

Ensign Logo

The General Association of Branch Davidian Seventh-day Adventists

(letter head - all letters)

May 24, 1976

Dear Sister_____:

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory (truth) of the Lord is risen upon thee." Isa. 60:1.

Praise the Lord that the light has come, even the light of the Mighty Angel of Revelation 18:1! He is pleading with His precious Adventist and Davidian people to accept His beautiful robe of righteousness "which is pure unadulterated truth." – Testimonies to Ministers, p. 65.

May the Lord bless you for the stand you have taken for the wonderful truth of restoration which restores life without death to God's people. Your name has been added to our regular mailing list that you may receive The Branch Sabbath School lessons, special tracts, and other publications. We are sorry that we inadvertently mailed your request for literature somewhat later than the others!

Should you have questions arising from your study of The Branch message, please do not hesitate to write us.

God's laws are being restored, even the services of the Sanctuary, and soon the land of Abraham will be restored to God's people. Yes, Elijah has come and is restoring all things (Matt. 17:11; Mal. 4:5).

May The Branch help you to heed the voice of Elijah that you may keep the holy feasts (Nahum 1:15; Lev. 23), become an heir to the Kingdom (Ezek. 36:24-38; Isa. 2:1-4; Ps. 105:8-11; Gal. 3:29), and receive the new name of Jesus (Rev. 2:17; 3:12; Isa. 62:2; Zech. 3:8; 6:12; Jer. 23:5; 33:15, 16).

Sincerely yours in The Branch,

<signed Ben L. Roden>

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj
enc.

June 3, 1976

Dear Sister_____:

"The significance of the Jewish economy is not yet fully comprehended. Truths VAST AND PROFOUND are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols. The gospel is the key that unlocks its mysteries." – *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 133.

Praise the Lord for the fresh oil revealing the "vast and profound" truths of the services of the sanctuary. We are preparing an article for publication regarding the daily (Dan. 8:10-13).

Your delight in contributing to the Storehouse of Present Truth is the Lord's delight! Thank you!

The printing presses are running full-time to supply our literature evangelists with the new camp tract, a copy of which we are enclosing for you. The new Sabbath School Lessons have been mailed out, and you should receive your copy soon.

Thank you for the names and addresses! They have been placed on the regular mailing list.

Campmeeting time has started, and our evangelists report excellent contacts made with the brethren. Let us join together in prayer for the summer's literature crusade.

May The Branch bless and keep you as you seek to be a citizen of the coming Kingdom!

Sincerely yours to finish the work,

<signed Ben L. Roden>

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj
enc.

July 2, 1976

Dear Sister _____:

"The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill." – *Great Controversy*, p. 488.

The Branch has shed upon us the light of the "Daily" that we understand His present work as our High Priest, and that we might have a "covering" of The Branch for protection during the Sunday law crisis just upon us.

Praise the Lord for His watchcare: And may you be blessed for your support of The Branch our High Priest and Sacrifice!

Many are writing us for additional copies of the "Energy Crisis" tract, and state that they are sending them to their senators and governors, etc.!

Praise The Branch for the "spirit and power" He adds to the Third Angel!

Sincerely yours to warn the brethren,

<signed Ben L. Roden>

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj
enc.

July 14, 1976

Dear Sister_____:

". . . Jeremy came thither, he found an hollow cave, wherein he laid the . . . ark . . . and so stopped the door. . . As for that place, it shall be unknown until the time God gather His people again together, and receive them unto mercy. Then shall the Lord shew them these things, and the glory of the Lord shall appear, and the cloud also, as it was shewed under Moses. . . " – II Maccabees, 2:5, 7, 8. (See Isa. 4:2, 5)

Praise the Lord for the glorious things to which the faithful are heirs, and of which we may share with others through our support of The Branch publishing work!

Thank you for your loving faithfulness!

Sincerely yours in great anticipation,

Correspondence Secretary

pdj: enc.

P.S. The literature you requested is being sent under separate cover.

August 3, 1976

Dear Sister_____:

Praise the Lord for the promise of deliverance! Concerning Jacob's time of trouble, Inspiration declares that "Through this most difficult time, it is the man who has the greatest faith in God that will fear the least. The more faith one has then the greater will be his deliverance." – *Symbolic Code*, Vol. 13, No. 1,2, p. 10.

