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Reverend Leon Sullivan, long time Pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia, is one of the most widely admired, respected and honored men in the world. For more than four decades, he has been a voice of bracing moral integrity as he worked, untiringly, to motivate, and teach impoverished peoples how to liberate themselves through self-help.

Under his leadership, Zion became the largest congregation in Philadelphia - growing from 600 to 6,000 - and the nerve center for what has become a movement that spread across the United States and now embraces the world.

In the late 1950's, Sullivan-led selective patronage campaigns began a new era of the civil rights movement in Philadelphia, and opened up thousands of new jobs for African-Americans. In 1962, he founded Progress Investment Associates, to build the first and largest shopping center owned by blacks in a major urban area, as well as housing and human services complexes.

In 1964, he founded the Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC). This network of community-based skills training programs has helped more than one million people, in 100 U.S. cities, and 12 African nations, find productive employment.

For two decades he has used his powerful and prestigious position as director of General Motors to expand business opportunities for African Americans and oppose the evil of apartheid in South Africa. Today, General Motors does more business with firms owned by African-Americans than the United States Government or any other private company in the nation's history.

His famous "Sullivan Principles", a code of conduct for firms doing business in South Africa, helped to inaugurate a revolution in race relations in that country and marked the beginning of the "Socially Responsible Investment" movement in the United States. Through the Sullivan Principles, the number of Black Supervisors in South Africa increased, unions became increasingly recognized, workplaces were integrated, and thousands of Institutional Investors in the United States and other countries withdrew or withheld investments from South Africa.

In 1984, he founded the International Foundation for Education and self-help (IFESH) to provide vocational skills and literacy and health education to 1,000,000 people in Sub-Saharan Africa by the year 2,000. By sponsoring biannual "African-African American Summit Meetings" IFESH also promotes U.S. private investment in African countries and closer ties between Africans and African-Americans.

Reverend Sullivan's contributions to his nation and, to humanity as a whole, have been widely recognized. He is the recipient of the Presidential Medal Of Freedom - the highest civilian award of the United States Government. He has received honorary degrees from 35 Colleges and Universities, and many other national and international awards.