

## **THIS IS ONEIDA OLD-TIME REVIVAL**

I have very vivid memories of campus revivals from my time as an Oneida student. I can remember everyone cramming into the Oneida Baptist Church for several nights. I recall the night a couple of students my parents had worked very closely with gave their lives to Jesus. My parents cried tears of joy. I also recall wanting the preacher to finish up sooner and also standing through many, many verses of an invitational song, which often times was *Just As I Am*. What a different perspective I now have!

We only had one revival (in the spring)--or "spiritual emphasis week," as some folks like to call it nowadays--scheduled for the school year. I have made many mistakes in trying to lead our ministry, and only scheduling one revival was one of those mistakes. Fortunately, this mistake was fixable. It became quite obvious as our school year progressed that our campus needed revival, so I scheduled a two-night revival.

The pastor of Oneida Baptist Church did a fantastic job in two evening services, and it was also awesome to see how separate speakers in our daily morning chapel services brought messages that carried a common theme. One of the chapels was led by The Stand Power Team, who brought a powerful gospel message. I have seen and heard groups like this one before who rip phone books and bend steel, but had never seen one present the gospel in such a tremendous way. The other was led by the head football coach from The University of the Cumberland, who also did a great job.

Night one of our revival was held in our chapel and was mandatory for all dormitory students. You really didn't think very many teenagers would voluntarily attend a revival service, did you? When the pastor gave the invitation, the altar was flooded with nearly 150 students, many of whom gave their lives to Jesus. Many of the rest made new commitments to Him.

Night two of the revival was held at the Oneida Baptist Church and was voluntary for the students. Well over 100 students came that evening, and after some powerful testimonies from some of our staff and some church members, many more kids gave their hearts to Jesus.

It is now our job to disciple these young people as they begin anew. Jesus has now transformed their lives, but we also know that life and Satan will throw some challenges their way. Please pray for these young people who have found Jesus, and thank you for all you do to enable our ministry team to share Jesus with the young people the Lord sends to Oneida.



**Larry A. Gritton, Jr.**  
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