

**THIS IS ONEIDA  
LONGING FOR WEEKI WACHEE BUT LIVING FOR HIM**

One of the things most of us are usually guilty of is trying to fast forward our lives to our favorite parts. Experience most often teaches us that living every day as if it is our last is the best way to live life, but for some reason we seem to prefer living for the next big thing. The recent camel hump day Geico advertisement is amusing, but is also an indication of how we live our lives in anticipation of the next event or day. Shouldn't Wednesday, or any other day for that matter, be worthy of our best efforts? Yet many times we view Wednesday as one day closer to the weekend.

Perhaps you look forward to weekends, birthdays, holidays, family visits, and vacations, to name a few. I look forward to visits to Rupp Arena when possible. I love UK basketball games and hope to attend a few games this season, but a couple of years ago I was hooked by a new attraction when my family discovered Weeki Wachee natural spring in Florida. We absolutely fell in love with this largely unknown little Florida treasure. We had done the amusement parks, the Florida Keys, the beach, and other Florida attractions, but the beauty and serenity of this natural spring became our favorite Florida activity. We love to kayak the seven-mile crystal clear river. There are rope swings, wildlife, and manatees that swim in from the Gulf of Mexico during the winter months because the temperature of the spring is warmer than that of the gulf. We hope to make a stop there when we visit my parents in Florida during our Christmas break.

Weekends on the Oneida campus can be challenging for our young people and faculty and staff. While we all seem to enjoy the arrival of Friday, the absence of the weekday routine can often lead to boredom and apathy. When I am home for more than day or two at a time, Angie often becomes irritated with me because I don't do well without routine. Perhaps now I know why my mother tried to script and schedule every day of summer break for me when I was a kid.

When the Fridays that usher in our homegoing breaks arrive, both students and staff are usually ready to hit the road for something different from the normal routine. Before our fall break began, I told our students in chapel to enjoy the anticipation of the break because often times the anticipation of the break is better than the break itself. However, I know in my heart that heaven will be so much better than we can possibly fathom in our minds. We should long for heaven, but also live each day to the fullest.

I often tell young people not to be in a hurry for tomorrow. Soon enough, they will become adults who pay bills, work all their lives, and deal with many daily stresses. When we long for each day to pass so we can make it to a day that we like better, we are doing ourselves and the Lord a disservice.

We should all be longing for heaven and the privilege of being in God's presence forever. As we serve the Lord and others here on earth, we must do our best to live each day and moment for God's glory.



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

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