Your faith is manifested as you support The Branch with your tithes and offerings. Thank you!

"We tried to call up our greatest trials, but they looked so small compared with the far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory that surrounded us that we could not speak them out, and we all cried out, 'Alleluia, heaven is cheap enough!' and we touched our glorious harps and made heaven's arches ring." – *Early Writings*, p. 17.

May we as Branch believers, upon whom the glory of the Lord has risen, look to the Lord for strength and help to see that the glory of the Kingdom should be so great that any trial will fade in the glorious light of Truth with which we are so richly blessed.

Now is the time to seek the Lord (Zeph. 2:3; Isa. 31:6) as never before as we see the time of Jacob's trouble approaching!

Sincerely yours to catch the "vision" of the Glory,

<signed Ben L. Roden>

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj
enc.

August 11, 1976

Dear Sister _____ :

"Now is the time to lay up treasure in heaven and to set our hearts in order, ready for the time of trouble. Those only who have clean hands and pure hearts will stand in that trying time. Now is the time for the law of God to be in our minds, foreheads, and written in our hearts. . . . What leisure time we have should be spent in searching the Bible, which is to judge us in the last day." – *E.W.*58.

We have recently heard from two Seventh-day Adventist ministers, and suffice to say this does not happen often! One writes for 100 each of the new tracts for his "class, street, field, and tract work." The other one writes "I have seen some changes in the church and the health message that I am much concerned about. Also I have heard some second and third hand information about your group and its teachings, and I want to get the information first hand from you, so that I can study it for myself."

Brother Worrow and Brother Davis, Branch ministers from Florida and Massachusetts respectively, have gone to help the brethren in England, and many workers here in America are engaged in the literature ministry at the campmeetings. We are receiving many requests for additional copies of the new tracts, for which we praise the Lord. Please pray for this essential work!

The 1980 General Conference World Session is scheduled to be held in Dallas, Texas, April 20-26 which will be much closer than Vienna, Austria!

Thank you for your support of the message of revival and reformation!

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up." – Psalms 5:3. The "daily"!!

Sincerely yours to seek His kingdom and His righteousness,

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj
enc.

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The enemy does not want God's people to keep the feasts as he knows that they have opportunity to live and never die so he will bring everything to bear upon you to prevent you from keeping the feasts and the "daily."

"Keeping the commandments and the statutes in the Lord, then, is the light and shield of your life. . . it is your life, your prosperity, your health and happiness, your eternity." – *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 2, No. 34, pp. 24, 25.

One Branch believer had an experience that is encouraging. When he asked for the new moons off, taking his vacation a day at a time instead of a whole week, his supervisor told him that it was impossible. The brother said that he could do nothing but quit the job if he couldn't get the new moons off, so the supervisor

said, "Well, if that is the way it is, then take them off!" Of course, this is only one experience, but the Lord works for each faithful believer in His own way.

We are praying for you that the Lord give you courage and strength to stand firm and true for truth and righteousness!

Sincerely yours in Truth,

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj
enc.

August 25, 1976

Dear Sister_____ :

"When they (God's people) break away from all health-destroying indulgences, they will have a clearer perception of what constitutes true godliness. A wonderful change will be seen in the religious experience."
– *My Life Today*, p. 146.

". . . if health reform is to be restored to its proper place, then no one but the promised Elijah the prophet, who is to appear just before the great and dreadful day of the Lord, and who is to restore all things . . . is obviously the only one, if any, that can possibly do it." – *Entering Wedge* no. 2, pp. 11, 12.

"Keeping the commandments and the statutes in the Lord, then, is the light and shield of your life . . . it is your life, your prosperity, your health and happiness, your eternity." – *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 2, No. 37, pp. 24, 25.

True health reform is obedience to the "commandments, statutes and judgments" of the law of Moses!

Thank you for upholding the hands of Elijah by your means, influence, and prayers!

A new article is being prepared for publication soon, the Lord willing! The hour is very late, and we praise the Lord that God's people are beginning to inquire of the Mighty Angel. "I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them." Ezek. 38:37. We are receiving inquiries from both laity and ministry as a result of the "Energy Crisis" tract, of which we have distributed nearly 80,000!

The Sunday movement is growing and strengthening. Are we growing in the knowledge of the truth and strengthening our position on the platform of truth?

