

WELCOMING REMARKS

by

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Aloha. Welcome to the beautiful campus of the North Shore, Brigham Young University-Hawaii. Those of you who have been coming back each year know of the significance of this event. We are particularly pleased this year that the "Na Makua Mahalo Ia" program is included for this evening. Those who are being honored have made life a little brighter for their having been here and those of you who are presenting will shed new light on some areas which will stimulate the rest of us.

Sir Harry Lauder used to love to tell the story of the old lamplighter who worked in the small community where he lived as a boy. Each evening as dusk came on the old man would make his rounds with his ladder and his torch. He would put the ladder up against the light post, climb up and light the lamp, step back down, pick up the ladder and proceed to the next lamp.

"After a while," said Sir Harry, "the lamplighter would be out of sight down the street, but I could always tell where he had gone because of the lamps he had lighted."

Those of you who are here today are lamplighters. Like Dr. Edward Rosenow, formerly of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, you have had experiences that brought you to your presentations of today. When Dr. Rosenow was a young boy his brother became acutely ill. The family was in great distress until the doctor arrived. As the doctor worked over the young boy Edward stood behind the doctor where he could see the anxious and anguished faces of his parents. When the doctor turned to the parents with a smile and said, "You can stop worrying now; your boy is going to be all right," young Edward was impressed with the change on the faces of his parents. He resolved then and there, he said, "to be a doctor so that I could also go around putting light in people's faces." From that point this young man became a lamplighter.

The greatest lamplighter who ever lived is spoken of most often and we know of his having put the light of hope into the lives of numerous people. He redeemed all of us from death and made it possible for us to qualify for celestial glory in the city of eternal light.

Today our conference is about lamplighters. Some of them have lit lights in the past which may have grown dim from lack of use. As researchers and writers you know that many bright lights have been struck in the past, and which, because of people like you, throw greater light on our understanding of our origins and peoples, places, and events which are significant for us to know. Each of you present will strike a spark with some or all of those who listen. Today we are lighting lamps.

Again I welcome you to this Fifth Annual Conference of LDS history in the Pacific. We believe this conference belongs here on this campus and that as others come to see the facilities and taste of the fruits of your research that they too will know that that this is a special place.