

1981 Branch Field Letters  
Living Waters Branch

January 22, 1981

Dear Kingdom-bound Saint:

Our Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother are so good to us! We are rejoicing for the continued progress as the truth widens ever outward into newer fields of mankind!

By now you have probably received the first edition of our new publication, "Shekinah." We appreciate any suggestions you may have to improve our publication! Should you find articles from magazines or newspapers which you would like to see in the "Shekinah," please send us two copies, if possible, unfolded (you have to use a large manila envelope to mail it in), and preferably new for photographing purposes.

We have obtained permission from Redbook, Time, etc. to reprint articles, so do not hesitate to send any article as we will write the publisher for permission.

Yes, it has been several months since our last Field Letter, but, O! how busy we have been working to publish the first edition of the "Shekinah" and two new booklets, "In Her Image," and "In The Beginning" Part 2. Please forgive us for the delay in keeping you informed! Thank you! We have been working day and night to keep up with the increased tempo of the work. And, although tiring, it is rewarding to see how our Mother is spreading the truth of Her identity, personality, and mission!

Let us go back to November 16 and bring you step by step up to today that you may rejoice with us with the "growing of the mustard seed"!

On November 16, Sunday, the day of the Ceremonial Pentecost, nine brothers and 15 sisters were re-baptized (Acts 19:1-6) with water as a prerequisite to experiencing the purifying baptism of fire of trials and tribulations to prepare us for the baptism of the Holy Spirit to give the truth with great power, attended by miracles.

During the Thanksgiving holiday, the story about Sister Roden and her work which appeared in the Dallas Times-Herald, was chosen by the Los Angeles Times News Service to distribute to her "customer" newspapers all over the United States. As a result, we have received correspondence from many states north, south, east and west; almost all the letters were favorable. One lady in New Mexico drove here to share with Sister Roden her experience in doing research in Europe for her master's degree thesis about the feminine part of the Trinity; the lady was very pleased that this truth was receiving publicity which she had tried to get but could not. Others wrote that they had understood the feminine Spirit for many years. The letters are still coming! One Adventist pastor in Long Island wrote the Adventist pastor in Waco sympathizing with him as to "his dilemma" (with us) and sent him a photostat of the picture that appeared in the Long Island "Newsday" Someone in the Waco church sent us copies of both the letter and the article!

A radio announcer called from San Jose, California, and interviewed Sister Roden. As a result of the story of the Canadian second baptism (you saw the picture and story in the "Shekinah,") the newspaper that published the story received a very large amount of "letters to the editor," some of which we are publishing in the next "Shekinah." Sister Roden is leaving for Canada

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this week to be interviewed by the news media. Providentially, we obtained the names and addresses of the Waco Seventh-day Adventist church membership the day before our first mailing of the "Shekinah." Of course, we mailed them all a copy! The response was explosive! For the time being, we have been asked to not attend the church on Sabbath until the pastor has opportunity to educate the members in right attitudes. Sister Roden told the pastor, who came to headquarters to ask us to not attend church, that we

would stay away for awhile but that we would be back. Anyway, Sister Roden was planning a trip to Canada, so it would be fine for the time being! Some members in the church did not like the way others behaved. One sister called and told us that she did not approve of how they acted. The upset members had threatened to use every means possible to prevent our coming to church.

Last Friday evening, Sister Roden was interviewed on the official college station, KSUC, of the Adventist Southwestern Union College at Keene. The talk show lasted one hour, and the telephone lines were jammed with incoming calls to ask Sister Roden questions about the gender of the Holy Spirit, going to Jerusalem, etc. The interview was conducted in a very nice, courteous manner, and the entire staff of young people at the station were given literature and were spoken to briefly about the message. We made a tape of the show, and it will be published in our February issue of the "Shekinah." At the college church the following Sabbath morning, we personally handed the "Shekinah" and "In Her Image" to the college students and residents of Keene. We were received very nicely, and many spoke of having heard the talk show the night before on the college station.

