



ONEIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE

Founded in 1899

*Education for
Time
and Eternity*

Dear Sir or Madam:

Since you are reading this letter, I believe you may be interested in joining our ministry team at Oneida Baptist Institute. I would like to give you some information about our school. If you still feel led to pursue a ministry position at OBI after reading the attached material, please contact me.

Oneida Baptist Institute is a Christian boarding school in Clay County, Kentucky. We have approximately 300 students in grades K-12. Some 50% of our students come from Kentucky, but we also typically have students from 20 other states and 15 foreign countries.

We accept many students who are not doing well socially or academically. In many school systems today, the needs of these young people are not being met. We have a Learning Center for teens who need extra help with reading or math. We also have regular and advanced placement courses for the college-bound. In The Learning Center the student-to-tutor ratio is 3:1, while in regular classes the average size is 11 students.

OBI has a unique student work program. Our students mow the grass, wash pots and pans, mop and wax floors and assist in many other areas. They also do much of the work on our farm, where we raise nearly all of our pork and beef. We believe that teaching these responsibilities to young people is essential. When our teens leave us, they have been taught to do the job they have been assigned, come to work on time, and work for the person in charge -- usually another student. They have experienced the joy that comes from doing a job successfully and have come to appreciate the dignity of work.

Many other activities are available to our students. They may choose from a number of sports as well as band, drama, choir, yearbook, FFA, Student Council, and Baptist Campus Ministry. Many of our teenagers were never involved in these activities in their home schools. We do not "cut" students from our athletic teams because of a lack of ability. As long as a person goes to practice, gives his/her best effort, and follows the rules, he/she will not be cut.

Among the students we accept are those whose families cannot pay our modest room and board. We have never turned a child away because of a legitimate financial need. Approximately 40% of our students are on full or nearly full scholarship. An additional 20% are on a substantial scholarship. No U.S. student pays for more than one-third of the actual cost of meeting his/her personal and educational needs. We can do this because we have many friends who support us financially and as volunteers. We strive to exercise good stewardship, and our faculty/staff are willing to work for very modest salaries. About 30% of our funds come from student fees, 10% from the Kentucky Baptist Convention and 60% from individuals, churches, and other sources.

Unlike some Christian schools, we do not tell students they must be Christians, or that they must have certain grades, or that they must never have been in any trouble before they can enroll at OBI. We believe God created and loves each person; we believe that because of God's love, Jesus died for all people, including each of our students. As long as the young people are physically and mentally capable of living in a boarding school setting, can live peaceably with others, and want to be here, they are normally accepted. This means we have some students who have had problems. We believe that God intends OBI to be a place where teenagers who need and wish to do so can start again.

For many, OBI may be their only hope. One only has to read the Gospels to see that Jesus spent most of His time with those who were not accepted by others. Not all of our students come from difficult backgrounds. Many simply want the opportunities we offer. We welcome each person as he/she is. We are not successful with every student, but we are normally willing to try to help those whose needs we believe we can meet. At Oneida

Baptist Institute, we try to teach students the importance of a personal relationship with God. Though we are a Christian school, we do not force our beliefs on the young people in our care. God's gift of salvation is freely offered. Through daily worship and the faith of our faculty/staff, we try to inspire teenagers to have a personal encounter with Jesus.

Our ministry team members work for very modest salaries. The average income at OBI is \$12,500-\$15,000 per person annually. We provide housing, utilities, an annuity retirement plan, insurance (medical, dental and life) plus major appliances (refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer). All meals are provided in the school's dining room and may be eaten there or taken home. We provide a free day care and K-5 for the children of our ministry team members.

During the nine-month school year you will receive approximately four weeks of vacation—one week in October, two weeks in December/January and one week in March. Non-academic team members are on a different schedule, but normally receive six weeks of vacation during the year. Most school housing is near the campus, so many walk to work.

Those who serve here do so because of the type of ministry we provide. We all work longer hours, live modestly, and seek to minister to others rather than being concerned about being ministered to. It is true that to live and serve at OBI, sacrifices must be made. In that sense, Jesus Himself, the Son of God who made many sacrifices for us, is our example. If you consider that nearly all living expenses are taken care of by the school and factor in the other benefits, Oneida may not be as much of a financial sacrifice as you might have first thought. Before you draw any final conclusions about serving at OBI, you may want to talk to me by phone or visit for a day or two. See if the Holy Spirit has a place for you at Oneida. If you are married, both husband and wife must work for the school. We will find a place of service for both of you and naturally, you will both receive an income based on the area of service chosen. Check the list of job openings on our web site to see the most pressing current needs.

After I have received a completed application, I will contact you by phone or e-mail and possibly arrange a visit and an interview. If you do decide to join our ministry team, we will help with your moving expenses up to \$1,500. At other places on the web site you will find a job application and a map that will help you locate our campus, as well as our most current May/June Oneida Mountaineer, the school's newsletter. The stories in this issue celebrate the successes of some of our recent graduates. Feel free to explore the various parts of the web site as well as visit our Facebook page to get a feel for what it means to serve Christ at OBI.

I trust you will prayerfully consider coming to OBI and personally becoming part of the Lord's ministry here. If you should feel led to further explore that possibility, please feel free to call me at (606) 847-4111, extension 202, or, if you prefer to communicate via e-mail, contact me at president@oneidaschool.org. I will be happy to talk with you.

Your servant in Christ,

Larry A. Gritton, Jr.
President
Oneida Baptist Institute