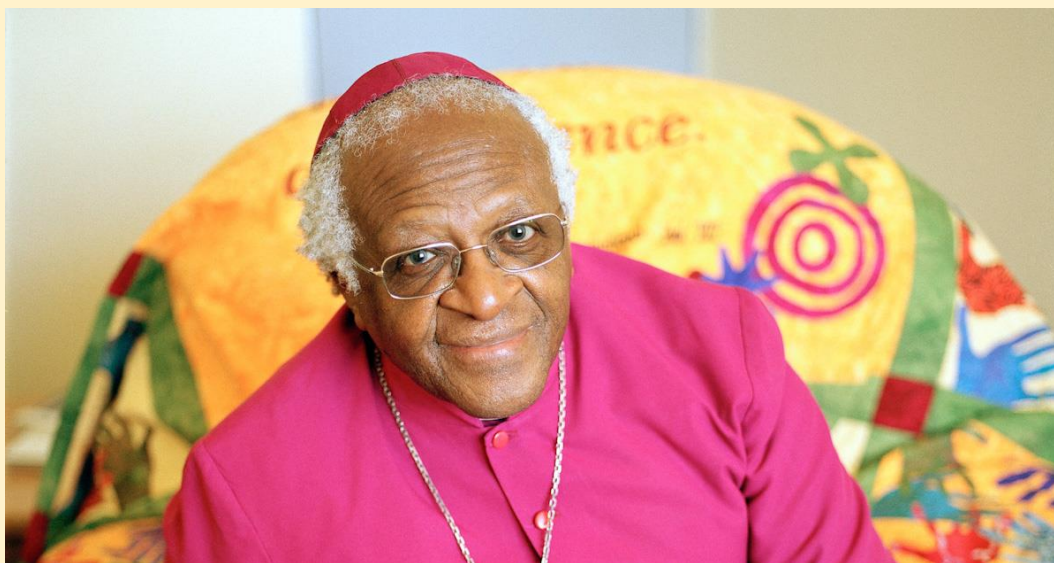


A Memorial for Archbishop Desmond Tutu



On January 2, 2022, the world lost a moral titan, Desmond M. Tutu. Former United States President Barack Obama who awarded Archbishop Tutu the Medal of Freedom in 2009, said in response to his passing “Archbishop Desmond Tutu was a mentor, a friend, and a moral compass for me and so many others.” Archbishop Tutu, age 90, was an Anglican bishop, Noble Peace Prize laureate, theologian, and an activist for anti-apartheid movement, gay rights, and human rights.

Tutu is most well-known for his resistance and outspokenness towards the South African government during the Apartheid era. Throughout the 1980’s he travelled abroad tirelessly speaking out against atrocities of apartheid. In 1984, he won the Noble prize for his nonviolent campaign against white majority rule.

Tutu was an audacious and maverick leader. Nelson Mandela once said of Tutu, “His [Desmond Tutu] most characteristic quality is his readiness to take unpopular positions without fear.” He opposed United States President Ronald Reagan’s policy of “constructive engagement” which treated domestic affairs in South Africa impartially. Tutu was just as critical of the African National Congress (ANC). Since the end of Apartheid, he has lambasted the government over their failed promises to address poverty and inequalities. In 2011, Tutu publicly told the South African Government, “This government, our government, is worse than the apartheid government because at least you were expecting it with the apartheid government.” In 2013, Tutu declared his support for gay rights saying that he would never support a homophobic god. Tutu was diagnosed with prostate cancer in the late 1990’s and had been hospitalized multiple times since for cancer related issues. He officially retired from public duties in 2010 and made less and less public appearances due to his declining health. Desmond M. Tutu lived a truly meaningful life dedicated towards Uplifting Africa.