Praise Father and Mother! This has established a precedent, and we trust that this experience will be repeated at other radio stations on Adventist college campuses. Please pray for this ministry!

A letter to Sister Roden from the Archbishop of the Holy Land Apostolic Church of the East states that the Aramaic New Testament scriptures speak of the Spirit as feminine; for example, in Mark 1:10; John 1,32,33; 6:63; 7:39; Acts 8:29, 39; 16:7; Romans 8:9, 10, 11; 8:16, 26; 1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Tim. 4:1; 1 Pet. 1:11;4:14; I John 5:6.

Few western scholars believe that the New Testament was originally written in Aramaic, but the eastern scholars believe that it was and they have original manuscripts in Aramaic called the Peshitta, which means "original." Some noted western scholars also believe that the original New Testament was in Aramaic, which was the language that Jesus and the apostles, and the Jews spoke in their day. It comes out stronger than ever that Rome (the western church) not only tampered with the Ten Commandments, but with the gender of the Trinity as well!

We are enclosing a tract which advertises "Alberto," We have obtained this tract, and we highly recommend it to you. Part 2, "Double Cross," has just reached us, and it is essential that you obtain both of them. They are both .59 cents each. We understand that the publisher of these tracts is being boycotted by Catholics, and some of the religious book stores are being intimidated to not sell them. If you cannot obtain them locally, write to the address on the enclosed tract. They are very revealing! We can see more and more clearly how close we are to the time of persecution!

Our new booklet, "In Her Image," is beautiful! We do not have enough published to mail out, as some of the brethren took the few we had to Washington, D.C. to give out along with other tracts at the Presidential Inauguration. Another booklet, "in the Beginning" Part 2, is ready to publish. Perhaps the two will be mailed together to save time and means.

Please pray for the Branch workers here and around the world field. Brethren Ramsay and Fitzpatrick spent several weeks sharing the message in Nigeria, and have returned home. There is a great work to be done in Nigeria and the interest is high!

We are writing this letter on our new "Shekinah" letterhead to share with you what we are doing. However, please continue to write to Living Waters, ~~Box 4666, Waco, Texas 76705~~. Thank you!

May our Heavenly Ones be with you and help each of us to live in the Spirit for Them, not for self!

Sincerely yours to so see the beauty of Present Truth that we may overlook the defects in others,

Correspondence Secretary  
pdj:enc

February 18, 1981

Dear Faithful Friend:

As envisioned by John the Revelator, the "earth" is to be lightened with His and Her Glory! We praise Them that this has already begun! The United States and Canada are beginning to be "lightened" with the knowledge of God's Glory, His Consort, our Heavenly Mother!

Our new publication, the SHEKINAH, is making an impact as it has begun its "trickle" of "water" over the earth, and we praise our Heavenly Parents for Their promise that soon the "trickle" will become a mighty river as prophesied Ezekiel 47.

Launching our newsmagazine has been the result of night and day labor for the staff here at Headquarters, and with Sister Roden in Canada for two weeks of radio, television, and newspaper appearances, the tithe receipts have been waiting patiently for their trip in the mail to you! So, before Sister Roden leaves again for Canada to fulfill television and radio interview appointments after February 19, we are sending this quick note with the receipts, and a thank you for your patience, support, and prayers!

The second issue of SHEKINAH is being photographed now for printing. You will enjoy this issue, too!

At Headquarters we have launched a new type of seed-sowing plan. We are calling the radio and television talk shows to share the news about our Heavenly Mother! Last evening we called a Dallas radio station and talked for a short time, which brought forth some response. This method reaches thousands immediately! Join this program in your area and let us know the results! As you know, from 11 pm---8 am is the cheapest time to phone if the evening talk show runs after 11 pm.

May our Heavenly Parents help us to ever seek ways and means to sow the precious seeds of Truth They have given us.

