

On Sunday, February 1, 1942, in the Salem Congregational Church in Chapelton, the Reverend Mr. Lester Davy uttered the famous words: "Tomorrow by God's grace, I shall light a candle whose flame shall never be put out."

Ladies and Gentlemen I am proud to celebrate with you the fulfillment of that statement and honour the great man who had the wisdom and foresight to invest in the future of our country by allowing so many to access a good education in the halls of Clarendon College.

This institution has stood the test of times enduring against all odds. It speaks to our struggle as a nation and indeed as individuals. Endurance is not a bad thing in fact it was Buddha who said "Endurance is one of the most difficult disciplines, but it is to the one who endures that the final victory comes."

Struggle builds character and helps to frame who we are as human beings. I will give you an example: As a university student I struggled with accounts. I could not find a way to master the subject. A lecturer once told me I would never "get it". I would never be able to do accounts. It was just the encouragement I needed. I got the requisite text book and I began to study and in 3 days I was able to answer any question posed by the lecturer. I passed beginners and advanced accounts at that time and was named student of the year. Mastering accounts has shaped who I am today. I am proud to say that it is clear I proved my lecturer wrong and finally "got it".

This takes us back to why we are here today. We are reminded of the struggle Clarendon College endured when only a month after opening Reverend Davy the respected founder was killed in a train crash. I am certain that this could have meant an end to the dream Reverend Davy held. That did not happen. The dream of the inextinguishable light of education continues to burn through the halls of this venerable institution. The dream is carried in the hearts of the devoted teachers and diligent students.

Clarendon College has grown from 10 students at inception to over 1600 students enrolled today. In sports and academic achievement you continue to make Jamaica proud. Clarendon's first high school

has endured much but remains firm as living proof that adversity is a tonic bitter to the taste but good for the constitution.

I thank you for the invitation to participate in today's Founder's Day proceedings. May Clarendon College continue to be the beacon of educational hope for all who enter its gates and keep the flame of Reverend Lester Davy burning ever more.