



FLOYD MORRIS

It is said that "Perfection is an unattainable goal but it is in striving for it which makes us achieve greater levels of excellence." This statement is true and reflective of the life of Floyd Morris. Floyd Morris was born in Bailey's Vale, St. Mary. He was born to Jemita Pryce and his father is Lloyd Morris. Floyd Morris attended the Port Maria Primary School and after passing the Common Entrance Examination in 1981, he went to St. Mary High School. Whilst at St. Mary High School, he developed glaucoma in 1983 at the age of 14 and this unfortunate illness was to lead to his blindness in 1989 at the age of 20. The illness contributed to him graduating from St. Mary High School in 1986 without a single academic subject. But like a true soldier in the army of God, Floyd Morris decided that he had to press on. In 1991, after two years of trauma and stress, he decided that he was going to reclaim his life. This he did by seeking assistance from the Jamaica Society for the Blind where he went and received rehabilitation. He learnt to read and write Braille and this equipped him with the tools to restart his education. He attended Mico Evening College where he did his O and A' Level examinations. Having successfully passed seven subjects within two years, Floyd Morris moved on to the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication. Morris completed this course of study in 1996. Upon completing the degree in Mass Communication, Morris pursued a Master of Philosophy in Government at the same institution. This he completed in 2001. Whilst at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Morris received several scholarships and awards. These included:

- *Workers Bank Scholarship for a Student with Disability;
- *Circle K International Scholarship;
- *UWI Post-Graduate Scholarship and
- *Sir Frank Worrall Scholarship.

Floyd Morris was called to national duties in 1998 when he became the first blind person to be appointed to the Senate of Jamaica. He distinguished himself and was appointed a Minister of State in 2001 where he served in that capacity for 6 years. He was assigned to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security where he had special responsibilities for:

- **The Program of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH);
- **The National Insurance Scheme (NIS);
- **Persons with Disabilities and
- **Senior Citizens.

Floyd Morris was re-appointed to the Parliament of Jamaica in 2012 to serve as a Government Senator and was promoted to the position of President of the Senate in May 2013: the first person with a disability to occupy this high office in Jamaica. He was reappointed as an Opposition Senator in 2016.

Floyd Morris recently successfully completed his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Government at the University of the West Indies, Mona and is the Director for the UWI Centre for Disability Studies. He is also the author of the book, 'By Faith, Not By Sight' that chronicles his life experiences and is a must read for all. He is the 2012 recipient of the Prime Minister's Life-Time Award for Excellence in Disability Reform and the 2017 Jamaica Gleaner Education Personality of the Year awardee. He was recently appointed by CARICOM as the Special Rapporteur on Disability for the Caribbean. He is an internationally recognized speaker, delivering speeches all over the world, including the United Nations and the General Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in San Antonio, Texas, where he address a direct audience of over 70,000 individuals. Floyd Morris is a devout Christian and a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. He is married to the vivacious Shelley-Ann. He is the 2011 domino champion for his home church, the Andrews Memorial Seventh Day Adventist. His motto is: "it is nice to be nice." Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you, Senator Dr. Floyd Morris.