凱文說她太喜歡她剛裝修的新廚房,尤其是她放做她糕點的打面機,認識凱文對我來說是一比財富,她對生活的熱情我敬佩不易,而她喜歡用一句俄羅斯諺語勉勵我 "Work is not a bear. It will not run away into the forest." That means your work will still be there when you wake up. Just use your time as well as you can and things will somehow get done.

Russian, Polish, Spanish, Portuguese, Latin, French, German, Chinese, Thai, Hebrew, Swahili 她是一個能令人興奮,給人力量,從她的笑聲中能讓你滿懷激情的人。

最後借用一句名言:生活給予每個人的都不會太少,只要你好好珍惜其中的一二,並不斷用心血去打造,你就能擁有生命的芬芳,因為這個世界上所有的人都擁有二十四個小時。



這個暑假,62 歲的凱文在廣東度過

凱文(KingSmith),自幼雙目失明的美國盲人女教師,能熟練掌握 8 種語言,另有 4 種語言可進行日常交流。從 1986 年起,她先後 18 次獨自到中國支教。近日,她只身來到雲浮市義務輔導學生學習英語,並將在廣東度過這個暑假。

每天上 8 樓她說習慣了

今年 62 歲的凱文,年輕時從斯坦福大學俄國文學專業畢業後,又進入哈佛大學學習並順利獲得教育學碩士學位,此後一直從事教育工作。她的職業是美國中學教師,上俄文、中文課。

前日,在雲浮市區的唯特教育培訓中心,凱文老師時而在盲人電腦上敲著英語單詞,時而站起來向學生提問。她還一邊彈電子琴,一邊教學生唱英文歌。

這些英語愛好者大都來自附近的幾所中學。一位姓林同學告訴記者,凱文老師不照本宣科,基本不用中文,而是從不同角度用英文幫助學生理解。凱文老師經常講英語小故事,經常提問,課堂氛圍十分活躍。

凱文稱讚中國人很友好,學生很好學。她住在培訓中心附近的 8 樓,沒有電梯,每天都要爬樓梯,但她說習慣了,“沒關係”。

會 8 種語言中國話流利

有人問凱文:會不會覺得上帝對你不公平?凱文說:我覺得上帝對每個人都是公平的,我雖然沒有眼睛,但心中充滿光明。

她從來不向命運屈服,從小學、中學到大學,她都把自己當作正常人。她在學習外語方面具有非凡的天賦和毅力,除母語英語外,她先後學習並熟練掌握了俄語、法語、西班牙語、德語、葡萄牙語、波蘭語、

漢語等 8 種語言,另外有 4 種語言可進行日常交流,能用 12 種語言唱歌。

凱文在接受本報記者採訪時,完全用中文流利交談。她說,讀大學時每周只有兩節中文課,學不到多少東西。1980 年以後,許多中國留學生來到美國,她熱情地招呼中國留學生住在她家,向他們學習中文,從“你好”、“一二三四”開始學,經過幾年努力,終於能熟練地說中國話。

來華支教 14 次自費

從 1986 起,凱文已先後 18 次利用假期來到中國大陸,分別在北京、內蒙古、新疆、哈爾濱、長春、太原、廣州等地,義務教中國的孩子學英語。其中 4 次是聯合國教科文組織資助的,其餘都是凱文自費的。

接觸過凱文的人都說,她是一位樂於助人的“活雷鋒”。雖然是盲人,但她還義務照顧着一位身患腦癌的朋友。她在匹茲堡的家是一幢三層別墅,中國留學生都喜歡住在她家。平時一下班,她就會趕回家,給他們做飯,照顧他們的日常生活。讓那些身在他鄉的中國人,在美國有了一個溫馨的家。她甚至從銀行借錢幫留學生交學費,被大家稱為“天使”。

到過 37 國最喜歡中國

凱文曾經到過 37 個國家,其中她最喜歡的是中國。她說:我特別喜歡中國民歌,喜歡吃中國菜,感受中國人的生活。2000 年以來,她每年都要來中國一次,每到一個地方,她都要找歌手學唱中國歌曲,尤其是當地的民歌。幾年下來,她已經會唱 100 多首中國歌曲了,並在中國一些城市舉辦過個人獨唱音樂會。(本文原載於中國南方日報:記者/張建明 通訊員/廖榮波報道)



62 歲的美國盲人女教師凱文 18 次來華支教