

Andrews University

Digital Commons @ Andrews University

Lake Union Herald

Lake Union Herald

8-2023

Despite All Odds

Man "CiangPi" Ciang

Christiana Michel

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-pubs>

Despite All Odds

WHILE CIANGPI WAS GROWING UP IN HER TOWN IN BURMA, THERE WERE MANY DAYS WHEN THEY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH FOOD FOR HER FAMILY.

She lived in a house made with walls of bamboo mats, so it was not very stable—especially when there were storms. When it rained, the roof leaked. She remembers having to share an umbrella with her sister just to stay dry inside. She depicted how the walls in their house had little holes in them so when the sun rose, light would shine through. Despite the multiple difficulties she and her family had to go through, she can see how God had a plan for her life.

After moving to the United States in 2019, she learned English and had to figure out how to continue her education. Even though she was 18 and had finished high school in Burma, she was not ready for college in the United States. “People said I was too old and too late for high school,” she said. “They thought I should just start working to help my family financially.” However, none of this would discourage her from pursuing her goal and she sought to obtain a U.S. high school diploma.

In February 2023 she applied for the Abe Lincoln Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis scholarship, which is awarded to students who have overcome unimaginable hardships to assist them in reaching their goals. She prayed to God that no matter what happened, she would be a witness for Him.

There are 23 high schools in Indiana’s Marion County and a student was nominated from each school. Of those 23 students, only four would receive top awards. She was eventually chosen for fourth place and received a \$5,000 college scholarship. “Just to be selected from my school was a privilege, but to win fourth place was a miracle,” she said. “While I don’t want accolades, I do want to thank God for the privilege to be recognized and receive a scholarship for university.”

Her dream is to be a successful businessperson and to do philanthropy work. Specifically, she wants to help people from her village in Burma, as they would benefit immensely by receiving food, education and access to medical clinics. CiangPi enjoys helping people but feels she needs a concrete educational foundation so she can help them more efficiently. The 22-year-old recently gradu-

ated from high school and begins studies at Indiana University Bloomington this fall.

CiangPi wants others to know that Jesus is truly a good friend and that He has a plan for your life, too. “We can never change how merciful God is to us. The person who you are will never change how merciful He is. God is faithful!” ■

Written by CiangPi and edited by incoming Andrews University freshman Christiana Michel.

“
We can never change how merciful God is to us. The person who you are will never change how merciful He is. God is faithful!”

”

◀ *Man Ciang, also known as CiangPi, received a scholarship from the Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis.*

