

THIS IS ONEIDA WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

In my previous years of service at Oneida, I can remember walking the campus asking myself, “What am I doing here?” Although I loved Oneida very much, I constantly questioned if Oneida was really in fact what God had for me to do in His kingdom. During those seven years it would make me uneasy to think of leaving Oneida, but when the Lord called Angie and me to Florida I had peace and I knew it was, in fact, God who had called me away from this unique ministry. One of the scriptures the Lord gave me as I left was Acts 18:21. That scripture says, “As he left, he promised, ‘I will come back if it is God’s will.’” Just as Paul told the folks in Ephesus that he would return one day if it was the Lord’s will, I believed Angie and I would possibly return home to Oneida one day as well.

In my nine years away from Oneida, I was constantly reminded that I really didn’t do a good job of ministering to the world mission field of students that the Lord had brought to my own back yard. I know the Lord used those nine years to prepare Angie and me for our return home. It is my goal now to help put our 130 faculty and staff members in a position to best minister to our students.

Our farm manager, Mr. Marty Bevil, recently approached me about taking some of our students to an off-campus event. As he talked of the event, I pondered the costs, the possible risk, and other things, but gave him the green light to go. After their return from the trip, I was thrilled when Mr. Bevil shared with me that three of our students accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. Before our school year began, I encouraged our faculty and staff to get out of the way when necessary and let our students come to the Lord just as young children came to Christ in Matthew 19:14. It is now our responsibility as a school to do our very best to help mentor and encourage these three young ladies in their walk with the Lord.

Many Christians are simply satisfied to let Christ save them from eternal damnation and be their Savior, but are hesitant to allow him to be their Lord because they don’t want to give up control of their everyday lives. When we allow Christ to be Lord of our life, we have the privilege of helping others come to salvation. We don’t require our students to be professing Christians to come to our Christian school, but once students are here they hear the gospel presented at least seven times per week. One of the many things that I love about our school is that we have the ability to lead lost young people to Christ and also to disciple those who already know him as Lord.

The next time you find yourself pondering your calling in life, just ask the Lord what it is He wants from you. Perhaps He will call you away from what you are currently doing, only to draw you closer to Him. Our willingness is a powerful and wonderful vehicle for the Lord’s work. I now fully know what I am doing at Oneida, and hope to do my best to serve Him here.



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OBI President**

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