



## **THEME #5: Unified Diversity**

### **Nations United in Christ**

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to live together in unity! Psalms 133:1 NKJV  
While working alongside different nationalities in a construction company in the Middle East, I observed it was difficult for people to live in harmony due to differences in culture and religious beliefs. Even though we lived in a camp and shared a common facility, I could sense the invisible barrier that divided us. Sometimes I even heard discriminating words being aimed at one another.

My family and I eventually moved to Canada. My first Bible Study Group here in North America was a unique one consisting of representatives from nine nations: four from different countries in Europe, one from the Caribbean, three from Asia and nine individuals from Canada. After a few meetings, you could sense that relationships were being established and trust was being built. Over time we became more open and shared more deeply. As a result, we learned from each other's life experiences and there was unity among us.

The scripture says, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to live together in unity!" Among all of the men, the stories of three men still vividly remain in my memory. Toan's story could be compared to the apostle Paul experiencing two shipwrecks while escaping communist rule. Harry had shut himself off from the church for many years due to being hurt. After some encouragement, a third man shared his stories of battle from World War II that had been kept locked inside of him.

I went back to that southwestern Ontario city in 2015 after nine years. With much joy, I met some of our former Life Group members. A number of them were serving in different church ministries. Toan had returned to his native country of Vietnam and was devoted to teaching and mentoring church leaders. Four former members had passed into eternity to be with Jesus.

All these years later, their stories still resonate with me including the restoration of Harry's relationship with the body of Christ.

**FAITH IN ACTION:** Lord, thank You for the unity in the church because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

**There is unity in Jesus' Name.**