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**Otis Williams’ Extended Biography**

Otis Williams, Jr., was born at Saint Ann’s Hospital for Women in Columbus, Ohio. He was put up for adoption soon after birth and was adopted approximately six months later. His father, mother, sister and he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio while he was still quite young and shortly after moving his parents divorced. Otis and his sister stayed with their mother. Due to the lack of financial resources, the three of them found themselves moving into Winton Terrace, a low-income housing community. Growing up in the *“projects”* was tough at times, but the family persevered.

Approximately eight years later, Otis’ mother surprised him and his sister by telling them that she had managed to save enough money to put a down payment on a small three-bedroom house in a nearby community called Northside. Once they moved in, Otis got right down to business, going to school, making friends, chasing girls, and playing sports. He absolutely loved playing football, and was pretty good at it too. His dreams of playing in the NFL came crashing down when his high school football coach told the sophomore he was too short to play in the NFL.

After completing his junior year of high school, Otis joined the U.S. Army Reserve and went to basic training during the summer before his senior year. Upon graduating from high school, he went back to complete his Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Otis served in the U.S. Army Reserve for five years, then decided to go fulltime on active duty. He was stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina for approximately 18 months. While stationed at Fort Bragg, he accepted the challenge to go to Airborne School—widely known as Jump School. Otis successfully completed the rigorous training conducted at Fort Benning, Georgia and joined the elite family of Airborne Paratroopers. He then received orders to go to Europe and was stationed at the Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC) base in Bremerhaven, Germany for three years. Otis was promoted, in record time, from private to sergeant. After his promotion, he attended and graduated from the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy in Bad Tolz, Germany. While on active duty in Germany, Otis also attended college at night and on weekends earning his Associate’s degree in Liberal Arts and graduating with honors.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army, Otis came back to the states. Unfortunately, he was unable to find a job right away. With his savings dwindling and no money coming in, he knew it would be just a matter of time before he would start getting calls from his creditors. With a positive attitude (and empty pockets), he decided to be proactive and contact his creditors to tell them about his current financial situation.

Otis put on his best suit and tie and went down to his community bank where he had a loan for his *super awesome Honda CRX*. After meeting with one of the bank’s vice presidents about his finances, not only did Otis get his loan restructured, he also was asked if he wanted to interview for an opened loan collector’s position. He answered, “YES!”, and the rest was history. Within two weeks, Otis was hired full-time to work at the bank in, of all places, the collection department!

Within a short period of time, Otis was promoted from loan collector to assistant branch manager. As a result of his promotion, he decided to start working on his communication and leadership skills. To help achieve his personal and professional goals, Otis joined the West Hills Toastmasters Club in Cincinnati, Ohio. Approximately nine months after joining, Otis entered his *first speech contest*. Just six short months later at Toastmasters International’s Annual Convention in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, *Otis emerged victorious* from among more than 10,000 speakers worldwide to capture the coveted title of **“World Champion of Public Speaking.”**

After the word got out about Otis winning the “World Championship of Public Speaking”, requests from around the world (and I mean, literally from around the world) started pouring in wanting him to come and share his story. With all the newfound pressure, Otis had a big decision to make—stay at the bank and continue to climb the corporate ladder or launch out into the deep and follow his dream of challenging people to live courageously. The decision to leave the known for the unknown was not an easy one for him to make. However, after much deliberation and with only *one* paid speaking engagement in his future, Otis decided to jump and start his own personal development company: **Otis Williams Limitless, Inc.**

Since following his dream and starting his own company, Otis has literally traveled the world sharing with people the time-tested universal laws, principles, strategies, and techniques that account for much of his success. His client list includes high-achieving individuals and companies such as General Motors, Procter & Gamble, McDonald’s, Toyota, Sprint, Pepsi, Lockheed Martin, Fischer Homes, and American Family Insurance.

Along his journey, Otis has received accolades for his work and leadership. He has been honored as a **YMCA Black Achiever**. He is a recipient of the **“Profiles in Courage”** award. He was named as one of *Cincinnati Business Courier’s* **“Forty Under 40”** Young Business Leaders and has been recognized as an **Emerging Leader** by *Applause! Magazine*. He also has been honored by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio with a Resolution. Otis has even been inducted into his high school’s **Hall of Achievement**.

As a champion of lifelong learning, Otis went back to college, while running his company fulltime, and earned his Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Thomas More College and his Master’s degree in Human Resource Development from Xavier University. After being persuaded of a unique opportunity by a good friend, Otis returned to college *again*; this time as an instructor. He taught leadership and management classes at a local community college.

With an understanding of the value of both formal and informal education, Otis became a **F.I.R.E. Certified Firewalking Instructor**. He was personally trained by the father of the global fire walking movement—Tolly Burkan. Otis’ motivation for seeking out and gaining this unique knowledge and training was his *burning desire* (pun intended) to increase his ability to help people transform their lives.

Otis’ weekend empowerment intensives are truly transformational. He uses extreme experiences such as board and brick breaking with your bare hands, steel rebar bending with your throat, walking on broken glass barefooted, arrow breaking with your throat, firewalking, etc., to bring people face-to-face with their self-doubt, fear, and anxiety, and then teaches them how to use their mind and courage to push pass their limiting beliefs into personal transformation and freedom.

Otis Williams is wholeheartedly committed to his mission of teaching people how to train their fear so they can live free and share their gifts with the world. He has been featured in print media and is a frequent guest on radio and television programs nationwide. Otis also has authored numerous articles, books, audio and video programs, multimedia programs, self-directed learning systems, and online learning systems which have been distributed worldwide. He currently lives in Cincinnati, Ohio with his wife and two children.