Sincerely yours to share that we might receive more,

Correspondence Secretary

pdj:enc.

March 27, 1981

Dear Brother

I would put you in remembrance of the ordinances our Lord instituted before Calvary that we may be continually renewed in our service to God.

"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." Zech. 13:1.

"A new and living way is prepared for all. No longer need sinful, sorrowing humanity await the coming of the high priest. Henceforth the Savior was to officiate as priest and advocate in the heaven of heavens. It was as if a LIVING voice had spoken to the worshipers: There is now an end to all sacrifices and offerings for sin. The Son of God is come according to His word, 'Lo, I come (in the volume of the Book it is written of Me,) to do Thy will, O God.' 'By His own blood' He entereth 'in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.' Heb. 10:7; 9:12."-Desire of Ages, p. 757.

"But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.... For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled. A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they have pierced." John 19:34-37.

"This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one." 1 John 5:6-8.

Therefore, let us commemorate in detail the provision made for our eternal salvation by the Trinity through the ministration of the water and the blood. These are symbols of TWO cleansings-one by blood (death), and one by the water of eternal LIFE, without death: one, symbolized by the death of Christ, another symbolized by the life of the everliving One, the Holy Spirit.

Without both our two Intercessors, we have no life.

The two streams of blood and water gushing forth from Jesus' side clearly demonstrated the TWO intercessions for the redeemed by Christ and the Holy Spirit, Whose symbol is water (Rom. 8:26,34).

Consequently, in the knowledge of this full and complete symbol of perfection, Branch ministers are to mix the wine and water in the sacramental service with the bread in the communion service that all may be aware that "this is He that came by water and blood ...And it is the Spirit the beareth witness, because the Spirit (She) is the Truth" (1 John 5:6).

May you and the saints in England have a happy and rewarding fellowship together this Passover season and may the Lord Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Mother bless you abundantly more than you can ask or think.

Sincerely yours to overcome by the Word of HER testimony, and through the blood of Jesus Christ The Branch, The Lords Our Righteousness, Amen,

Lois I. Roden

LIR:pdj

April 12, 1981

Dear Kingdom-bound Saint:

Sister Roden left for Jerusalem this morning! Please pray for her safe journey that her mission in the interest of forwarding Present Truth might be fully accomplished.

It is Sister Roden's request that we share with you the things that she has been stressing and studying recently. The chapter entitled "Gethsemane" in *Desire of Ages* has some priceless lessons for Branch believers who have been developing as prospective wave-sheaf during the past three and one-half years since the Holy Spirit message came in the fall of 1977.

At the beginning of Jesus, the Wave-Sheaf's, ministry during the 40 days wilderness experience, He was tempted of the enemy to give up His mission; at the end of His earthly ministry He was likewise tempted to give up His mission. At Passover time Jesus had His Gethsemane experience and He felt the heavy weight of sin, the Father's wrath against sin, and His own need of an intercessor. He was tempted to give up His mission and return to Heaven, but with heavenly help He overcame temptation and strengthened by the vision before Him of the many redeemed as a result of His mission, He went forward calm and serene to His death.

Today this type is rich in lessons for us. Sister Roden stresses that we, as prospective wave-sheaf, saviors, are to have a Gethsemane experience when we are to see the sinfulness of sin, feel the Father's wrath and feel alone without an intercessor. Although tempted, we are to come through this experience strong and ready to go forward in the proclamation of the truth! Read the chapter carefully, prayerfully, and take special note that we are to be given strength to drink the cup of humiliation and agony and as a result see a multitude saved. Praise our Heavenly Father and our Heavenly Mother!

Since there is no harvest without a wave-sheaf, the enemy tried to prevent Jesus from drinking the cup; so he will try to prevent us from enduring for the truth's sake and the salvation of many nations!

