

**THIS IS ONEIDA  
“SIR, WE WOULD SEE JESUS”**

There is a wood carving that is displayed in the back of our chapel in plain sight for the speaker. It reads, “Sir, we would see Jesus.” I often tell our chapel speakers that speaking to our students is no small task.

In addition to announcements and special awards presentations, I typically speak in chapel once a month. Most of the time when I am set to speak in chapel, I have a pretty good idea of the message the Lord wants me to bring well before the actual day I will speak. It is a real temptation to be more concerned with finding a video, picture, or illustration that will entertain our students rather than finding the message the Lord desires. I hate to admit it, but I have been guilty of this myself. For my most recent opportunity to speak in chapel, it took me longer than normal to feel as if I knew the direction the Lord wanted me to go. I even told our students and staff that it is easier for me to speak to churches all across Kentucky than it is to speak in chapel.

After much struggle and prayer, I ultimately felt led to give the plan of salvation. We are a school, and our goal is for students to one day walk across our stage and receive their diploma. However, in preparing the message I was reminded of our ultimate objective, which is to bring our kids to Christ. It is easy in the day-to-day tasks and responsibilities to forget what is most important. I challenged our faculty and staff to witness to someone on our campus that day. I also invited kids who wanted to speak with someone about receiving Jesus as their Savior to stay after chapel. Two young men stayed after the service. I hovered nearby and was blessed to hear one of our staff members who’s an Oneida graduate lead a middle school boy to Christ and another counsel a high school boy about what it means to follow Jesus.

I often receive blessings and encouragement, both small and large, on a daily basis as I do my best to lead Oneida the way the Lord wants. This day and its blessings is now one of my fondest memories. Another soul was reached and saved for the cause of Christ here at Oneida. If we could only lead one young person to Christ each day, what a year we would have!

One day each of you will have the opportunity to walk the streets of gold with many Oneida young people who found the Lord here. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for all you do to help put our staff in a position each and every day to educate young people for time and eternity.



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

*First printed in the Western Recorder November 18, 2014.  
Reprinted with the permission of the Western Recorder.*