



# NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

## A Christian Chicken Man

*Almost every Saturday evening for the past five years, I picked up Chick-fil-A for supper for the family. My wife and mother-in-law would both get nuggets and fries. I would get the chicken sandwich with a fruit cup. My wife would share a nugget with our cat Cinders. He loved it. We tried to feed him nuggets from other places, but he would never eat them. He know the difference in quality chicken.*

*S. Truett Cathy was born in poverty. He was born the second of seven siblings, during the Great Depression. For extra money, his mother had to run a boarding house in the family home. He was selling Coca-Cola door-to-door, buying a six-pack of Cokes for a quarter, and selling them for a nickel each at age 8. By age 14 he and his brother had become the primary breadwinners of the family.<sup>1</sup> In 1946, after severing in the army, he returned home and opened a restaurant in Hapeville, Georgia called the Dwarf House. After 15 years in the food business, Cathy found a pressure-fryer that could cook a chicken sandwich in the same amount of time it took to cook a fast-food hamburger. Following this discovery, he registered Chick-fil-A.*

*“From 1964 to 1967, the sandwich was licensed to over fifty eateries, including Waffle House and the concession stands of the new Houston Astrodome. The Chick-Fil-A sandwich was withdrawn from sale at other restaurants when the first standalone location opened in 1967, in the food court of the Greenbriar Mall in Atlanta. During the 1970s and early 1980s, the chain expanded by opening new locations in suburban malls' food courts. The first freestanding location was opened April 16, 1986, on North Druid Hills Road in Atlanta.”<sup>2</sup>*

*“The Atlanta-based chicken sandwich chain generated \$18.8 billion in U.S. system sales last year, according to the company's newly filed franchise disclosure document (FDD), up nearly 13% over 2021. Chick-fil-A last year developed just 100 new locations, finishing 2022 with 2,800 U.S. restaurants. A typical Chick-fil-A franchised location, including the mall units, generates about \$8 million. That's over twice that of a typical McDonald's restaurant, four times that of Wendy's and five times that of Burger King.”<sup>3</sup>*

*“Cathy was a member of the First Baptist Church and taught Sunday School there for more than 50 years. He said that the Bible is his guidebook for life. Due to his strong religious beliefs, all of the company's locations, whether company-owned or franchised, are closed on Sundays to allow its employees to attend church and spend time with their families.”<sup>4</sup>*

*Cathy received numerous honors, including the Laurel Crowned Circle Award from Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. He also received the Norman Vincent and Ruth Stafford Peale Humanitarian Award, the Horatio Alger Award, the William E. Simon Prize for Philanthropic Leadership, and the Boy Scouts of America Silver Buffalo Award. Cathy was inducted into the Junior Achievement U.S. Business Hall of Fame. President George W. Bush bestowed him, the President's Call to Service Award.<sup>5</sup>*

*Since 1973, Chick-fil-A been able to invest more than \$162 million in scholarships to help more than 93,000 Team Members pursue a higher education. They been able to award more than \$12 million to 171 organizations. They awarded \$22 million in True Inspiration Award grants. They have donated more than 18 million meals to Feeding America in 2022.<sup>6</sup> Cathy established the purpose that drives the company: “To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us. To have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A.”<sup>7</sup> “Cathy earned great riches in the restaurant business but he laid up greater treasures in heaven.”<sup>8</sup>*

*“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” I Cor 10:31*


Charles Stambaugh

<sup>1</sup> [mashed.com/256322/the-untold-truth-of-chick-fil-a-founder-s-truett-cathy/](https://mashed.com/256322/the-untold-truth-of-chick-fil-a-founder-s-truett-cathy/) <sup>2</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Chick-fil-A](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Chick-fil-A)

<sup>3</sup> [restaurantbusinessonline.com/financing/chick-fil-had-another-strong-year-2022](https://restaurantbusinessonline.com/financing/chick-fil-had-another-strong-year-2022) <sup>4,5</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/S. Truett Cathy](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/S._Truett_Cathy)

<sup>6</sup> [chick-fil-a.com/about/giving-back](https://chick-fil-a.com/about/giving-back) <sup>7</sup> [billygraham.org/story/a-conversation-with-truett-cathy/](https://billygraham.org/story/a-conversation-with-truett-cathy/)

<sup>8</sup> [baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/truett-cathy-his-good-name-celebrated/](https://baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/truett-cathy-his-good-name-celebrated/)

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