In Volume 2 of *The Shepherd's Rod* is a section entitled "Introducing Christ our Savior" which makes clear the events which constituted the "heart of the earth" where Jesus was. Greatly misunderstood and confused, this truth is important for us to understand as we live out the antitype. Study this chapter.

Sister Roden asks your continued patience regarding your tithe receipts. She has been very busy preparing for the trip to Israel and in publishing the enclosed tract, as well as the new *Shekinah* which you have just received.

May our Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother help each of us to draw close to Them in prayer that we might come through our Gethsemane victorious, ready for the power!

Please pray for us here at the Lord's headquarters!

Sincerely yours to prepare for Passover,

Correspondence Secretary

pdj:enC.

August 28, 1981

Dear Brother \_\_\_\_\_:

The truth of Who the Heavenly Family is continues to carry us through the press of everyday duties and cares, and it is our prayer that this is your experience, too!

To those who have been anxiously awaiting a personal letter with tithe receipts, and to those who fear to be without news of everyday activities at New Mt. Carmel Center, let me assure you that we will not leave you uninformed should we be translated or take an advanced step toward God's Kingdom. Our main aim is to keep you furnished with "meat in due season" from the Storehouse of Present Truth whether or not we have enough help to send your tithe receipts on time or write personal news letters. Campmeetings, meeting the press, covering conventions (very many) as they come up, and keeping afloat at New Mt. Carmel is a superhuman task for the few workers at headquarters. All are admonished to "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house" (Mat. 3:10). Please make all checks to Living Waters, ~~Box 4666, Waco, Texas 76705.~~

Thank you for your long-suffering patience in awaiting word from New Mt. Carmel. I have been in and out of the Office since my trip to Jerusalem in the spring, and it looks like I shall continue to be in and out. For this I praise our Lords for the ever increasing opportunity to witness for Them.

Yesterday I had lunch in the Ft. Worth home of a prominent American authoress of religious books. This dear lady had previously written me that she was thrilled that the mystery of the Holy Spirit had been solved. At the luncheon we shared experiences, and she introduced me to a book which is very rich in documented material regarding the feminine imagery in Jewish, Christian and Gnostic literature. This is the beginning of a wonderful relationship for the glory of our Gods.

During the second week in September I shall be interviewed on NBC television in Southern California, (which covers an area of many millions of people,) as well as on a radio show in Bakersfield. In February of next year, another radio interview is scheduled in Detroit, Michigan, followed by a seminar. Please pray for their success!

A new Shekinah is almost ready for publication. Material continues to flow in as new sources of information come to our attention. We are mailing the Shekinah to the libraries of every parochial college and university in America, and we have received some good response from librarians and professors.

Until we are able to publish a feast calendar, the forth-coming feast days are: New Moon August 31; New Moon Blowing of the Trumpets, September 29; Day of Atonement, October 8; Feast of Tabernacles, October 13-20; Solemn Service (Fast-Neh. 9:1), October 22; New Moons: October 29, November 27, and December 27. May the Trinity be with you as you prepare for the solemn feast days just ahead.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support of the workers here!

Sincerely yours in The Branch name of Father, Mother, and Son,

(Mrs.) Lois I. Roden

LIR:pdj:enc.

September 25, 1981

Dear Sister \_\_\_\_\_:

Thank you for your patience in awaiting your tithe receipt!

Sister Roden is out of the Office at the present time. She went to Southern California the first of the month for radio, television, and newspaper interviews. You will be reading about these interviews in future issues of the Shekinah.

We are preparing for the coming Holy Days, and look to our Heavenly Parents for a real blessing that we may be prepared to fulfill the mission for which They have called us.

Please continue to pray for the work and workers here and around the world!

May our Heavenly Father and Mother bless and keep you for Their Kingdom!

Sincerely yours in The Branch Family,

Correspondence Secretary

pdj:enc.

October 6, 1981

Dear Sister \_\_\_\_\_:

Sister Roden left for Jerusalem yesterday morning to make an official announcement to the orthodox Jewish community regarding the return of the Shekinah to the Holy Land!

