

THIS IS ONEIDA CLEARING AWAY THE SNOW

The Lord has blessed us with a great staff that loves the Lord and loves young people. These amazing staff members execute both small and large tasks every day on our campus. Some of these tasks are visible to all, but many go oftentimes unnoticed. We have had our fair share of snow the past several weeks, and many days our campus roads have been covered with a hazardous wintry mix.

Several of our hard-working staff members get off to an early 5:00 a.m. start some days to begin clearing our roads and sidewalks in order to make them safe for driving and walking. These staff members don't ask for extra pay or time off. They simply serve our students and staff.

On more than one occasion, I have watched some of our snow crew staff members from my office window. One day last week one of our workers was working hard to clear a sidewalk, and as quickly as he could remove the snow and ice, more snow and ice covered what he had just cleared. This made me think of the way sin and forgiveness work in the life of a believer. Oftentimes as quickly as we can give our sin over to the Lord, new sin covers our hearts and minds. Just as the beautiful snow turns to brown, dirty, slush so does our cleansing if we do not walk in the victory provided by Christ. As soon as we experience the Lord's forgiveness and joy Satan swoops in to steal, kill, and destroy us and our joy. Many times the Lord delivers us from the bondage of recurring sin and we soon find ourselves right back in the same pit of sin and despair. This is why we must walk closely and daily with our Lord.

Sin and the daily struggle with sin are just as real on our campus as they are anywhere else. All of our students and staff are sinners. Many students and all staff are sinners saved by God's grace. In addition to the biblical integration that our teachers do in the classrooms, Oneida offers many programs to help our students overcome in this struggle with sin. There are Bible studies in the boys' and girls' dormitories. We offer Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Baptist Campus Ministry. We have daily chapel services. We have Sunday school. We have Creative Ministries, who did an excellent job of leading chapel one day last week.

I often tell new students that their Oneida experience will be whatever they choose for it to be. If they get involved and take advantage of some of these opportunities I have mentioned, they can and will most likely have a great Oneida experience. Young people today face temptations and sin that did not exist a few decades ago. At Oneida we do our best to provide an environment in which young people are given every opportunity to overcome sin and to live a life of gratitude.

I am thankful for our folks who clear our streets and sidewalks to make our campus safe, but I am even more thankful for our Lord who makes our eternity safe and secure. The next time snow falls in your area, thank the Lord for his forgiveness and pray for Oneida!



Larry A. Gritton, Jr.
OBI President

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