How Truett Cathy changed a young person’s life

Many years passed. We started a family – and it grew, and grew, and grew. I started a nonprofit, and it did the same – growing to almost 40 states. I helped candidates, wrote op-eds and even authored a book. And then one day in 2010, an opportunity presented itself, with Robert Baker deciding not to seek re-election for a fourth term on the Georgia Public Service Commission. That moment that Truett Cathy helped prepare me for was finally a reality.

I was fortunate to get my party’s nomination after a difficult primary and primary run-off battle. Then, with the wind at my back, we won the general election. I went back to Mr. Cathy that first year and thanked him for his challenge and mentorship – albeit it through cassette tapes. The result was still the same – a changed life. Something, it turns out, that he did with literally thousands of young people like me.

Truett Cathy lived a life of vision and purpose. He successfully built a business that people usually feel fortunate to work for, and he transmitted his values continually – even through serving fried chicken. He was focused on young people, and knew how to assess character and potential. He was not afraid to challenge a person, and certainly not afraid to give his money away.

We’ll miss Truett, but his legacy lives on through the many lives he has touched.