

2004

God's Ordinary Heroes

Patrick Allen

George Fox University, patrickallenauthor@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/soe_faculty



Part of the [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Previously published in *College Faith* 2, 2004, p. 39. <http://www.universitypress.andrews.edu/catalog.php?key=175>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Education at Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications - School of Education by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolf@georgefox.edu.



GOD'S ORDINARY HEROES

Patrick Allen

Provost and Chief Academic Officer
Point Loma Nazarene University
San Diego, California

I DIDN'T WANT TO GO to college. I came from an honest, hard-working, blue-collar family, and I grew up in a small town where only a few went on to college. Most who finished high school went to

work in a local factory or on a farm, or they joined the military. There were few role models of the benefits of higher education.

I didn't know if I would fit in at a college. I wasn't special. I wasn't slick. I was just a small-town kid with no car, no fancy clothes, no money, and little confidence.

Early my first semester, I was struggling with these doubts when one of my professors mentioned that the heroes in the Bible were not extraordinary people. They were just ordinary people with courage and faith who served an extraordinary God. He said that they were people just like you and me—full of doubts and fears. God does not call us to be extraordinary. God calls us to be faithful.

Wow! The lights came on for me. My job is to show up every day and faithfully do my best. God's call to me includes, and for now accepts, all my doubts about Him and about myself. Thirty years later, I'm still on task—still answering the call. I'm just an ordinary person faithfully doing my small part in the extraordinary work of the kingdom.

My parents taught me about right and wrong, that there were consequences for my actions, that there were dignity and value in hard work, and that your word was your bond. I learned in college that we honor God when we faithfully use our gifts—no matter how ordinary they may seem to be.

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13 NIV

