

THIS IS ONEIDA GRADUATION 2015

On May 16 we sent 51 graduates off to meet the world. Dr. Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, brought a tremendous challenge to our graduates at Baccalaureate that morning. We then had a beautiful graduation ceremony that afternoon. Graduation day is a bittersweet day at OBI. While we are so happy for our graduates, we are also sad to see them go. Kids come from all over the world to this little place, but this also means when they leave us they go back to locations all over the world. We hope and pray that they take Jesus and their diplomas with them and have a positive impact on this world.

Our graduation service is a little longer than most, especially considering our graduation class is smaller than most. We like to take the time to recognize each student and tell some of his/her story. Each of this year's 51 graduates has a story to tell, and part of their stories now includes this little place called Oneida.

The following is some of what was shared on May 16 about one of our amazing success stories.

Student to staff: Mrs. Grant, one thing I can say is thanks for not giving up on me, even though I gave up on myself so many times. Mrs. Baker, we're a little bit alike about certain things. You know me better than I know myself. You didn't have to be my teacher, but you chose to. Thank you; you're such a sweet lady. Mrs. Nelson, you're tough and I like that. You've always kept it honest with me, never beating around the bush. Mrs. Sink, you made me join FFA and I'm so thankful. You taught me that honesty is the best policy, and to never forget it. You taught me that even when I'm down to always pick myself up. Mrs. Cartwright, you're different, not like any of the other ladies. You're hard but sweet, and always have my back. Mr. Stratton, thank you for believing in me and keeping me out of trouble. Thanks for always listening. Thank you to my family for being by my side.

Staff member to student: I have seen such growth in "Johnny." He has worked incredibly hard to overcome some very difficult obstacles. He has searched for meaning and purpose in his life, and I believe he has found those answers. He came to us as a young man with an uncertain future and is now leaving us knowing and trusting that God has a plan for his life--a life filled with hope and a good future. I don't think I have ever been as proud of a student and their accomplishments as I am of "Johnny".

Thank you, friends of Oneida, for helping make Johnny's story a successful one.



Larry A. Gritton, Jr.
OBI President

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