

**THIS IS ONEIDA
OBI -- A SIMPLE LIFE**

I am always amazed at how the Lord brings certain people into our lives for certain purposes. About five years ago, the Lord brought a young man into our family's path. Dylan was an autistic young man who lived next door to us. It took Dylan a complete year to warm up to us, but once he did, he literally became part of the family. Dylan had a brilliant mind, and his sports trivia knowledge was absolutely mind-boggling. After spending some time with Dylan, I stopped using Google and simply asked him. In one three-minute display of sports trivia knowledge, I saw Dylan rattle off every baseball world series champion, who they defeated, and how many games the series went from 1955 to 2013. As I told you in a recent article, I love baseball, but I couldn't come close to recalling those categories the way Dylan did. I learned so much from Dylan during the last five years. He loved life and didn't concern himself with the burdens of life and the world. I can't wait for Dylan to visit our school one day. I believe he will enjoy the simplicity of life here.

Life at Oneida Baptist Institute simplifies so many things for our students. Due to our remote geographical location, our students aren't distracted by some of the things that the world has to offer. One of my wife's friends was blown away when she heard the nearest Target would be a couple of hours away from our new home. Our days here are simple, yet filled with the basic tenets of life. Meals, school, work, and time with friends are some of those basic routines. As we all move toward the end of our time on this earth, we should be reminded that the simple things are what matter for eternity. Accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior is a simple decision that only requires a childlike faith, but it is a decision that matters for all eternity.

In a recent revival service on our campus, many of our students were introduced to Jesus. The service and message were simple, but so many students were moved to make a decision for the Lord. Today's technological fast-paced world doesn't often afford us the opportunity to slow down and to be still and wait upon the Lord. As my wife and I considered a return to this wonderful school, we believed being here would simplify our lives in some ways and it has. We've eaten more meals together as a family than we ever did in the outside world, and Angie sure isn't complaining about not having to cook or clean up after most of those meals since we often eat in our cafeteria. I have been amazed to see the number of Oneida faculty and staff who have returned here for a second or third tenure in this ministry. I have also been amazed at the number of phone calls and emails I have received from former students and staff members who wish to return to Oneida.

I am a simple person and I enjoy the simple things in life. Oneida is a wonderful yet profoundly simple place and school. Dylan taught me so much, and I hope to pass what I've learned from him on to the people of Oneida Baptist Institute.



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

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