During the first part of September Sister Roden was in Southern California for several media interviews, of which you will be reading about in future issues of the SHEKINAH. NBC interviewed her for their Odessey program on September 20, along with the author of "The Ordination of Women" who believes that they should be. Bakersfield and Loma Linda University radio interviewed Sister Roden, and the San Bernardino Sun ran a story with two pictures.

We are sorry Sister Roden did not have time to make out and send your tithe receipt before she left for Israel. She asked that we send this little note that you would know she received the tithe.

May your Feast of Tabernacles (October 13-20) and Solemn Service (October 22, read Neh. 9:1) be blessed ones!

Please pray for Sister Roden, the workers at Headquarters, and all the believers around the world field, even as we continue to pray for you!

Sincerely yours in The Branch Family,

Correspondence Secretary

pdj

November 10, 1981

Dear Wavesheaf Candidate:

Shalom!

We are pleased to communicate with you regarding another step in the restoration of the "faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

Sister Roden spent the Feast of Tabernacles season in Israel this year, and it was at this time that another forward step was taken in the progress of Truth toward the Kingdom and in our personal sanctification in preparation for the outpouring of our Heavenly Mother Spirit's power upon the wavesheaf.

For several years Branch believers, insofar as possible, have been observing the "daily" at nine and three o'clock, and in the last year have partaken of the emblems and observed feet washing on the Sabbath and feast days.

At the recent Feast of Tabernacles season Heaven instructed us to partake of the emblems twice daily at nine and three o'clock as a sign that the Priesthood of Melchisedec has been instituted!

Genesis 14:18 says that "Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine." Jesus said "This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever" (John 6:58). "For the law of the Spirit (Melchisedec) of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law (Levitical) of sin and death." Rom. 8:2. "By a new and living way (the law of our Heavenly Mother)" (Heb. 10:20), we are coming to the time of perfection. Read Hebrews 8:10-13, and praise Father, Mother, and Son! Glory, Hallelujah!

Those who are working, attending school, traveling, or at home, may take the emblems at a convenient time between nine and ten, and three and four o'clock. During this transition period from sin into perfection, the feet washing will be done only on Sabbaths and feast days. Since the feet washing service is designed to give opportunity for reconciliation between alienated brethren, it will continue to serve its purpose in this transition period as brethren meet together on feast days.

There will be Branch representatives from around the world going to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles next year! Would you like to go?

May our beloved and merciful Heavenly Father and Mother help us to enter into the covenant of perfection that we may soon be inaugurated as priests of Melchisedec!

Sincerely yours to be a priest for Mother,

Perry D. Jones  
Pdj

P.S. Sister Roden is presently out of the Office, but she requested that you be notified about the daily institution of the emblems.

j

December 8, 1981

Dear Sister \_\_\_\_\_:

Thank you for your recent letter!

Two Sabbaths ago Sister Roden, Kay, and I attended a rally held on the steps of the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist church in Takoma Park-the largest SDA church in the world, with 3,500 members.

The event was staged by a graduate of Andrews Seminary whom we met in 1979 when both she and our group were protesting the pope in Washington, D.C. (The Andrews' graduate was helping the Catholics protest for women's ordination to the priesthood.) At Sligo the sister was protesting on racist and feminist grounds the church's failure to hire her. We went as observers to distribute Shekinahs and "Eagles" and wear our "Ordain Women" signs.

As a result Sister Roden, Kay, and I were on the evening news in Washington, D.C. During our visit there, we became acquainted with both Catholic and Mormon groups who believe in the ordination of women. Excellent contacts were made, and we leave the results with our Heavenly Family.

We learned to what great extent a large number of American Catholics believe in the ordination of women to the priesthood. It would appear that a new church is emerging as it was in Luther's day.

