

Cory Cockrell

Dean Usrey

First Year Experience

2 September 2008

Autobiography:

### A Life in the Day of Cory Cockrell

Since the beginning of my life, I have found nothing but disappointment in my search for perfection. As a toddler, when I would sit and plan for the *perfect* way to steal a cookie and crawl off and eat it in my *perfect* fort, my plans were foiled by my ingenious parents who would place the cookies on a high shelf, far out of my reach, until dinner was over. As a child, I searched for the *perfect* way to go across the monkey bars as quickly as possible, but fell short of that goal with a broken wrist. As a young teenager, I would think of an absolutely *perfect* way to ask a girl on a date, but always fell short of perfection because I never had quite enough confidence in myself. Now, as a young adult, I still strive for perfection. I try to work the *perfect* amount to get the *perfect* amount of money. I always attempt to do the *perfect* work in school. I always try to be as *perfect* as I can in everything I do and I always find myself falling short of perfection. It is these trial-and-error experiences that have made me the “imperfect-perfectionist” that I am today.

My imperfections have helped me realize that the search for perfection and basically anything else in life is much easier with help. It is this realization that led me to seek advice in numerous role models. I have always looked up to my parents for keeping our family so close through so many moves and countless squabbles. My father has been Dad, my mentor, and my

preacher my entire life and I do not think anyone else could do all those jobs simultaneously as well as he has.

The most significant role model in my life has been God. He has always been my main source of guidance and advice. In the hardest times of my life, God has been the only one who has *always* been there for me, understood me, and helped me. God has also placed in me the core values of my life that I attempt to focus on daily – treat others as you would like to be treated, always try your hardest in everything you do, and always try to be a “miracle” in other people’s lives. These ideas have created a very hard-working, dedicated, and selfless conscience in my mind.

Throughout my day, I try to find ways in which I can make another’s day brighter. Whether it is going to the store to pick up a gallon of milk for my mother, helping my roommate with his laundry, or something as simple as spending time with my girlfriend, I always attempt to put other’s feelings and emotions before mine. I do not do these selfless acts for a sense of pride in myself. I behave this way for the feeling of accomplishment and joy I feel in doing something that I believe Jesus would do for me. After all, Jesus is the only person who has ever been truly perfect, so why not try to behave and act as he did?

There have been a few events in my life that have defined me and impacted my life in huge way. The most important moment of my life was when I was saved. I was eleven years old and in the sixth grade and was excited about the trip to Artesia, New Mexico for the “Saw You At The Pole” event that was taking place there. I had grown up going to church every Sunday and was very familiar with God and Christianity, but I had never really taken the next step and dedicated my life to God. That night, as I was listening to the music and worshipping with a large group of young people, I felt a shiver run up my spine and was covered with goose bumps.

I may have been young and maybe a little naïve, but I knew that a feeling like that didn't come from nothing at all. I began to worship more wholeheartedly than I ever had in my life and became overjoyed with a sense of God's presence. The speaker gave an amazing sermon over the power of God and how he is a true and reliable friend and then asked anyone in the crowd who felt called to go meet with an adult in a nearby area to talk. It was that night with a man named Paul and a few of my friends that I accepted Jesus into my life and dedicated my life to God and ever since then my life has never been the same.

Another memorable moment in my life came when my family and I moved from Deming, New Mexico to Carlsbad, New Mexico because of my father's job as a Methodist minister. I remember my mom coming to pick me up from school one day just to go eat, so I knew something was up. I asked her if we were going to be moving again, and she said, "Maybe." "Maybe" is a word that I hate to hear. It is such an uncertain word and, being the struggling perfectionist that I am, I hate uncertainty. I was utterly crushed at the thought of moving for the third time in my life. It turns out that the move to Carlsbad was one of the greatest things that ever happened to me. In Carlsbad I found God, great friends, a great church family, tons of fun, and my amazing girlfriend. This test of uncertainty proved to be an amazing change for the better in my life. I have grown into the man of God that I am now and have been truly blessed.

Through my childhood of many moves and struggles adapting to new areas and new people, I have learned that having assistance is very important, which motivated me to volunteer in my community throughout high school. I was very involved in helping at my church with vacation bible school and other activities for children, I helped out at the local food pantry called Jonah's House, and also was involved in many young lives through my volunteer work at the

Boy's and Girl's Club. The work at the Boy's and Girl's Club had a big impact on my life. Being there to set a good example for children gave me such a good feeling. From helping kids with their homework after school to playing kickball in the gym with them, the experience showed me that dedication with a helpful attitude can really change people's lives. Having people look up to you is such a great feeling, and with so many kids watching how I behave and act, I was inspired to be the best person I could be and maybe reflect God's loving spirit into the lives of young children, and that is about the most satisfying thing I have ever done.

I have had my broken bones, my tummy aches, and been in my share of conflicts, but overall, my life hasn't been extraordinarily difficult and I didn't face many overwhelming obstacles in my childhood. However, I found that the problems I did encounter were much easier to deal with when I had God by my side. I have learned to always try to please God because he wants the best for me and I want to try to be as perfect as I can for him. I realize that I will never be as perfect as God could possibly want me to be, or as perfect as my friends and family want me to be, and definitely not as perfect as I want myself to be, but I have learned that God will never turn his back on me or dislike me in any way because of my faults. I have learned that God is love and love will always prevail. With this is mind, falling short of perfection is not too bad after all.