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Andrew foster family

A fair-use image, Faith Foster Family Andrew Foster's photo album, also known as Father of Deaf Education in Africa, was a foreign educator and missionary pioneer for the deaf. Born on June 27, 1925 in the Ensley area of Birmingham, Alabama, Foster was the eldest of four children. His father Wiley Foster was a First World War veteran and worked as a coal miner, while his mother Veline was a housewife. At the age of 11, he and his younger brother Edward contracted spinal meningitis in 1936 and suffered from permanent deafness. Because of his disability, he attended the Alabama School for the Deaf of Color for a while since the school did not offer a high school program. At the age of 17, Foster moved to Detroit to live with her aunt in the hope of finding better job opportunities. After his move, he visited the Bethany Pembroke church and accepted the call to live a Christian life. After living in Detroit for some time, Foster decided to continue his studies. In 1950, he graduated with honors from the Detroit Institute of Commerce with a concentration in accounting and business administration. He also graduated from high school through a mail-order school and received a full four-year congressional fellowship at Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C., a federally funded school created to educate the nation's deaf and hard of hearing citizens. In 1954, Foster graduated from Gallaudet with a bachelor's degree in education, becoming the first African-American to do so in college. He earned a master's degree in deaf education from Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University) a year later, and in 1956 he earned a second bachelor's degree in Christian missions from Seattle Pacific College. That same year, Foster founded the Christian Mission for Deaf Africans (later called the Christian Mission for the Deaf). Shortly thereafter, he travelled to Accra, Ghana, and established the Accra Mission School for the Deaf in Accra, Ghana, the first school of its kind in Africa. Over the next three decades, with the cooperation of local schools and churches, he founded 31 additional schools for the deaf in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Chad, Togo, Zaire, Gabon, Congo, Nigeria and Kenya. It has also set up training programmes for those working with the deaf in Ethiopia, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, among others. He introduced his concept of total communication which involved the use of sign languages indigenous peoples. In 1961, Foster married a deaf German Berta Zuther, and they produced four sons and a daughter. He also supported several deaf students attending Gallaudet College. Throughout his life, he has received numerous awards and distinctions. He received an honorary doctorate from Gallaudet (1970); Lia Lia Eastern Michigan University Honorary Award; and the University of Seattle's Alumni Medallion Award (1982). En route from Rwanda to Kenya, Foster was killed in a burning plane crash on December 3, 1987. His remains, along with those of 11 other Americans, were buried at the crash site near Gisny, Rwanda. In 2004, the National Black Deaf Advocates donated a bust of Foster, sculpted by Virginia Cox, to Gallaudet and established the Andrew Foster Endowment Fund. Gallaudet has also dedicated and renamed its auditorium to the Andrew Foster Auditorium. Currently, Gallaudet has created the Andrew Foster Merit-Based Scholarship for Students. Students.

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