

## **THIS IS ONEIDA A GREAT DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND REUNION**

Several years ago after attending the funeral of someone who was not necessarily well thought of, a friend said, "I'd like to attend a funeral someday and hear someone get up and say old So-And-So was a dirty, rotten scoundrel." His point was that everyone seems to be presented and remembered as a good person after their death. I have often wondered why we wait until someone has passed on before we say the great things we think about them.

A couple of years ago, a friend of mine lost her job at a Christian school. Facebook was covered with wonderful and kind thoughts about my friend. I felt bad for my friend, but I did point out to her that it was kind of like she was reading about her own funeral even though she was still alive. She was actually getting to hear the great things many people had to say about her. Most people don't get to hear what we really feel about them because we assume time is on our side. I know we all have regrets about someone we care about leaving this life before we take the opportunity to let them know how much they mean to us. Please take some time today and tell people who have had an impact in your life just how much you appreciate them.

On January 29 we celebrated and remembered the life and ministry of Dr. Barkley Moore. It was a wonderful day on our campus. Nearly all of our faculty and staff attended the chapel service, along with our student body. We also were blessed with about 30 guests. I knew some of the guests were coming, but others surprised me with their visit. It was a wonderful reunion of former students and staff members. It was a blessing to visit with and eat lunch with folks who love Oneida and loved Dr. Barkley Moore.

Visiting that day was a former OBI president and first lady, a former trustee and his wife, two former students who were married in Oneida, a former alumni director and her sister, three former houseparents, a future trustee, the author of *The Offering* and her daughter, two former staff members who ran our print shop, two former staff members who ran our grill, Dr. Moore's sister and brother-in-law, four retired former staff members, two former local students, and a former staff member who had cared for Dr. Moore many years in Anderson Hall.

It was great for our current students to learn some of the history of our school and see some folks who would drive from as far away as Florida to celebrate with us. Oneida is a great place for young people, but it can also be challenging for them. It was good for them to see people who care about Oneida so much so many years after they were either students or staff members. I often tell our young people that Oneida is a place they will appreciate much more as they grow older, but I guess as we grow older we all learn to appreciate many things and many people more and more.

I am thankful for so many folks who have given to and sacrificed for Oneida Baptist Institute so that God could be glorified in the lives of countless young people.



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

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