

## **THIS IS ONEIDA FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS**

Several years ago a parent of an athlete at my school in Florida sent me an email telling me the Lord had a job for me and it involved being a father to the fatherless. I can't say that I totally dismissed the email, but I was a little confused by it. I barely knew this parent and was completely content doing what I was already doing. I had really only spent the better part of one day in the car with this parent and her child. Her child had transferred to our school during her senior year and was ruled ineligible for athletic participation. Our trip that day took us to an appeals meeting to try to gain eligibility for the student. We lost that appeal, but I did learn that day that this lady and her family were walking closely with the Lord. Years later, I find myself doing what I can to lead a ministry that thrives on reaching young people who sometimes have no hope. I have often thought about my friend's email and am reminded what Oneida means to so many hurting young people.

My own father is my hero. He has been the kind of father every kid or adult would want. He taught me to love the Lord and others and to do my best to live a life of Christian service. When it came time to decide on a best man for my wedding, that was a no-brainer. My dad was my best man 21 years ago and is still my best friend today. I have great memories of traveling to Cincinnati and Atlanta for baseball games, of family vacations, life lessons, and so much more. I am blessed that I still have my dad to make new memories with as well. I strive every day to try to be the type of father to my three children that my father has always been to me.

On June 18 I will call my dad to tell him happy Father's Day and that I love him. On Father's Day, June 18, you will hopefully hear something in your church about the special KBC offering for Oneida. I also humbly ask that you continue to show your love and support for Oneida on June 18 so that many of our students can continue their educations at Oneida and one day be the type of Christian parent that my father has been to me. That Oneida Father's Day Offering is named for Dr. Barkley Moore, who served as OBI president from 1972 to 1994. Dr. Moore was a father to thousands of fatherless young men and women. He loved Oneida, but he loved the young people of Oneida even more. He gave his life for the kingdom and we continue to honor his memory by serving our young people with some small portion of the passion he so faithfully exhibited.

This Father's Day Offering is such an important part of our ministry. Many of our young people can't afford to pay for the education they receive here at Oneida. Support from your church is what enables us to provide hope for our young



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

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