



Ambassador Andrew Young

Chancellor, in medicine and psychology, free association is a useful tool. To the fifty year old film fan, the city Atlanta means "Gone with the Wind". To the teenager, it means Coca Cola. And to many this month, thanks to CNN, it means CDC, the Centre for Disease Control, and the nerve centre of the anthrax crisis. For many others it conjures the name and the face of Ambassador Andrew Young, who more than any one else can be credited with Atlanta's recent success story - their transformation into an international city. But for Andrew Young, the dramatic success of Atlanta is but a paradigm for his abiding principles of promoting opportunities, peace and partnerships - principles which brought him from a small country church to his place as one of the most distinguished Americans of the 20th century.

Andrew Jackson Young was born on March the 12th, 1932, to Andrew Young, a dentist, and Daisy Fuller Young, a schoolteacher, in New Orleans. His name, after one of America's greatest Presidents, Andrew Jackson - who was born of humble birth, was close to the masses, devoted to democracy and a man of great courage - heralded a great future. Our young ambassador had the privilege of a devout, loving, puritan family - and a teacher for a mother - for whom privilege entailed responsibility, and the words of Luke 12: 48 were the enabling law of his life: "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required". Andrew Young was blessed by God with great gifts, and he is still giving, giving, giving, to the people of the world.

He was expected to be a dentist, but instead of filling tiny cavities he has dedicated his life to filling the great gaps in society caused by poverty, racism and war. Graduating from Howard at 19 he entered Hartford Theological Seminary and was ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ in 1955. He served his apprenticeship in the rural south, in the country town of Thomasville, Georgia. He joined the youth department staff of the National Council of Churches in 1957 and then the Southern

Christian Leadership Conference in 1961, serving as the right hand of Dr. Martin Luther King. Side by side, with Dr. King, he helped to lead the people's movements in Albany, Birmingham, Selma, Chicago.....challenging the Nation and transforming the South..... "redeeming the soul of America from the evils of racism, war and poverty through non-violent action".

He was elected to Congress in 1972 and worked closely with Georgia's Governor Jimmy Carter. As President, Carter appointed him Ambassador to the United Nations. He was strong in attacking wrong, and in supporting human rights, and ending apartheid in Southern Africa. Back in Atlanta he was elected Mayor in '82. By 1989 he had transformed the city. He refused to believe that the mayor's job was garbage and potholes; he had a dream. He brought investors and seventy billion private dollars into the city. He brought reconciliation and partnership. He saw the city in visionary terms: "The successful city of the future must do more than simply foster economic growth. It must also impart a moral, even spiritual, vision that can transcend all racial and social divisions". He likes to say to his friends as he takes them to his offices in the top of the Sun Trust Building: "Before black people and white people got together, none of the tall buildings were here".

With this achievement behind him, President Clinton appointed him in 1994 Chairman of the Southern Africa Enterprise Development fund, to provide equity to businesses in southern Africa. He achieved the major feat of winning the race for the city to host the Centennial Olympics and co-chaired these games in 1996. Atlanta had truly arrived, alongside the major cities of the world.

But Andrew Young is much more than a brilliant, inspired, honest politician. He is a Professor and a Preacher man. He is Professor of Public Policy at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University. At the naming of the Centre he was described as a "brilliant, brilliant man", and as "a national treasure, known to all and with a following that does not seem to know race, age or national boundaries".

And he preaches, from the heart. He is the President of the National Council of Churches of the USA, serves on the board of the King Center for Non-Violent Social Change, and is Chairman of GoodWorks International. He serves with a team of pastors at First Congregational Church, a historic black church in downtown Atlanta. He has come full circle. He lives his life with an abiding faith in democracy, free enterprise, human rights, God and family. It has been a long road from a country church to the United Nations and the Olympics, but at every step he has been guided by his deep and powerful faith and his abiding principles - opportunities, peace and partnerships.

And he has never lost his focus on his family - Andrea, Lisa, Paula and Andrew Young the Third, the children of his first, late wife Jean. He lives with his wife Carolyn at the centre of a family that not only includes his five grandchildren, but a global family, from Atlanta to Asia, from Russia to Pretoria. His awards include the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Legion of Honor and more than 45 honorary degrees. He has written two books, but I will not deliver a full book about him; I merely prepare the way for his words of wisdom.

And so Chancellor, for his distinguished leadership as a human rights activist, statesman, diplomat, international businessman, sports administrator, author, public servant, role model, Mayor of Atlanta, Minister of God and friend of mankind (and

womankind Chancellor), and friend of the Caribbean, for his impeccable record of honesty, integrity , charity and godliness, in both public and private life - so rare, Chancellor, so rare - we invite you, by the authority vested in you by the Council and Senate of our University, to confer upon Ambassador Andrew Jackson Young the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.