

Payton Feltner

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The Life Of Todd Ben Feltner

It was the first day of school sophomore year. I was late getting ready. I had just received my learner's permit, so I asked my dad, "Can I drive to school today," he reluctantly tells me I can. We got in the car, drove out of the driveway, and came up to a stop sign at a busy intersection in front of my house. I look to both sides of the street and think that I am good to go, but as soon as I start to move forward, I hear my Dad yell, "STOP!"

We almost got hit by two cars. My dad is the type of person that always wants to help and teach. He always tries to teach me everything that I need to know, even if I almost kill us in a car. Since the first day of school, my dad and I have been out driving many times, and he helps me learn all of the basics of driving, and no matter how many times I make a mistake, he always helps me. My dad had not been on a bike for 35 years, but when I decided to join the Crimson Cliffs mountain bike team, he got certified as a mountain bike coach. He now goes with the team to every practice and race. He pushes me to be the best that I can be.

My dad's favorite motto is Feltner's do hard things. My dad always says this because he grew up on a farm where he remembers waking up on cold winter mornings and having to milk the cow, slop the pigs, and gather the chicken eggs. He grew up in a large family with ten siblings. His family consisted of four sisters and seven brothers, and he is the middle child and the middle son of his family. He loves being with his family, and we have many family gatherings at our house with as many family members as can come.

My dad tries to pass these traits down to my brothers and me by making us do yard work even when we do not want to. Growing up my dad enjoyed playing baseball and basketball. He

also competed on the Bryce Valley high school track and field team. His first love was basketball; he was first-team all-region his sophomore year and senior year and was the first team all-state in his junior year and senior year. He was also the most valuable player in the 1A 2A all-star game following his senior year and still has the trophy to prove it. During the summer before his senior year of high school, he got invited to play on an all-star team in New Zealand. This trip was one of the most unforgettable experiences of his life. He finished his high school career as the second leading all-time scorer in Bryce Valley high school history.

My dad served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Sao Paulo, Brazil. His mission was one of the most fulfilling experiences that he has had in his life. He made many Brazilian friends while he was there and still stays in contact with some of them, especially a family who moved to Lehi, Utah. His mission was where he learned how to interact with people in many difficult situations. One of these situations was when he was robbed. He and his missionary companion were walking up a dark street when a man jumped out of the bushes and put a butcher knife to his companion's back and said, "Give me all of your money now, or I will kill him." This was the fastest Portuguese my dad had ever spoken as he said, "We are religious missionaries. Please don't hurt us. Here is all our money." His companion handed him all their money, and he left, but as he walked away, another robber jumped out of the bush and walked away with him. He learned how to be patient, kind, and loving while serving in Sao Paulo. He tells me stories of how he worked up to 20 hours a day teaching people and training other missionaries. This experience helped prepare him to serve for six years as an LDS bishop. As a bishop, he helped members of his congregation with some of the most difficult challenges in their lives. He sacrificed many hours of his life willingly as he cared about the people that he served. After his mission, my dad attended Southern Utah University in Cedar, City, Utah. He

earned his bachelor's degree in accounting. He then went on to earn a Master's degree in accounting while taking care of his wife and first two children. After college, he accepted a position at Hinton Burdick CPA and Advisors in St. George, Utah, and has worked there for twenty-two years. He is currently a partner in the firm and has been for 12 years. This shows what a dedicated and loyal person my dad is. I hope that someday I can become half the man he is.