

## **THIS IS ONEIDA “HERE TO SERVE”**

As I look out my office window at D. Chester Sparks Hall, I wonder if the man for whom the building was named ever thought a building on our campus would bear his name. I wonder if he ever envisioned students taking classes and playing sports in a building bearing his name.

Last week I told you about our new principal, David Robinson, and his return to Oneida despite a recent leg injury. I asked one of our teachers, Dr. Dean Wilson, to serve as our interim principal until Mr. Robinson is ready for full-time work. His response was, “Sure. I’m just here to serve.” Dr. Wilson is a “retired” Kentucky public school teacher and administrator. He understands what it means to serve the Lord with gladness, and is doing a tremendous job in his new servant leadership role. Retiring from regular work can open new doors of ministry if we will allow the Lord to use our time and talents. It is odd to talk about allowing Him to do anything, but we do get to decide if we want to take part in the Lord’s work. His work goes on and His will is accomplished with or without our participation. We decide if we want to be blessed by Him.

So many folks, like Chester Sparks and Dean Wilson, have given of themselves, their time, and their talents to serve the Lord here at Oneida Baptist Institute. Ministering here is not easy. It is very rewarding and gratifying, but it is not easy. If our Lord had decided to stop serving when it was not easy, I wonder if I would even be writing this article or if you would be reading it.

So many have given so much over the last 114 years to make this special place we call “Oneida” such a unique and wonderful ministry. As I observe our faculty and staff, I see people who love the Lord, young people, and this ministry. The only thing I believed I could promise our faculty and staff as I came on board was that I would do my best. When we do our best, the Lord will do the rest. We are an imperfect people doing our best to serve a perfect Lord and Master who is the perfecter of our faith. We strive daily to glorify Christ as we do our best to help our students see Christ in us and in this place.

Christ gave us all the ultimate blueprint of what it is to be a servant. In today’s world, young people are taught to serve themselves, not others. At OBI we do our best to teach students through our example what it means to live a life of service for the Lord. I spent many years as a coach, and there came a point when I realized I had to tell my players what to do and not show them, because I could no longer show them the right way. Praise the Lord that we can always show others how to serve Him rather than simply telling them. We walk the walk until He calls us home. We don’t have to retire from the Lord’s work. We can do our best to serve Him and others until we leave this earth. May the Lord bless you today and always as you do your best to serve Him.



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