May The Branch our Lord bless you richly as you come before Him at the appointed times of worship "daily."
"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up." Psalms 5:3. The "daily"!!

Sincerely yours for the coming deliverance,

<signed Ben L. Roden>

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj:enc.

September 13, 1976

Dear Sister_____:

"Soon, Brother, Sister, we are to enter into this period of persecution, and how thankful we should be that there is no need to fear, no need to be taken off guard. For with the Light now shining on our pathway we should know what to expect and how to cope with the situation. Truly, 'unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness.' Ps. 112:4." – Timely Greetings, Vol. 2, No. 36, p. 8.

As you praise the Lord with your means for the way of escape from the coming crisis, we praise Him for faithful believers to uphold the hands of Joshua!

Like the "trickle" which begins Ezekiel's river (Ezekiel 47), there is a steady "trickle" of inquiring letters as a result of the "Energy Crisis" tract. We have even heard from several ministers!

We are preparing a new tract for publication. You will really enjoy Part 2 of "The Daily."

NEWS NOTES: The Lord's Day Alliance, formed in 1888 as the American Sabbath Union, and who was responsible for the persecution of Adventists (termed as done with the same spirit as that which actuated the Jews to kill Jesus) is gearing itself for a campaign to bring about Sunday sacredness.

An article in the recent issue of "Sunday Magazine" – official publication of the Lord's Day Alliance, states that "Dr. Nederhood (of the Back to God Hour radio broadcast) believes that God has a special message for us in this fact (that July 4 came on Sunday in the Bicentennial year), that it was a part of God's providential plan. Therefore, he concludes that Sunday is the real Independence Day. July 4, 1976, Dr. Nederhood says, is truly Independence Day because it's Sunday, and Sunday is the Lord's Day. 'Only if America realizes the significance of Sunday will it achieve fullness of freedom,' he declared." Dr. Wesberry, Executive Director of the Alliance, states that "It is most significant that it came on Sunday-the Lord's Day. This was certainly providential. It might have been on Friday."

May The Branch our Lord bless you richly as you come before Him at the appointed times of worship "daily."
"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up." – Psalms 5:3. The "Daily!"

Sincerely yours for great faith and great deliverance,

<signed Ben L. Roden>

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj
enc.

P.S. We are happy to send you the literature you requested!

October 7, 1976

Dear Sister_____:

"An all-wise Providence had permitted Luther to realize his peril, that he might not trust to his own strength and rush presumptuously into danger. Yet it was not the fear of personal suffering, a dread of torture or death, which seemed immediately impending, that overwhelmed him with its terror. He had come to the crisis, and he felt his insufficiency to meet it. Through his weakness the cause of truth might suffer loss. Not for his own safety, but for the triumph of the gospel did he wrestle with God. Like Israel's, in that night struggle beside the lonely stream, was the anguish and conflict of his soul. Like Israel, he prevailed with God. In his utter helplessness his faith fastened upon Christ, the mighty Deliverer. He was strengthened with the assurance that he would not appear alone before the council. Peace returned to his soul; and he rejoiced that he was permitted to uplift the word of God before the rulers of the nations." – The Great Controversy, p. 157.

AND SO IT IS WITH US! In the danger that lies ahead let us rejoice that "in the Branch, the Deliverer to come, lay the hope of Israel! ...Christ is revealed as the Redeemer and Deliverer of His people." – Prophets and Kings, pp. 585,592.

Your faithful remittance to the Storehouse of the Deliverer indicates that you are with us rejoicing in the "Hope of Israel." Thank you for your encouragement and support!

"The Daily" Part 2 is being prepared for publication. Are we not thankful for the covering God is providing to protect us from the approaching storm?

The seven letters to the General Conference of S.D.A. are being republished for distribution. It has been twenty years since the Judgment of the Living message started for the Seventh-day Adventists!

The Director of the "Lord's Day Alliance" states that "Governor Jimmy Carter is a personal friend of mine. We regard him most highly. He has made a tremendous witness for Christ. I am sure he will continue to set a fine example regarding the Sabbath. His faithful attendance at worship each Lord's Day and the fact that he teaches a Sunday School class even now and is deeply interested in religion certainly reflects his attitude toward the Christian Sabbath and I am sure he is broad enough to want a day of rest for all people."

