

THIS IS ONEIDA FALL FESTIVAL FLEXIBILITY

We recently had a fall festival on our campus. Our Campus Activities Director had planned for months to give our young people a fun day of food, friends, and fellowship. As she and her Student Council worked tirelessly on Saturday to set up for the event, it became evident that the weather did not plan to cooperate with our outdoor plans. The decision was made, therefore, to move the event into our Gritton Gymnasium.

The inflatables, tables, games, food, and much more were squeezed into our gym space. As our students and staff piled into the gym, the fun began. As our students played carnival games, participated in a hot dog eating contest, competed for prizes and ate lots of food, it was evident that the bad weather and limited space did not hinder their ability to enjoy the event.

As the festival wound down, the last activity was a movie in our Sparks Gymnasium. Staff members scrambled to make popcorn and give out candy and soda while others set up the movie. Perhaps our houseparents who would be charged with putting the

students to bed later that evening were not appreciative of the sugar that had been provided during the event. The movie was originally going to be outdoors, but it turned out great indoors due to the flexibility of both staff and students.

Oftentimes we become so accustomed to routine, plans, and structure that we forget that we serve a Lord who was the most flexible servant the world has ever seen or ever will see. Matthew 8:20 says the Son of Man had no place to lay His head. If Jesus could minister and serve without a home, I believe we can overcome and adjust to the small obstacles that we sometimes encounter.

In our country we really do live in luxury. As a young man, I was blessed with the opportunity to travel to some other parts of the world. I visited Argentina, Brazil, China, Japan, Mexico, and Mongolia. Perhaps I will write another article soon about these travels, but these trips opened my eyes to what life was really like in the rest of the world. I learned to appreciate all the wonderful blessings that we so often take for granted in this nation. All Bible-believing Christians who desire to fulfill the Great Commission should possess a passport and be ready to go whenever the Lord calls.

Comfort is the adversary of the Lord's work. When we grow comfortable in our routines and ministries, we grow unwilling to be flexible. I so appreciate the faculty and staff on our campus who so cheerfully adapt and sacrifice comfort for the sake of our young people. Oneida is a wonderful place to work and minister, but it is not an easy place to work or minister, either. I recently attended an annual associational meeting in which the speaker challenged all the pastors present to never quit or grow weary of serving Him with gladness. Our pride and propensity for comfort often hinder our ability to serve the Lord and others.

My experience has often been that as I grow comfortable, the Lord moves me or expands my territory. The prayer of Jabez is a powerful thing and all who ask the Lord to enlarge their ministry should be prepared to be flexible and to be blessed.



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

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