

New Man Story

Senator Tim Scott — The Power of Mentoring

Senator Tim Scott has served as the junior United States Senator for South Carolina since 2013. He is the first African-American Senator from the state of South Carolina, and the most prominent African-American Republican in America. Appointed by Governor Nikki Haley, he won a special election in 2014 and was elected to a full term in 2016.

Tim was born in North Charleston, South Carolina in 1965 and grew up in working class poverty. His parents divorced when he was 7 and he was raised by his mother, Frances, a nursing assistant who worked 16 hour days to support her family. Moving in with her parents, Frances and her three boys shared a bedroom in a cramped, shack-style home off a dirt road.

Tim's life drifted for seven years following his parents' divorce. As a freshman in high school, he nearly flunked out. However, the summer of his sophomore year changed his life. On break from his movie theater job, Tim walked into the nearby Chick-fil-A and requested his usual: waffle fries and water. The store's operator, John Moniz, asked about the order and Tim said it was all he could afford. That exchange sparked a four-year mentoring relationship that transformed Tim's outlook on life.

John Moniz died an early death when he was 38 and Tim was 19. As Tim tells it —“John's last four years of life were the first four years of my new life.” John taught Tim all about hope and opportunity—hope in a positive future with Christ and “all things are possible with God.” That certainly has been the case with Tim. As he explains it—“God made me black on purpose. For a specific reason. It has helped me to help others who have been locked out of opportunity in many ways.”

MGF Talk Discussion Questions

1. Was there ever a turning point in your life when you needed hope and received it?
2. Have you ever had a mentor who challenged and redirected you to a better path?
3. Have you been a mentor to someone in a significant way like John was to Tim?
4. Could it be that God is directing you to mentor someone now? Who might that be?

Click below to watch a 7 minute clip of Tim's MGF talk

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