



ALUMNI NEWS

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Education for Time and Eternity

A newsletter for alumni of Oneida Baptist Institute

March 2012

Charles Barnes, Class of 1953



Charles Barnes '53 was born December 1, 1935 in New Haven, Kentucky, son of **Rev. John** and **Mary Barnes**. Both his father and grandfather were Baptist ministers. Charles' grandfather, evangelist **E.W. Barnes**, and song leader **D.C. Sparks** worked together sharing the gospel in the 1930's. Sparks later became the seventh OBI president, 1948-1962.

In his youth, Charles attended summer camp at Oneida. When he started high school in 1949 his father, a pastor in Harlan County, decided OBI could provide a well-rounded education that he would not get in public school. Two of Charles' siblings were also Oneida graduates--**Martha Barnes Ragland '57** and **Joe Barnes '62**. Joe died in a car accident while teaching at OBI in 1970. Another brother, **John**, went to school in Louisville.

At Oneida Charles excelled academically and was involved in a variety of extracurricular activities, including Baptist Student Union, choir, drama, yearbook and Junior Conversation Club. During his senior year, he was

editor of the yearbook, president of his class, and voted "Most Likely to Succeed" by the faculty.

Like all OBI students, Charles was assigned a job. His first two years he was a "kitchen boy." He took scraps to the hogs, killed the chickens, made sausage and maintained the stock room for **Mrs. Ruby Baker** and **Mrs. Bertha Johnson**. He was promoted his junior year to the school store, where he assisted **Mrs. Melvin Davidson** in selling snacks, etc. Charles commented, "That was my first introduction to the business world."

Charles entered Cumberland College (a two year college at that time). Finishing first in his class, he went on to earn his undergraduate and master's degrees at the University of Louisville's School of Business. Charles also has a degree from Rutgers University's graduate school of banking.

Charles recognizes that Oneida prepared him academically to succeed in college and also provided an atmosphere for him to grow spiritually. With faculty such as **Martha Bain Rice**, he was challenged to be a leader both in and out of the classroom.

Pursuing a career in banking after college, Charles was employed for the next 40 years by First National Bank in Louisville, Kentucky. For 14 years prior to his retirement in 1994, he was executive vice-president of First Kentucky National Corporation, which owned First National Bank and other banks in the state.

Charles has a long history with Kentucky Baptists. For 35 years he assisted in inner-city missions in Lou-

isville. He and his wife, **Shelva**, (who he married in 1957) are members of Hurstbourne Baptist Church, where he leads an adult Sunday School class, is chairman of the Business and Finance Committee, and serves on the Missions and Evangelism Committee.

In 1988-89, Charles served as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, an elected position typically held by a pastor. Most recently, he served as coordinator for FIND-IT-HERE, a KBC outreach campaign in the Louisville metro area in 2010. He was also the coordinator for Crossover 2009, an evangelistic emphasis held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting held at Freedom Hall in Louisville.

Charles served a number of years on the KBC Mission Board. He also served as a trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of the Cumberlands for 13 and 16 years, respectively. He is currently an Honorary Trustee of Cumberland and received an Honorary Doctors Degree from them.

Charles and Shelva have two sons -- **David**, an engineer for Hewitt-Packard and **Greg**, a Pediatric Neurologist at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital and Medical School. □

In Memoriam 2011

(additional names)

- Steve Hacker 1938-39
- Clara Hornsby Bishop '39
- Wiley Baker '47
- Preston Allen '53
- Thomas "Buddy" Moore 1980-81



Dear Friends,

It seems to me that we remember some experiences better than others. Most men remember their first car and probably their first dog. We are likely to recall that first kiss. We who have been blessed with children remember well the birth of our first -- and definitely the birth of the first grandchild!

Most former OBI students remember their first trip to Oneida. I certainly do. My mother had to borrow \$5.00 to buy gas for the trip from Ohio. Gas was only about 25 cents a gallon in 1961.

My mother was not happy about my coming to OBI. After I became a Christian at 17, church friends who knew about my home life encouraged me to consider Oneida. I filled out the application except for "parent or guardian signature." Would my mother sign? The application said nothing about expenses. I could only tell her that my friends at church said the school would work with me on the fees.

