

**THIS IS ONEIDA
OUR PLANS ARE NOT ALWAYS GOD'S PLANS**

Have you ever made plans that just simply did not work out the way you expected? When it comes to our vacations, Angie and I are planners, but will readily admit that some of our very best vacations were the ones in which we played it by ear and just went wherever the next day took us. Before our children came along, we took a trip one year in October up into Pennsylvania and New Jersey. From day to day we did not really know where our next stop would be, but it was one of our favorite vacations ever. It seems as if after the kids arrived we became a little more intentional with planning in every aspect of our lives, including vacations.

As I lead at Oneida, I find myself making both short- and long-term plans for this ministry. One of my favorite parts of the job thus far has been traveling the state with our choir and visiting different churches. It makes for some early Sunday mornings, long bus rides, and long days, but it is a lot of fun. Some of this year's choir trips had already been scheduled before I arrived. Many others have been scheduled throughout the school year. I enjoy meeting people who already love Oneida, but also introducing people to our ministry. I enjoy getting to be with our students and hearing them sing, and I enjoy the privilege of preaching the Word in many different churches.

One of the trips we scheduled a few months ago was a morning and evening visit to two different churches in Frankfort. One of those churches I had visited before and is pastored by a dear friend of mine. The other was a church I didn't know anything about and was looking forward to visiting for the very first time. We made our travel plans and our friends in Frankfort made their plans to accommodate and feed us. Although we had our plans, I now know the Lord had other plans.

On the Saturday evening before our trip to Frankfort, I made the decision to cancel our trip because of the impending winter storm moving into central and eastern Kentucky on that Sunday. I thought we could get to Frankfort okay, but would potentially run into dangerous roads on our return trip home. I felt awful about canceling. When I talked with my pastor friend he understood, but had also just pulled three hams out of the oven that were planned for our lunch on Sunday. The poor fellow is probably still eating leftover ham as you read this.

On that Sunday morning here in Oneida, the weather was still okay so I decided to visit a local church. Although visiting this local church was not in my original plans, the Lord used my visit there in a powerful way. I had experienced one of my most difficult weeks on the job here at Oneida and the Lord spoke to me in a powerful way as I listened to someone else preach the gospel that day. I also got to meet and reconnect with many Oneida graduates in that great little church. Our plans are not always God's plans. Please allow the Lord to carry out His plan for your life -- even if it means your plans change.



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

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