

**THIS IS ONEIDA
ASK AND YE SHALL RECEIVE**

In May I wrote an article entitled, “Praying for More ‘Mana’ from Heaven.” I shared about one of our finest, Mana, now at the University of the Cumberland. I asked you to pray that God would send us more students like Mana, but also more kids who might be struggling. My prayer was for 300 students at the beginning of this school year. We began last school year with 234 and closed the year with 277. Three hundred students represent a 26 % growth from this time last year and means we would likely be over 350 by next May. Oneida is made up of a particular number of young people who the Lord planned from the time He created them to one day find their way to this special place. In that spring column I told you I would write this fall to let you know we did indeed reach 300 students, and I am thrilled that the Lord has answered our prayer and we now have 301 students. God is good and is deserving of our praise!

New and returning students from the hollows (“hollers”) of Clay County, all over the state of Kentucky, across our nation, and around the world have safely arrived on our campus. Our two domestic admissions counselors and our international admissions counselor have worked tirelessly all spring and summer to enroll new students. Our “Minister to the Community”--or for lack of a better way to put it, the guy who is running the local hollers--has also worked diligently to reach out to teenagers surrounding our school. Every family is unique and each takes special care. These ladies and one gentleman often worked past the time that I left the office this summer, and I am grateful for their willing spirits. Perhaps a 300-penny certificate to our grill is in order for them!

Our academic, maintenance, dorm and facilities staff also worked tirelessly this summer to prepare for the arrival of these young people. Although our Oneida summer is a full three months because we don’t take long weekends and snow days during the school year, we still seemed to run short of time as we prepared.

The work for our admissions counselors will carry on as we enroll more students, but for many, particularly teachers and academic personnel, the work has just begun. More kids mean more challenges, which mean more opportunities to minister. Please pray for our faculty and staff as we serve these teens. God brought them to us for a reason, and it is our duty to learn what they need and provide it. This school year will have peaks and valleys, but the Lord will provide what we need to continue to educate young people *for Time and Eternity*.



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

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