

## **FCAA Black Achiever's Luncheon Speech**

Hello, we are here today to celebrate the achievements of extraordinary individuals. One may begin to wonder why we find it necessary to acknowledge others, to hand out medals, plaques, trophies, and other paraphernalia for distinction. It is because the people being awarded have changed our lives for the better. They have shown extraordinary courage. They have beaten the odds and done or experienced something great.

These people have followed in the footsteps of Martin Luther King Jr., Sojourner Truth, Thurgood Marshall, Clarence M Mitchell, Jr., Vivien Thomas and have embodied this year's theme of "continuing the legacy"

2009 will be a year that I will remember for a REALLY long time. When I stop and go over the blessings God has given me and the wondrous acts he has sprinkled into my life and think Wow, our God is an awesome God.

It was in the summer of 2009 when I participated in the Junior 8 Summit which is an international youth summit coordinated by UNICEF. I never thought I would be one of four teens chosen to represent the United States in Rome, Italy. I did not think that I would see the day where I would stand before the president of the United States and have a complete conversation. If someone would have told me that he would eventually send me an autographed picture of us together I would have called that person a fool. But it happened.

It is through organizations like this one that youth are taught the skills and given the opportunity to participate in great acts now and to later become adults that WILL change the world.

I have been involved in the Family Christian Association of America Teen Leadership Club Program since 2006, my freshman year of high school. At every club meeting Mr. Horne, Ms. White, or Ms. Jones gave us more and more useful information about life. Finding your path to success, being a good citizen, and the importance of being on time was always stressed. Those are just a few of the nuggets of wisdom handed down to the young people in Teen Leadership Clubs that have helped me to reach several of my goals. even the ones I did not know I had. like meet President Barrack Obama.

It warms the hearts of communities when their own do great deeds. I look at the Achievers of this year and the year before that. and the year before .and then the year before that. and I feel honored to have been given the opportunity to be in their presence.

To the Achievers, I say thank you for making us better. Thank you for opening that door. Thank you for breaking that barrier.

To the Family Christian Association of America, you have not only enriched my high school experience but have provided power and guidance to my life.

Thank You.

Emmanuella Louisdor