

# Andrew J. Foster

1925 - 1987

## **“Deaf Missionary and Educator”**

Andrew Jackson Foster became the first black person at Gallaudet College to receive a B.A. in Education as well as an honorary doctorate degree.

When he was a young boy he attended the Alabama School for Colored Deaf in Talladega, Alabama. When his family moved to Detroit in 1942, he worked in a military-equipment factory, studying at night. A missionary's public lecture about deaf Jamaicans inspired him to choose an evangelical career.

In 1956, he organized the Christian Mission for Deaf Africans, and set up his first school in Accra, Ghana in West Africa. Before him, there are only 12 existing school of the deaf in the entire Africa. With help of his organization he had founded over 30 schools throughout the Africa. He would come to the United States periodically to get more funds for his mission work.

Sadly, his life was abruptly ended when he died in a plane crash in Rwanda while he was on mission. His body is buried there but his mission continues and today's deaf students still pursue education in his schools.