

Hope and Heroes – Tala B. '12, (Renfrew North)

Our chapel service today is about hope but I'm up here to talk to you about another word that starts with "H", Heroes. I believe that often we need people to inspire us and show us what we are capable of.

Christopher Reeve, when asked what a hero was, said,

"My [first] answer was that a hero is someone who commits a courageous action without considering the consequences... Now my definition is completely different. I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."

We often think of heroes as fictional protagonists with supernatural powers and abilities but the real heroes are the people around us. That is what is so inspiring about heroes; they are regular people, just like us. They aren't born with anything special but somehow they find a way to achieve greatness, often through extremely tough and nearly impossible circumstances. So what makes a hero? A hero is someone who will go just that little bit farther, hold out that little bit longer, and above it all they believe that what they are striving for is possible. One of my favourite sayings is "reality is for those with no imagination".

In order to achieve the impossible we have to believe it is possible. Heroes are just ordinary people and yet they show us that we all have the potential to make a difference. Heroes can be anybody and anybody can be a hero. What I mean is that all of us have the potential to be a hero for someone else. Sometimes it's just the little things that make a big difference. Cheering someone up when they're having a bad day, giving a friend advice when they have a dilemma. We all rely upon one another and in turn must do our part to inspire others to be the best that they can be. Without hope the world would be a bland and desolate spectacle, which is why we need each other. Terry Fox is one of the most famous Canadian heroes. He began his marathon of hope in the 1980's and ran a total of 5,280 kilometers over 143 days. Eddie Vedder, the lead singer of Pearl Jam, expressed the way Terry Fox inspired him by saying, "He's the one who taught me, even as a kid, that one man can make a difference." I really like that way of looking at it. That is what heroes do; they show us that we are not unimportant in the big scheme of things and that our actions matter. They give us hope that we can make a difference in the world.