My words were little comfort to my mother. Reluctantly she signed her name, but with the understanding that if it cost anything to attend I would not be able to go. We were a very poor family. As a junior, OBI would be the thirteenth school I had attended. I had never been expelled, but we didn't pay our rent and were frequently asked to move. I had attended as many as three schools in one year.

I remember arriving on campus that Sunday afternoon, a little scared but excited to attend a "Christian" school. The old school building, Marvin Hall, was nothing to brag about but it seemed to welcome me; it had a warmth about it that I had never before experienced. I remember the worn wooden steps that had obviously paid a price for providing passage to hundreds of students over the years.

In all of the schools I had attended--testing the patience of more than a few teachers--no teacher had ever threatened me with bodily harm until that first week at OBI. Having attended 13 schools, my educational foundation had several cracks in it. I was sitting in Ms. Bain's (Rice) English class. We were doing verb tenses, which was

a little intimidating. She went up and down each row giving every student a verb. I listened as each correctly answered. Finally it was my turn. "Please God, let me know the correct answer." "Buddy," she called out, "give me the past and present tense for the verb 'sneak.'" I thought, "Thank you, God, for giving me an easy one!" I confidently replied, "Sneak, snuck, snuck."

I wasn't good in physics so I had no idea how long it took for a nuclear bomb to go off, but that's what happened in that classroom! I will not try to describe the look on her face or the stomping of her little feet, but when she pointed to the second floor window and threatened to throw me out if I ever used the word "snuck" in her room again, I had some idea of the devastating power of a nuclear bomb! To the best of my memory I NEVER said "snuck" in her presence again.

Ms. Wilson was an equally firm and disciplined teacher. You never chewed gum in her classroom and it was wise to never rear back on the back two legs of your desk. You knew as soon as you entered her classroom that this was serious business. I loved algebra and she made it even more fun and exciting. And she never threatened to throw me out the window!

Unlike many students who come to OBI, I never got homesick. I didn't miss the poverty, the drinking or the physical and emotional abuse my mother was subjected to. I didn't miss another forced move and a new school, having little or nothing to eat or the constant instability in our family.

I quickly noticed that there were more than a few pretty girls at Oneida. I tried hard to convince two or three that I would make a really good boyfriend but they didn't seem to appreciate all I had to offer. Near Christmas my senior year one girl finally took an interest in me. She invited me to the YWA Valentine dinner at the church. Three dates later I asked her to marry me. Opportunity does not always knock at your door twice. We graduated in 1963 and married in June 1964.

Kay and I had a common love for Oneida and God and a strong desire to serve in some way. Our original plan

was to attend college and come back to OBI for three or four years to help repay the scholarship I was given. We also wanted to show our appreciation for the fact that God used Oneida to bring us together. While we were in college, however, we dropped out for what was to be one semester to help my in-laws start their new business. I fell in love with the business and my father-in-law fell out of love with it. He returned to teaching and eventually Kay and I purchased the business.

Our three children were born and by the early 1970's we began to revisit our desire to go to OBI. During Barkley Moore's first month as President in 1972 he invited us to come to Oneida. Enrollment was very low, there was no money and there were only a few staff. We desperately wanted to come but God would not give us His blessing. It was another 12 years before God opened the door for us to return.

Time after time Dr. Moore invited us to "sell the business and throw in with Oneida." In February 1984 we talked to him about the possibility. Kay and I knew we could only return if God gave us a peace about it. We agreed to spend the next week or two praying. It only took two days for us to be in complete agreement that it was time.

Six weeks later we had sold our business, inventory and little farm and I was at OBI. Kay and the children completed the school year in Ohio and moved in June. Kay became the Admissions Director and I was the Work Program Supervisor, the fifth person in that position that academic year.

The ten years we worked with Dr. Moore were some of the best years of our lives. He and Kay became close friends. I loved the work program but eventually became Dean of Boys, too. Only those who have worked at OBI during Dr. Moore's years can fully appreciate having an eight-hour day job and a twelve-hour night job! If every Christian could work beside Dr. Moore for one year it would forever influence their spiritual commitment and perspective of service.

Dr. Moore had been ill for some time and passed away on January 25, 1994. In the next few months I lost my

father, my mother and a six-month-old grandchild. It was a really tough time. The trustees began the process of finding a new president from seven names that had been turned in. To this day I do not know how my name got on the list. I asked the trustees three times to remove my name because I was not interested and not even remotely qualified. And who would want to follow an icon like Barkley Moore?