Let us praise The Branch for His promised deliverance and go forward in faith and works!

Sincerely yours to fasten ourselves upon The Branch, the Deliverer,

<signed Ben L. Roden>

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj
enc.

Please turn over

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We should like to share with you a few of the highlights of the Holy Season which began with the Blowing of the Trumpets September 25. With the blowing of the horn to usher in the New Year, we experienced for the first time in the history of The Branch the coming together of the yearly Sabbath of the Blowing of the Trumpets, the monthly Sabbath of the New Moon, the Weekly Sabbath, and the Daily! Yes, all four of the holy times came at once!

On the Day of Atonement here in the Chapel the typical. services as found in Leviticus 16:6,14,15,16,19 were carried out in an antitypical service following the service being conducted in the Heavenly Sanctuary by Jesus The Branch our High Priest ("And what was done in type in the ministration of the earthly sanctuary is done in reality in the ministration of the heavenly sanctuary." – Great Controversy, p. 420).

It was brought forcefully to our attention that the time is short, that our need for entire consecration is imperative, that we need to get our "marching clothes" in order, so to speak, for the Kingdom is very near at hand.

"Divine vision, Spirit-filled interpreter, and unfailing faith, is what we all need to have, lest we all perish." – Timely Greetings, Vol. 2, Un., No. 24, p. 27.

How is your faith?

Sincerely yours for entire consecration to The Branch,

<signed Ben L. Roden>

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj

Enc.

October 14, 1976

Dear Sister_____:

"As a people, we should be earnest students of prophecy; we should not rest until we become intelligent in regard to the subject of the sanctuary, which is brought out in the visions of Daniel and John.... God's people are now to have their eyes fixed on the heavenly sanctuary, where the final ministration of our great High Priest in the work of the judgment is going forward,- where He is interceding for His people. – Review and Herald, Nov. 27, 1883." – Evangelism, pp. 222,223.

Praise The Branch that we know what He is doing that we may follow Him in faith and receive the merits of His ministration, even as we did on the recent Day of Atonement!

We should like to share with you a few of the highlights of the Holy Season which began with the Blowing of the Trumpets September 25. For the first time in Branch history, the yearly Sabbath of the Blowing of the Trumpets came at the same time as the weekly Sabbath, the monthly New Moon Sabbath, and they were all bound together, so to speak, by the "Daily." Yes, yearly, monthly, weekly, and daily!

On the Day of Atonement the typical services as found in Leviticus 16:6,14,15,16,19 were carried out in an antitypical service as we followed in faith our Savior's ministration in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary ("And what was done in type in the ministration of the earthly sanctuary is done in reality in the ministration of the heavenly sanctuary." – Great Controversy, p. 420).

It was brought forcefully to the attention of the worshippers here at New Mt. Carmel Center that the time is very short, that we need to get our "marching clothes" in order, that we need to study more, and push the "battle to the gate" so to speak in a final thrust to reach our Davidian and Laodicean brethren with The Branch message.

During the year just ended your prayers and support have strengthened and encouraged us to keep marching toward the Kingdom, and it is our prayer that in the year ahead The Branch may strengthen you to be firm in the Truth and continue to seek more fully His Kingdom and His righteousness. May the Feast of Tabernacles season bring you joy and peace as is promised to those who keep the feasts!

Sincerely yours to put The Branch first,

<signed Ben L. Roden>

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj
Enc.

P.S. Thank you for the names and addresses!

November 11, 1976

Dear Sister_____:

"The time is fast coming when the controlling power of the labor unions will be very oppressive The trades unions will be one of the agencies that will bring upon this earth a time of trouble such as has not been since the world began...." – Selected Messages, Book 2, pp. 141,142.

"...the growing trend toward increased Sunday sales across the country is receiving concerted opposition FROM LABOR LEADERS...." – Religious News Service.

"Bishop John F. Noll claimed in 1946 that Catholics constituted forty to fifty per cent of American trade-union membership. They are especially powerful in the American Federation of Labor." – American Freedom and Catholic Power, p. 264.

"The National Labor Relations Board has ruled that non-profit, charitable and religious institutions are now included under federal collective bargaining labor laws." – Wall Street Journal, 6-24-76.

