

## **THIS IS ONEIDA BLUEGRASS TOUR**

I hate for things to sit on my desk for very long, and I am a bit of a nut when it comes to order. I very much like order and for things to be in their proper places. One the most difficult adjustments for me as I embarked upon parenthood was the mess and lack of order in my home, but I wouldn't trade my three precious munchkins for anything in this world. Perhaps now my only securely ordered space is the desk in my office. If you were to move something on my desk ever so slightly, I would notice it and quickly move it back to its proper location. I sure hope only a few of my staff are reading this, because those who are might have a little fun rearranging my desk the next time they visit my office. I like for things/tasks to only hit my desk once and to be quickly and properly taken care of.

I recently returned to my office from an exhausting but rewarding four-day-and-three-night road trip around our beloved Bluegrass State. I have spent some long days trying to clear and reorganize my desk since this trip. As I write this article it is after 9:00 p.m., but I've got to meet the deadline. I am sure 9:30 p.m. was early for Barkley Moore or Bud Underwood, but it sure seems late to me.

I would like to think that everything I do as I lead Oneida is for our students. As our Development Director and I traveled Kentucky, I often reminded myself that our efforts were for our students. We visited churches, pastors, donors, alumni, and a boys and girls club. On our trip we visited London, Somerset, Bowling Green, Hopkinsville, Paducah, Owensboro, and Louisville. We had some great meetings with some folks who already knew about and were supporting Oneida. Some meetings were with new friends, and others were with potential friends and partners for our school. In these meetings -- some of which were scheduled and others that weren't -- we shared about Oneida. We invited folks to partner with us by praying for us, referring kids in need to us, supporting us financially, scheduling our choir for a visit, making a day trip to attend chapel, touring the campus and eating lunch, and sending volunteer groups to our campus. These are only a few of the ways in which you can partner with Oneida and the young people God has sent our way.

Please come and see for yourself what God is doing at Oneida, but please know we may come to visit you one day in the future. We want Kentucky Baptists to know that Oneida appreciates them and needs their support so we can continue to minister to young people who need a home away from home where they can receive Jesus and a great education. While we sometimes felt a bit like traveling salesmen on our trip, we knew the Lord would open the right doors for us. We were amazed at the graciousness of the people we visited, and we look forward to making, developing, and strengthening even more friendships and partnerships with Kentucky Baptists. When we visit, we promise not to move things around on your desk in case you are nuts about order like I am.



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

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