

THIS IS ONEIDA TOO MUCH WATER, TOO LITTLE WATER

The winter brought plenty of challenges to our campus. In a recent article, I shared about our historic snow day. Within a few days of overcoming the challenges from the snow, we dealt with flooding. Angie has been saying she is going to get the Army Corps of Engineers to reroute the river so that our athletic fields are not in a flood plain and so our campus will not be land-locked. In the meantime, we deal with flooding from time to time that cuts some of our staff off from the campus unless they make it over to campus before the water covers the bridge.

As I sat at home watching a Kentucky basketball game on a recent Saturday evening, I received a phone call saying the river was rising. So I packed a bag and made my way over to campus. After arriving on campus, I dropped my gear off in an Anderson Hall room (the same room Dr. Barkley Moore used), and headed out to check on our crew moving equipment from the flood prone area to the top of the hill on campus. I then headed to the boys' dorm and chatted with our dean of boys, who happens to be an Oneida graduate. Mr. Kelsey does a nightly devotion with some of the boys, so I was privileged to sit in for this time of Bible study. I then headed to check in on the girls' dorm and eventually back to our flood crew, and then off to bed for the night.

After the water receded, we soon found ourselves without water on our campus. In an instant we went from too much water to too little water. The cold weather had caused pipes to freeze, which led to leaks, which led to a supply issue. We went nearly two days on our campus without water. It was a bit of a challenge in my own home as Angie had the kids carry in snow to be boiled in order to flush toilets. On day two, I heated some water in order to shave. While it was challenging, we managed.

Even tougher to manage was 225 kids in the dorms and 450 people to continue to feed. Our people pitched in and did what was needed to keep us up and running. New Salem Baptist Church even sent over a couple of pallets of Gatorade by way of one of their members who happens to be one of our trustees.

I continue to be amazed at the Lord's provision for this place. Thank you for what you do to help us keep our doors open so that lives might be changed.



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

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