"The Teamsters Union members' 11-day cannery strike has brought loss of more than 100,000 tons of peaches, even more tomatoes, and most of the apricot crop." – Los Angeles Times, 6-3-76.

We can never be too thankful for the Mighty Angel of Revelation 18:1 Who has come to guide us through the dangerous times just about to break upon us! Thank you for helping us in this the "seventh round" ("Daily" Part 1, p. 8)!

Enclosed is an information sheet that you may use in ordering the charts, which are now ready, praise The Branch!

Along with assembling the charts together, we have been doing a little gardening on the side, and already our onions, garlic, lettuce, greens, etc. are peeking through the ground! O, yes, we planted a large field of oats for the cows, too!

The last campmeeting for 1976 was held in Anaheim, California over the weekend, and faithful Branch literature evangelists covered a reportedly hostile and well-guarded meeting by not only putting the literature on the cars but standing at the very doors and giving it to the people! The Lord prevails!

One of our favorite songs here at New Mt. Carmel Center is "In a Little While We're Going Home." May The Branch help you to be ready when the call comes!

Sincerely yours in The Branch,

<signed Ben L. Roden>

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj
enc.

November 19, 1976

Dear Brother_____:

Praise the Lord that the light of the Mighty Angel of Revelation 18:1 is shining upon us to prepare us for the time of trouble just ahead! Sister Ellen G. White, inspired messenger of the Third Angel, was shown that "The work of this angel (Rev. 18:1) comes in at the right time to JOIN IN the last great work of the third angel's message as it swells into a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet." – Early Writings, p. 277.

We are very pleased to hear from you, and commend you on your fine spirit of investigation, which is the true spirit of Christianity. Sister White counselled that "if a message comes that you do not understand, take pains that you may hear the reasons the messenger may give..." – Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work, p. 65.

Your name and address have been placed on our mailing list that you may receive The Branch Sabbath School Lessons and other timely truth publications. Please do not hesitate to write should questions arise from your prayerful and careful study of The Branch message, which is the message of Revelation 18:1, of which Sister White said "seemed to be an ADDITION TO the third message." – Early Writings, p. 277.

Yes, the additional message is here and it is preparing us to "stand in the hour of temptation" which the signs all show is right upon us!

As you may know, the Lord sent the Mighty Angel of Revelation 18:1 to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1888 to prepare Adventists for the time of trouble that would have developed as a result of the first national Sunday law ever introduced into the American Congress; it was introduced on May 21, 1888. In the fall of the same year the message of Revelation 18:1 was brought to the General Conference Session at Minneapolis, Minnesota by Elders Wagonner and Jones, who were endorsed by Sister White as being sent of God to finish the work, and to instruct Adventists what to do and where to go to be saved, which understanding would have come had the message fully developed.

But here we are 88 years later! What happened to the national Sunday law? What happened to the message of Revelation 18:1?

The first national Sunday law ever to be introduced into the American Congress was not adopted by Congress. Sunday legislation on a national level was forgotten!

"Inspiration declares that Tyre was forgotten seventy years, but after seventy years she shall sing as a harlot. 'And it shall come to pass after seventy years that the Lord will visit Tyre, and she shall turn to her hire, and shall commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth.' Isa. 23:17.... Tyre...the beginning of this future religio-political trade system.

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"When the Lord pours out His judgments upon the disobedient among His professed people, the kings of the earth will know about it and they will be clothed with trembling and astonishment. They will come to realize that if God deals so severely with the sinners in His church, their punishment will be far greater. So they tremble and are astonished because fear has seized them... So the nations in their perplexity are organized into a religio-political system which is Babylon the great. Rev. 17...Sr. White wrote to the General Conference that in two years they would have been in the Kingdom (it would have sprouted in the wilderness, Hosea 2:14),"—Tyre and Zidon, pp. 3,4.

1888 plus two years to accept Rev. 18:1 message 1890 + 70 years Tyre forgotten = 1960: when America elected her first Catholic president or the beginning of the end of the U.S. democracy and the beginning of religio-political "image of the beast" followed by the Supreme Court decision in 1961 that Sunday laws are constitutional. 1960 signalized the end of the lamb-like phase of the U.S.A. and the beginning of the dragon-like phase (Rev. 13:11).