Sister Roden has been asked by a member of the International Council of Psychology to present the member's paper on women in religion at the forthcoming international congress of the council to be held in Jerusalem. The paper sets forth various women in America who are championing for women's equality in the ministry, and one of the women set forth is Sister Roden. This is a very interesting and unusual development, needless to say!

Please pray for Sister Roden that she may continue to have wisdom and strength to carry out the growing demands of the work.

May our Heavenly Mother encircle you and yours!

Sincerely yours to be living waters for others,

Perry D. Jones  
Correspondence Secretary

pdj:enc.

December 17, 1981

Dear Candidate for the Priesthood of Melchizedek:

On Sunday, December 6, 1981, the Biblical time of a Ceremonial Pentecost, the Priesthood of Melchizedek was instituted, thereby officially beginning the period of the ministry of the wavesheaf-priesthood with a "new and living way" (Heb. 10:20), heretofore "a mystery; [how] We shall not all sleep (1 Cor. 15:51) but "live for ever" "and not die" (John 6:50,58).

"This chart [on page 12 of The Answerer Book No. 3] enables us to see that just as one solar season matches another (the vernal equinox matches the autumnal equinox, and the summer solstice, the winter solstice), IN LIKE FASHION THE SACRED FEASTS OF ONE SEASON MATCH THE SACRED FEASTS OF ANOTHER SEASON:

- [1] the tenth day of the FIRST month, the separation of the unblemished from the flock (Ex. 12:3), corresponding to the tenth day of the SEVENTH month, the work of Atonement, the separation of the righteous from the unrighteous, signifying in BOTH EVENTS a DAY of JUDGMENT, a day of separating the holy from the unholy;
- [2] the sixteenth of the FIRST month, the day Christ was CRUCIFIED, corresponding to the sixteenth of the SEVENTH month, the day He was BAPTIZED, showing that His WATERY grave foreshadowed His GRAVE IN THE TOMB;
- [3] the eighteenth day of the FIRST month, the RESURRECTION, corresponding to the eighteenth day of the SEVENTH month, the FIRST DAY of the WILDERNESS TEMPTATION;
- [4] His FORTY days of VICTORIOUS MINISTRY to His disciples, corresponding to His FORTY days of VICTORIOUS CONFLICT with Satan; and
- [5] His disciples' preaching the gospel AFTER Pentecost, corresponding to His preaching the gospel AFTER THE WILDERNESS TEMPTATION."

—The Answerer Book No. 3, p. 13.

Therefore, we may conclude scripturally that since His earthly ministry had ended "in the midst of the week" (Dan. 9:27), Jesus, not being on the earth at the time of the Apostolic Pentecost, that He BEGAN His ministry at the AUTUMNAL Pentecost, fifty days from the BEGINNING of His WILDERNESS TEMPTATION.

"Jesus did not begin His ministry by some great work before the Sanhedrin at Jerusalem. At a household gathering in a little Galilean village His power [personal Pentecost] was put forth to add to the joy of a wedding feast [turning the water into wine]..."-Desire of Ages, p. 144. "This BEGINNING of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory [His Mother, the Holy Spirit, through Whom He did the miracle]; and his disciples believed on Him." John 2:11.

"By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity..."--Christ's Object Lessons, p. 307. "But after Christ's ascension His enthronement in His mediatorial kingdom was signaled by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost the Spirit was given [showing a marriage taking place as Divinity, the Spirit, united with humanity]."-Ibid., p. 120.

The miracle at the wedding feast at Cana, which evidenced Jesus' PERSONAL Pentecost, pointed forward to the Pentecost of the 120. Jesus' experience in the FALL of the year A.D. 27 was a counterpart of the 120's experience in the SPRING of the year A.D. 31, thus illustrating in this event, as with all the others, that "Not one act in the life of Christ was unimportant. EVERY EVENT of His life was for the benefit of His followers IN FUTURE TIME."-E.G. White Comments 7-A Bible Commentary, Vol. 5, p. 1118.

