

THIS IS ONEIDA PARTNERS IN MISSION

Women’s Missionary Union. Women on Mission. Adults on Mission. Acteens. Youth on Mission. Girls in Action. Royal Ambassadors. Children in Action. Mission Friends. Families on Mission. These organizational titles testify to the breadth of Southern Baptist missions education and support. During the 15 years my wife and I served in Nigeria with the IMB as career missionaries, we gave thanks to God for the work of our SBC missions-support and –education programs. In a multitude of ways, whether we were on the field or on stateside assignment, these groups were a great blessing to us. It was a joy to say “Thank you!” to those who made possible the ministry to which the Lord had called us.

In 2005 we changed our mission-field home from Ogbomoso to Oneida, but our thanks for the work of our missions-support groups in our local churches, associations, and state and national conventions hasn’t changed. Just as our IMB-related ministry experienced great blessings from these missions-minded folks, so do our current missions endeavors at OBI. Though there is no formal or financial relationship between NAMB and OBI or between the IMB and OBI, we who serve at OBI are definitely partners with these larger SBC missions organizations in the work of reaching the whole nation and the whole world for Christ. Just as definitely, we at OBI rejoice in the opportunity to identify with and give thanks for all that our WMU-related groups do.

On the first Saturday in May, 50 of our students and eight of our adults took advantage of the invitation extended to us by the WMU of the Laurel River Baptist Association to march in their 1.5-mile parade celebrating the 125th anniversary of the founding of the WMU. In keeping with the theme of the anniversary, our group carrying the windblown flags of 17 U.S. states and 23 foreign countries followed a banner which read “Oneida Baptist Institute – OUR STORY that began in 1899 LIVES ON.” The colorful mixture of flags, clothing, and skin tones bore ample and joyful witness to the fact that OBI and the WMU share the same missionary vision. (Check out our Facebook page to see some pictures from the parade – and other events too.)

There are many reasons for which OBI rejoices in our various SBC missions-education groups. On a regular basis the WOM of Oneida Baptist Church encourages our students, both foreign and domestic, with snack bags, special worship services, and potluck dinners. Other churches send us clothing, school supplies, jackets, quilts, and other helpful items provided by generous and compassionate hearts, carried by willing hands, and delivered with smiling faces. Yet other groups come to tour the campus, attend an 11:00 a.m. chapel service, share a free lunch in the dining hall, and sometimes help sort donated clothes or cut out labels which are turned in for money to be used to meet a variety of needs. During school vacations, groups of children and teenagers come for similar days of tours. And of course, there are those adults who come and spend a week with us as volunteers. WMU and OBI – a natural spiritual partnership. Our shared story – Christ’s story – lives on. Thanks, WMU, for helping us tell it across the country and around the world. To God be the glory!



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