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THE RIGHT LEADER FOR HIS TIME, TIME AND TIME AGAIN

Conversations with Ambassador Andrew Young



Atlanta, GA (March 18, 2009) Ambassador Andrew Young has been known as a living legend, global affairs pioneer, prolific preacher, persevering politician, civil and human rights activist; he is a former U.S. Congressman, the former Mayor of Atlanta and was top aide to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) welcomes Ambassador Young with his second lecture of a series titled “Conversations with Andrew Young: The Future of Africa” on March 26, 2009 at 5 p.m. in the Franklin Auditorium on the ITC campus at 700 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. This event is free and open to the public. The lecture series will focus on the future of Africa with Ambassador Young’s insightful perspective of the rapidly changing dynamics of politics, leadership and economics on the Continent of Africa and their implications for leaders around the globe.

In a January article with the Los Angeles Times by Ambassador Young, he called President Obama, “a man for our time, a man for American dream fulfillment.” Young refers to President Obama as confident, cool and wise, as he comes with the right cultural DNA, for such a time as this. Like Obama, Ambassador Young has been and continues to be the right leader for his time, fighting for justice in the Civil Rights Era and today fighting for economic development nationally and internationally. Because Ambassador Young and others stood up in a time when many were being held down, is one of the reasons President Barack Obama can stand tall today and reach for the stars.

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Andrew Jackson Young was born March 12, 1932 in New Orleans, Louisiana to his school teacher mother, Daisy Fuller Young and his dentist father, Andrew Jackson Young, Sr. As a young man, his father paid a professional boxer to train Young and his brother - how to fight and defend themselves. As a result Young decided that was not the path he would choose to follow, according to website sources.

In 1972, Young was elected to the House of Representatives, the first Black representative from Georgia in 101 years, and served three terms as a United States Congressman. In 1977 under President Jimmy Carter, Young was appointed to serve as Ambassador to the United Nations, the first African American to serve in this position. In 1981 he was elected Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia and he remained in office for two terms.

Mr. Young has faced many challenges. Death threats were waged against him because of his contributions as strategic planner and negotiator during the Civil Rights Campaigns, but he continued to encourage African Americans to vote. While a Pastor in Marion, Alabama, Young began to study the writings of Mohandas Gandhi and became enlightened by his concept of non-violent resistance as a tactic for social change. Young was jailed in several states for his participation in the Civil Rights Movement. Mr. Young was also with Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee when he was assassinated in 1968. Although Young was defeated in his first run for Congress in 1970, he changed his strategy and came back to win in 1972 and again in 1974. Through it all he has persevered and is here to tell the story and continue the battle of racial justice and equality for all.

Mr. Young travels extensively to meet with officials and other individuals interested in improving the economic situation in Africa and the Caribbean. He has headed numerous missions to the Continent of Africa and continues to use his extensive network to facilitate new business developments. He remains active in community matters and often sets time aside to speak at various schools and universities on a range of issues. He participates in events that foster sound public policy, economic development, human rights and education.

The ITC in Atlanta, Georgia has been training men and women for Christian leadership and service in the church and global community for a half-century. The ITC is a consortium of six different denominational constituent seminaries and two affiliate fellowships; Morehouse School of Religion (Baptist Affiliate), Gammon Theological (United Methodist Affiliate), Turner Theological Seminary (African Methodist Episcopal), Phillips School of Theology (Christian Methodist), Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (Presbyterian Affiliate) and Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary (Church of God in Christ Affiliate). Richardson Ecumenical Fellowship is comprised of several other denominations beyond the six affiliate schools and other students also attend the Lutheran Center at ITC.

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