

**THIS IS ONEIDA  
REFLECTIONS ON 30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

*The following was penned by one of our faithful servants of 30 years.*

When I first came here thirty years ago, there was certainly plenty that I did not know

About the years and just what they would hold and how the events of my life would unfold.

I was young and still uncertain at the time

That the pattern of my life would have reason or rhyme.

A few years later God graciously brought into my life

A wonderful young lady who would soon become my wife.

Although we faced many a challenge from the very start,

God's faithfulness and grace to us he did impart.

With caring families and many a faithful friend

Upon which in times of need we could depend.

Many of the saints with whom we have been blessed to serve

Have gone on to the heavenly reward they richly deserve.

Many of the young people which down through the years we have known

Now have precious children and grandkids of their own.

Even though there have been many times in which we felt stressed,

We can see the many, many ways that God has truly blessed.

Through our trials and struggles we have been able to learn

Many rich lessons that otherwise we would not discern.

In reflecting on the things that have brought us to this day,

In conclusion, this is what I really, really want to say:

It's only by the mercy and grace of God, that's very clear,

That for thirty years I've had the privilege to be here.



**Larry A. Gritton, Jr.**  
**OBI President**

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