

**THIS IS ONEIDA
OBI AND THE KBC – SINCE 1946**

There are many facets to my job, some of which I anticipated before sitting behind this desk and some that I did not anticipate. I did anticipate spending much of my time telling the Oneida story and I thoroughly enjoy this part of the job tremendously. I was also aware of the fact that Oneida had a long-standing relationship with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, since 1946 as a matter of fact. My first visit to the KBC was about six weeks into the job. I had lunch with Barry Allen and then met with the nominations committee to get approval for some new trustees. As the year went on I attended and enjoyed the annual convention in Paducah, exchanged phone calls and emails with numerous KBC staff members, and attended three educational and motivational mission board meetings.

I have found Dr. Paul Chitwood and his staff to be great supporters and fellow laborers for the cause of Christ. Dr. Chitwood visited our campus in May and offered his continued support and assistance. After Dr. Chitwood's visit, two more of his staff members soon visited as well and are now better equipped and informed in order to help us tell the Oneida story.

I have spent time with several of the heads of other KBC agencies and institutions and have received great support and encouragement from these men. Dr. Jim Taylor and Dr. Donnie Fox both took time out of their busy schedules this spring to meet with me. They both bought me lunch as well, so perhaps I should visit them more frequently! Next time lunch will be on me.

I consider the 2400 Baptist churches of the KBC to be partners with us in our ongoing mission of educating young people for time and eternity. You are our family. You are family to young people you have never met, and the Lord smiles when he sees what you do for those lost and hurting young people. The love, support, encouragement, and prayers from the wonderful people of our Kentucky Baptist churches help us reach the world for Christ.

I recently read statements from Dr. Taylor and Dr. Fox about their institution's commitment to their continued relationship with the KBC. I also want the great Baptist folks in this state to know Oneida is totally committed to our relationship and covenant agreement with the KBC. We know how important your love and support are and are grateful for it.

Oneida's doors are always open to our friends and family. Come and meet some of the young people whose lives you are helping change for the better. I would love to have you as our guest for one of our daily chapel services, lunch, and a tour. Come and see how we focus on "Him and them." Kids come to Oneida from across the street and across the sea with small and large needs. Our Kentucky Baptist family helps us meet the needs of our young people. Many of our young people need Jesus. They need a great education. They need love. They need a home. They need family. They need structure, and they need direction. They often find all of these things here, and you are to be commended for your role in helping meet these needs. May God bless the KBC, her churches, and the wonderful people across this state.



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

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