That July I was asked if I would accept the position. I did not know that Dr. Moore had told several trustees privately that if anything ever happened to him he thought they should seriously consider me as his successor. I was anything but happy about my new position. It is not good to be angry at God, but I was. Little by little, it appeared that this new responsibility might last longer than a year or two. Now, 17½ years later, I honestly don't know how it has happened.

Kay and I will step aside at the end of March after 28 years at the school that brought us together. God has been so kind to allow us to be a part of the Oneida ministry. The work here is stressful and the demands on our time are unrelenting, which is one reason Dr. Moore passed away at age 52. Without complaint, Kay and I have had very little time for ourselves, our children or our grandchildren. We were blessed to inherit a home and eight acres in Booneville -- 21 miles from Oneida -- from a special OBI friend, Harold Combs, Dean of Boys when I was a student. Kay and I plan to travel a little and then spend most of our time in Booneville. Feel free to come and visit any time you are in the area.

To those who have encouraged Kay and me and have supported our efforts, we express our deepest appreciation. For those who have seemingly never been happy with our efforts I can only offer my sincere regrets. When we have failed it has not been because of a lack of effort or dedication on our part. God bless.

Sincerely,



Dr. W.F. "Bud" Underwood

Betty Jo Burns Hensley, Class of 1965



Betty Jo Burns Hensley '65 was born August 15, 1947 at the Oneida Mountain Hospital. Her parents, **Vernon** and **Laddie Britton Burns**, graduated from OBI in 1931. They lived on their family farm on Bullsken at the mouth of Long Branch Road.

Betty and her twin sister, Joyce, walked to a one-room school near their home until Oneida Elementary was built in 1958. The twins enrolled at OBI in August 1961.

After high school, Betty worked as a nurse's aide at Oneida Mountain Hospital. In 1967, she married **Bobby Joe Hensley**, who was in the U. S. Marine Corps stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. After serving two tours of duty in Vietnam, Bobby was released from the Marines in 1969. They moved to Dayton, Ohio, where their son, **Bobby Joe Hensley II**, was born Feb. 27, 1970.

In 1971 the family moved to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where Bobby worked 33 years for Union Carbide. Their daughter, **Brenda Joyce**, was born Jan. 31, 1973. At age 38, Betty joined a Women's Softball League in Oak Ridge. Her team won the local tournaments for several years.

Betty began competing in Senior Olympics in 2000. She has won 222 gold, silver, and bronze medals in track and field, discus, javelin, long jump, softball throw, badminton, ping pong, horseshoes and shuffle board. In 2003 Betty broke the state record in discus in Clarksville, Tennessee.

After successfully undergoing surgery for breast cancer in 2004, Betty went on to compete in the National Senior Olympics held in Pittsburgh, PA in 2005. She was also named All American in softball in 2005.

Betty joined the Smoky Mountain Stars 60+ Softball Team in 2007. They won the gold in their state tournament, the gold in the Senior National Tournament, and fifth place in the World Tournament.

Joyce Davidson '65, Betty's sister and retired Oneida Elementary School teacher, commented, "I don't know where she gets her athletic ability. I'm her twin and I'm not at all athletic." Joyce's daughter, **Marsha Davidson Robertson**, graduated from OBI in 1983 and her granddaughter, **Paige Robertson**, graduated in 2010.

All four of Betty's brothers, (now all deceased) were Oneida graduates -- **Conrad** ('55), **Bobby** ('57), **Donald** ('64), **Michael** ('64) as well as three sisters -- **Brenda** ('60), Joyce ('65) and **Kathy** ('70). □

Just reminders . . .

April 1 is the deadline for the Athletic Hall of Fame nominations.

April 14 is the Alumni and Friends Dinner and our spring play, *Money Talks*. Dinner will be at 5:00 P.M. and the play will follow at 7:00 P.M. Make plans now to attend!

Want to contact us?

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*You are cordially invited to a retirement celebration
for Dr. and Mrs. W.F. Underwood*

Saturday March 31, 2012

*1:00 - 2:00 P.M. Program in the Melvin Davidson Chapel
2:00 - 4:00 P.M. Reception in the Larry and Linda Gritton Gymnasium*

Did we see YOU at Homecoming 2011?



Save the date for
Homecoming 2012:
June 30