On March 1, 1961, Brother Ben L Roden published "The Great Supper" which states, "And there were set SIX waterpots of STONE, after the manner of the PURIFYING of the Jews, containing two or THREE firkins apiece.' John 2:6. SIX is the number of purification of the Jews SIX is the number signifying harvest. Israel, a SIX letter word, is the name of God's people who returned from Egypt. BRANCH, the name of the Messiah, is a SIX letter word and is to be the NEW NAME of the remnant, purified Israel who return from Assyria and all countries to the land of their fathers, Isa. 11:11-16.

"Every stone, 1 Pet. 2:5, container (pitcher, waterpot) or believer must be filled with this Branch water, message, so that when it is poured out and served to the wedding guests, it will be the best wine, Truth (lifegiving), of them all: for the Bridegroom has saved the best wine until the last (revelation of Living Waters or truth of the Holy Spirit Mother)."-The Great Supper, p. 8.

At the time of the Feast of Tabernacles, the priests performed a beautiful ceremony on the steps of the Temple. "Here were two silver basins, with a priest standing at each one. The flagon of water was poured into one, and a flagon of wine into the other, and the contents of both flowed into a pipe which communicated with the Kedron and was conducted to the Dead Sea. This display of consecrated water [became as the juice of the grape as it was mixed with the wine and] represented the fountain that at the command of God had gushed from the rock to quench the thirst of the children of Israel."-Desire of Ages, p. 449.

Before our astonished eyes we behold the beautiful tapestry of types and symbols that our Heavenly Mother has been weaving together for centuries with the glowing threads of truth as water and wine blending at the time of the Cana wedding, the Feast of Tabernacles when Jesus announced Himself the water-giving Rock, and, finally, at His death when, from the soldier's spear-thrust, "there flowed two copious and distinct streams, one of blood, the other of water" (Desire of Ages; p.772, John 19:34).

"The gift of Christ to the marriage feast was a symbol. The water represented baptism unto His death; the wine, the shedding of His blood for the sins of the world ....At the first feast [marriage at Cana] He attended with His disciples, Jesus gave them THE CUP that symbolized His work for their salvation. At the LAST SUPPER He gave it again, in the institution of that sacred rite by which His death was to be shown forth 'til He come'."--Desire of Ages, pp. 148, 149.

What a beautiful tapestry of events from the time of the smitten rock at Horeb to the special drama as the types and symbols were applied during the three and one-half years of Jesus' ministry, themselves a type of OUR EXPERIENCE TODAY!

In memory of the wedding feast where Jesus performed His first miracle to begin His ministry, when He and His Mother (the Holy Spirit) united Their efforts to provide salvation for Their children at that time and as a blue-print, She is now guiding us through our Messiahship, tracing the footsteps of Jesus, as She sets aside the fiftieth day as the Autumnal Pentecost, the beginning of OUR personal victorious ministry.

A beautiful and touching service was held at New Mt. Carmel Center as Sister Roden, following the example of Mary, washed the feet of the brothers and sisters, old and young, crowned each individual rite with a "holy kiss" (Early Writings, p. 15) and sealed the ordinance with the emblems of Jesus and our Heavenly Mother Whose united ministry is symbolized by the bread-oil, and grape juice-water unions.

For several years Branch believers have been filled with the "water" of Truth. The time has now come for us to become "lively stones" (1 Pet. 2:5) or Saviours--Messiahs gushing forth water (Truth). Jesus was the Stone or Rock from Whence the waters temporal and spiritual, flowed for Israel in the desert wilderness at Horeb; likewise, our stone "pitchers" are to pour forth the wine of Truth for the wedding guests at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Only as the Truth (water) is shared (poured) does it turn into wine.

"He that believeth on me, as the scripture said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." John 7:38.

The time has come for our personal ministry. Following our Lord's example, "Through the social relations, Christianity comes in contact with the world. Everyone who has received the divine illumination is to brighten the pathway of those who know not the Light of life."-Desire of Ages, p. 152.

