



When the director of our Intensive English Language Program asked me to pick a book centering on community service, I immediately thought about Rob Oliver's inspiring autobiography *Still Walking*. I have known Rob since his youth and had witnessed firsthand his wonderful attitude throughout his challenging experience. I was especially excited when Rob was available to visit my classroom because I knew that here was a motivational speaker who would by his presence and attitude inspire my students. The response was overwhelming. My students' comments after his talk are the best testimonial:

*"The thing that impressed me the most about Rob is his attitude. He is so calm and positive. I think if I was in his situation I wouldn't be as calm as he is because sometimes I can't even be calm without the problem he has." "For my own life I can learn how to appreciate what I have in front of me..."* Jean Sanchez

*"The first impression I got from Rob was that he was a peaceful person. When I got inside of the room and saw him in his wheelchair a feeling of compassion came to my body, but when I saw his smile everything changed and I thought how miserable I am because with all my body functioning at 100 percent I was feeling sadness. In Rob I saw a happy man, with a lot of strength, a man who believes in God more than everything else, a man who never gave up no matter the circumstances life presents."* Carlos Cabrera

*"When I entered the room and I saw Rob in the wheelchair smiling I felt a feeling of happiness that my eyes began to be watery. After he started talking I didn't lose focus at all. I was very concentrated in his words. He is a very humble man who didn't want all the attention for him but for us and our problems that we are passing through. I just love that experience of listening to a person like Rob and I'll never forget him and his words full of wisdom to advice(sic) others and motivate."* Vanessa Lopez

*"His lesson touched my heart. I have to try very hard to do what he said."* Phouc Lam

*"When I arrived in the classroom I saw a man in his chair but 10 minutes later I forgot there is a man with a disability, I was looking at a wonderful man... I used to admire many popular artists but I think that he is like an artist because he also does many wonderful things. I am sure that I learned from Rob's life. He shows us to love every minute. He is a good example of faith..."* Beatriz Sophia Lopez Carbajal

My students felt so personally touched by Rob's story and his visit that we arranged to conduct a final interview with Rob via Skype at the end of the semester. Several of my students still ask about Rob two years later. Inviting Rob to speak in your classroom or at your event may be the most valuable lifetime gift you can give your students.

Sincerely,

Trudy Odom

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