

**THIS IS ONEIDA
MOVING MOUNTAINS Part 3**



The valedictorian of the OBI Class of 2013 was Anna Davidson. What follows below is the third part of her valedictory address on May 18.

“As someone once said, ‘It’s not about what you do, but who you are.’ Jesus was a friend to the friendless, a defender of the weak and unjustly treated, a patient teacher, a passionate speaker of the truth, a faithful, gentle leader who showed love to others even as they mocked him, and a healer of the physically and mentally broken. This should be our aim. A life filled with Christ, overflowing with these characteristics will truly result in a lasting and honorable success and a life well lived.

(sung) “I hope you never lose your sense of wonder/You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger/May you never take one single breath for granted/GOD forbid love ever leave you empty handed/I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean/Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens/Promise me that you’ll give faith a fighting chance/And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance. I hope you dance. I hope you dance.

“I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance/Never settle for the path of least resistance/Livin’ might mean takin’ chances but they’re worth takin’/Lovin’ might be a mistake but it’s worth makin’/Don’t let some hell bent heart leave you bitter/When you come close to sellin’ out reconsider/Give the heavens above more than just a passing glance/And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance/I hope you dance.

(spoken) “As Hudson Taylor said, ‘God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supplies.’ I repeat, ‘God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supplies.’

“May these words of St. Patrick’s Breastplate Prayer be our heart cry as we go out from this place:

I bind unto myself today/The strong Name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same/The Three in One and One in Three.
I bind unto myself today/The power of God to hold and lead,
His eye to watch, His might to stay/His ear to hearken to my need.
The wisdom of my God to teach/His hand to guide, His shield to ward,
The word of God to give me speech/His heavenly host to be my guard.
Christ be with me, Christ within me/Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me/Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me/Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me/Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.”

In her “Oneida Experience” essay, Anna wrote: “The most important thing OBI has taught me is that success comes with hard work, not just by raw talent. Any goal one has must be earnestly striven for; opportunities must be keenly looked out for and taken advantage of when they arise. It boils down to this: when God gives you a vision of your role in His plan, He will provide you with the necessary opportunities to prepare you for that role, but you must be willing to work hard, step out of your comfort zone, and actively train for that future.”

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