"Because of their unbelief manifested in the rejection of the message sent to prepare them for the heavenly Canaan, the Lord had to alter His purpose and turn the Advent people back into the wilderness of sin till they learn the lesson of faith... It is very evident that the rejection of God's special message in 1888, which resulted in the altering of His purpose to take His people directly into the promised land marked the beginning of a spiritual retreat toward the world or Egypt... The influence that grew out of the resistance of light and truth at Minneapolis, tended to make of none effect the light which God had given to His people through the 'Testimonies.' General Conference Bulletin, Feb. 28, 1893." – Forty Years in the Wilderness, by Elder Taylor G. Bunch, pp. 16,18,19 (Elder Bunch, now deceased, was a high-ranking Adventist minister and author.)

"If the people...had gone to work...after 1888...world warned in TWO YEARS...Lord would have come." – General Conference Bulletin, 1892, by E.G. While.

Because the leadership of the Adventist church did not accept the message of Revelation 18:1, God did not allow the Sunday legislation to mature lest His people be completely overwhelmed because they did not accept the "covering" offered by the message of Revelation 18:1. So history records the withdrawal of both the on-rushing dragon-like phase of America which finds her making herself over into a church-state combined government, and the withdrawal of the message of Revelation 18:1.

Elder Daniell, one-time president of the General Conference, and friend of Sister White, states in his book, Christ Our Righteousness, pp. 23,47,49: "In 1888 there came to the Seventh-day Adventist church a very definite awakening, message... All these long years they have held a firm conviction, and cherished a fond hope, that someday this message would be given great prominence among us... The message has never been received, nor proclaimed, nor given free course as it should have been in order to convey to the church the measureless blessings that were wrapped within it... Is it not time that fresh light should come to the people of God?"

In 1888 the American Sabbath Union was organized in Washington, D.C. with a membership of about eight Protestant denominations. Its purpose was to use the influence of the churches to back the proposed national Sunday laws, and it was also responsible for the persecution of Seventh-day Adventists.

We have given you a brief outline of the setting in 1888. There was a message from God. There was the first national Sunday law introduced in Congress May 21, 1888.

Forces at work in America in 1888 hoped to set up a "theocracy" or church-state government. For example, The Women's Christian Temperance Union called directly for a Christian theocracy. They were zealously fanatical in their desire to bring this about, as published accounts reveal.

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As Seventh-day Adventists we know that this "theocracy" is defined in the Bible as the dragon-like phase of America, the "mark of the beast" or the "image beast". (Rev. 13:11). This began with the introduction in the American Congress of the first national Sunday law, May 21, 1888. A few months later in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the General Conference Session was held, and at this Session the message of Revelation 18:1 was presented by Elders Waggoner and Jones, which message was to prepare the Adventists for the time of Jacob's trouble that would develop from persecution over the Sabbath. But since the leading brethren did not accept this message, God in His great mercy did not allow the Sunday law to become legal.

Today the same factors are on the scene! America declared Sunday laws constitutional. In 1975 President Ford signed the Energy Bill into law which contains a provision for a civil Sunday law in time of an energy crisis, and also for rationing. The Lord has in His great love sent the message of Revelation 18:1 again to prepare the church for the crisis that will develop this time, as we may even now see taking place!

The Lord's Day Alliance, formerly the American Sabbath Union, has reformed and revitalized itself for a harsh push in bringing about Sunday sacredness. Dr. Lindsell, whom we quote in the "Energy Crisis" tract you have received, has more recently written in the May 7, 1975 issue of Christianity Today that "it is highly unlikely that it (proper use of Sunday) will be accomplished by voluntary action by the citizenry generally. Therefore, the only way to accomplish the objective is by FORCE OF LEGISLATIVE FIAT (law) through the duly elected officials of the people." Dr. Mayberry, Executive Director of the Alliance, has stated that "Governor Carter is a personal friend of mine and I am sure he is broad enough to want a day of rest for all people."

The message of Revelation 18:1 is going around the world to Seventh-day Adventists, but it is at the present time mainly concentrated here in America where Sunday persecution will begin. The message has revealed where God wants His people to go for a refuge in the "great and dreadful day of the Lord." Ezek. 36:24-38; Isa. 2:1-5; 11:10-16; Jer. 30:3,24. We are sending you some literature on these and other prophecies for your careful and prayerful study. As the "mark of the beast" goes world-wide, the message of Revelation 18:2 will also go world-wide in great power and will finally give the cry of Revelation 18:4.

