

# The Importance of Community

by Pastor Adrian

We have just returned (2014) from a very inspiring observance of the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day in Leamington Ontario. Pastor Murray Palmatier kicked off our celebration with an opening night message centred on making the most of the feast. He encouraged us to make sure we “seize the feast” and be different people leaving the feast than we were coming into the feast. I think everyone in attendance for the 8 days will wholeheartedly agree that it was a transformative feast. For three of our brethren, it was especially transformative. They decided to devote their lives to Christ and they were baptized into His body on the 7th day of the feast. It was inspiring for the rest of us to witness their entrance into the covenant with God.

What impacted me the most during this feast was the emphasis on building a godly community. A godly community is one where every member is valued. God’s word tells us that we are part of Christ’s body. Each member requires the healthy functioning of all the other members. The members all edify each other in love. We definitely built a healthy community during the feast. Everyone was joyful and positive. There were many opportunities for fellowship and we really tabernacled together.

We had several brethren from the United Church of God fellowshiping with us. It was wonderful to break down organizational barriers and value each other as brethren. I think everyone experienced the joy of unity and the harmony of God’s Spirit. So many brethren genuinely expressed that this was their best feast.

Thank you to everyone who attended Leamington to make our festival observance so special!