

**THIS IS ONEIDA
FORMER STUDENT/CURRENT STAFF MEMBER TELLS HER ONEIDA
STORY**

In a recent chapel service, one of our staff members shared her story. The Lord rescued “Susie,” and after the chapel service He rescued a current student who gave her life to Christ. The remainder of this article is “Susie’s” account of her Oneida story.

I came to Oneida when I was 17 years old. My life was heading down the wrong path. I have always wondered why I was ever born. From the time I came into this world, I have had to deal with torment, pain, and suffering. My home was not a happy one. I have been beaten, bullied, starved, molested, kidnapped, raped, drugged, and almost sold. My mother had me stand next to the road holding a sign that said “For Sale.” When someone stopped by to ask if this was true, my mother had me go back inside, and then I was beaten.

I was abused from ages 6 through 16. When I was 17, my friend’s uncle kidnapped a friend of mine and me. He took us to another state and they drugged, beat, and raped us for days. They eventually brought us back and dropped us off at a gas station. I was then taken to the hospital and put in ICU.

Once I was released from the hospital, I was sent to Illinois to stay with family. It took my Sunday school teacher and her husband to know that if something did not change, I was going to die. It is because of them that I was given the chance to live. They brought me to Oneida. The first night I was here, I lay in the bed crying myself to sleep because for the first time in my life I was safe.

I can now see why I was put on this earth. God gave me this life, and everything that I have gone through has brought me closer to him. The Lord blessed me so much by allowing me to come to OBI. Since being here, I have graduated from high school, and I am the first in my family to ever do that. I met my best friend, [my husband], a man that would see me and love me no matter what I have been through. He sees me as a person and not an object. We have two beautiful children. Even though doctors said it was not possible, the Lord saw otherwise.

Oneida Baptist Institute is my little piece of heaven right here on earth. If it were not for Oneida, I don’t believe I would be here today. Every day I thank the Lord for giving me this life. I have been asked many times if I would go back and change my life if I could, and my answer is always “NO.” Oneida is my home and always will be.



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

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