We are praising the Lord that this wonderful message of which the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy prophesied has come, and is preparing a place of safety for God's people. Seventh-day Adventists around the world are rejoicing in the message of The Branch. Both laity and ministry alike are turning to The Branch for information regarding these things of which we have written, and many feel that the leading ministers in the church are keeping vital information from them concerning the Sunday sacredness movement as well as those things taking place within our government.

"There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who JOINS THE THIRD ANGEL in the message to be given to the world." – Testimonies to Ministers, p. 300.

Hence the MOVEMENT (Rev. 18:1) symbolized by the angel coming down from heaven; lightening the earth with his glory.... In connection with his MESSAGE... these announcements, UNITING WITH THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth." – Great Controversy, p. 604.

You are greatly privileged to come to the knowledge of the Mighty Angel of Revelation 18:1. It is the "extra oil" (Matt. 25:1-13); it is the "goodly pearl" (Matt. 13:45,46); it is the "leaven" in the three measures of meal (Matt. 13:33); it is the "hidden treasure" (Matt. 13:44); it is the "Bread of Heaven" (John 6:28-51)!

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How thankful we are to live in this wonderful age, even the age of the restoration of all things! The Lord has raised up the promised Elijah (Matt. 17:11; Mal. 4:5) to restore "ALL things," even the kingdom of God on earth before Jesus comes the second time, and life without death (1 Cor. 15:51; John 6:50,58)!

Under the message of the Third Angel we understand Christ's mediation of His blood in the MOST HOLY PLACE of the heavenly Sanctuary on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:26-32) since 1844 for the righteous dead. Since 1955 Christ is revealed to us by Inspiration as mediating His blood once a year on the Day of Atonement as well as daily (Daniel 8:11-14) at the time of the morning sacrifice and at the time of the evening sacrifice (nine o'clock and three o'clock) in the Holy Place of the Sanctuary. Under separate cover we are sending you a copy of the "Daily" which will explain this beautiful truth more fully. We would be pleased to know what you think about it! "The significance of the Jewish economy is not yet (in Sister

White's day) fully comprehended. Truths vast and profound are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols." – Christ's Object Lessons, p. 13.

The Lord has given the "Command" that our brethren should move from Takoma Park, Washington, D.C. to Jerusalem, Israel, for the "mark of the beast" will not allow them to keep the Sabbath in America or buy and sell, which is a necessity in giving the gospel. Sister White was given the prophecy that "If after a time the Lord says move away from Washington, WE MUST MOVE... however inconvenient and inconsistent such a command may seem." – Review & Herald, August 11, 1903.

That prophecy is being fulfilled as The Branch message continues to warn the brethren to move to the land of the covenant promise made to Abraham and his seed, which covenant was ratified or made possible by the death of our Savior.

God's promise: "Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance." Psalms 105:11. Of this promise, Sister White says, "Not by any temporary failure of Israel... will the plan of the ages for the redemption of mankind be frustrated.... the purposes Jehovah were nevertheless to move steadily forward to their complete fulfillment.... TO THEM (S.D.A.) will be fulfilled ALL the covenant promises made by Jehovah to His ancient people." – Prophets & Kings, pp. 705,706,714.

Yes, The Branch message has come in fulfillment of prophecy, and is the Mighty Angel of Revelation 18:1, the "special message." It is now proclaiming to God's dear Sabbathkeeping people to GO YE OUT (Matt. 25:6) of the land of the two-horned beast (and all other nations that unite with her) that is making an image (Sunday laws for a civil-religio state) and return to the land of Abraham, the land of the covenant promise (Gal. 3:20).

"Zechariah's vision of Joshua and the Angel (The Branch) applies with PECULIAR FORCE to the experience of God's people in the closing up of the great day of atonement (judgment for the living in Laodicea." – Testimony for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 472. "The work of Christ as man's intercessor is presented in that beautiful prophecy of Zechariah concerning Him 'whose name is the Branch.'" – The Great Controversy, p. 415.

We would be pleased to hear from you! Your questions or comments are invited!