May our beloved Heavenly Father and Mother attend YOUR personal ministry!

Lois I. Roden

LIR:pdj:enc.

December 17, 1981

#### NEWS NOTES

In October 1981 United Press International carried a story of Carol Rayburn, a Seventh-day Adventist graduate of Andrews Theological Seminary who is suing the Adventists in Federal court on grounds of sex discrimination because they would not hire her for a pastoral post in their Sligo, Washington, D.C. church.

In November, Rayburn announced a protest rally to be held on the steps of the Sligo church. Lois Roden, Kay Matteson, and Perry Jones of SHEKINAH attended the rally as observers and distributed copies of SHEKINAH to members of the Sligo church, media representatives, and rally protesters.

Various radio, television, and newspaper media representatives from both secular and Adventist publications covered the rally and interviewed SHEKINAH representatives, Sligo church officials, Rayburn, and Sonia Johnson, the excommunicated Mormon ERAist who was on hand with others Mormons and Catholics in sympathy with Rayburn.

A feature story of the rally appeared on the Washington, D.C. evening news, with an opening shot of SHEKINAH editor Roden wearing an "Ordain Women" sign (which she had worn at the World Quadrennial Session of the Adventists in the spring of 1980 (in Dallas), followed by brief shots of Matteson and Jones and their "Ordain Women" signs. The story closed with scenes of Rayburn and other sign-carrying protesters.

The Sunday morning edition of the Washington Post carried a story of the rally, with quotes from Rayburn and Sonia Johnson, the well-known excommunicated Mormon who also attended the rally with other Mormons and Catholics championing the cause of women for the ministry.

SHEKINAH representatives met with officers of the Catholic Don Quixote Center "who seek to share life with people who struggle for justice" and "equality between men and women" (their quote). The Center provides staff support for "Priests for Equality" whose charter "called for the full equality of women and men in civil society and in the Church, including ordination to the priesthood" [their quote]. It was learned that within the Catholic Church are the "Emerging Catholics" [their quote] composed of men and women who seek this equality. A warm and sharing dialogue was held between SHEKINAH representatives and Don Quixote Center, focusing on the Mother-figure of the Trinity. A dialogue bridge emerged for future interaction and cooperation.

SHEKINAH staffers also met with editors of the independent Mormon publication, "Dialogue," for another warm and sharing introductory dialogue. Within the Mormon church an independent movement of women

and sympathizing men are reaching out for unity with our Heavenly Mother and seeking equal rights for women in the church. "Dialogue" editors expressed the desire of many Mormons that the role of the

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Heavenly Mother be activated in the minds of Mormons and no longer be kept silent and content with just a shadowy mother doctrine on paper.

SHEKINAH editors visited Sonia Johnson, who was excommunicated for her so-called involvement in what the Mormon hierarchy secretly believed to be a "Mother in Heaven" cult, but who distinctly stated publicly other reasons for disfellowshipping Sonia. Sonia states in her just-off-the-press book by Doubleday, "From Housewife to Heretic": "To reinstate Mother in Heaven on her throne with equal power would destroy (Mormon) patriarchy," and "The proclamation of Mother in Heaven is an historic act, the beginning of something momentous. It will permanently change the course not of just churches, but of religion .... The concept of female deity was revolutionizing world religion right under our very noses at that moment."

SHEKINAH Editor Roden will attend the International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women in Haifa, Israel, December 28-January 1, 1981, and has requested permission of the Congress to present her paper on "The Motherhood of God and Mental Health." The Congress is sponsored by various psychologist associations around the world.

In Detroit, Michigan, February, 1981, Editor Roden will be the featured guest on the widely known "Inspiration Time" syndicated radio and television program, and guest speaker at a seminar, both being sponsored by the well-known Detroit personality, "The Queen."

PUBLIC RELATIONS