May The Branch our Lord (Isa. 11:1; 4:2; Zech. 3:8; 6:12; Jer. 23:5,6; 33:15,16) help you to anoint your eyes with the precious "eyesalve" of truth now being dispensed from New Mt. Carmel Center, Waco, Texas!

Sincerely yours to see the Glory of the Mighty Angel,

<signed Ben L. Roden>

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj

December 3, 1976

Dear Sister_____:

"...the man with the dirt brush has come in and swept up the jewels of truth in Rev. 14 that so many have scattered on the floor and trampled upon. (See Miller's dream, Early Writings, p. 81). Since the porter (John 10:3) has come in and started the housecleaning, we see that the dirt has disappeared out the window and now the jewels of truth are shining ever so brightly and the casket containing them has become much larger than the former one." – The Law of Moses In The Light of Revelation 14, p. 4.

Praise the Lord that it may no longer be said that "The significance of the Jewish economy is not yet fully comprehended." – Christ's Object Lessons, p. 133! The "man with the dirt brush" or the "porter" has started "housecleaning;" "Truths vast and profound are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols." – Ibid. The man with the dirt brush has uncovered the jewels vast and profound!

Now we comprehend that the great Creator "...has called us 'to the obtaining of the glory' – character – 'of our Lord Jesus Christ;'" – Desire of Ages, p 341. In the revelation of the Levitical Law we see the character of Christ, and as we make the truths of the Law or principles of His character a part of our lives God will at last make us "saviors... on mount Zion" (Obadiah 21)!

Could we desire any greater future?

The Branch appreciates your investment in His Kingdom!

Editor Harold Lindsell of Christianity Today magazine who called for government action to be taken to solve the "energy crisis" by resting on Sunday, has now called for "Saturday be set aside as the day of rest for all people" in response to the mail he received protesting the Sunday rest suggestion. In the November 5 issue of the magazine, from which we have quoted, Mr. Lindsell states that "Seventh-day Adventists were upset, especially." "W. Melvin Adams, director of public affairs and religious liberty for the church's world conference (S.D.A.), said "We strongly disapprove of any attempt to legislate observance of any day of the week...Worship, in order to be pleasing to God... must... (be) voluntary... using the power of civil authority is not the answer..." – Loma Linda University Observer, Nov. 18, 1976, pp. 1,5.

We are reprinting the first seven Branch letters ever published, which were written especially to the Executive Council of the Davidian Seventh-day Adventists.

May the "jewels of truth" be very precious to you that you may become a "jewel" in reality, even a "savior...on mount Zion"!

Sincerely yours to cherish the beautiful "jewels,"

<signed Ben L. Roden>

Ben L. Roden

BLR:pdj
enc.

December 21, 1976

Dear Sister _____:

" 'Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it,'

"The people that have come to this antitypical time of trouble are returning to the homeland, are comforted. Apparently it is bad enough to frighten all, but God's encouraging counsel is 'Fear not.'....

"Though terrible the trouble may seem, yet the outcome of it is to be the same as in the type. Right now we may not appreciate this study as we ought to, but the time is soon coming in which we will dig as fast and as hard for it as we would to get out from under an avalanche. Those who have but little faith -in the Word of God though, the study will not do them much good. Now is the time to start cultivating the faith we need to have then....

"That which happened to Jacob is sure to happen to us, and how comforting to know all this ahead of time."
– Timely Greetings, Vol. 1, Rev. No. 47, pp. 14,15.

Praise the Lord that He says "The cause of the fear here forecast is fundamentally needless and unnecessary..." – Ibid. p. 14.

Please join with us in special prayer that the Lord will give us wisdom and strength to deal with those who would attempt to make us pay many thousands of dollars in tax money on the New Mt. Carmel Center property. Our prayer is that the Lord will use our case in court to bring glory to His truth and His name The Branch..

Very encouraging reports come from England of the literature evangelism the brethren there are engaged in. One letter reports of how the church services were turned over to the Branch workers as the minister was not there, and how the members "were so courteous to us that about six of them invited us to their homes to have a hot drink and lunch before we returned home. Many said... "those tracts must mean a great deal to you, for you to travel all the way up here on a cold and frosty day like this to let us have them. May the Lord bless you!"

"...be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." – 1 Cor. 15:58.

Sincerely yours to lay up faith,

<signed Ben L. Roden>

Ben L. Roden