



Yahadut Zmaneinu, Moreshet Ha'am

YOZMA

AN ISRAELI JEWISH INITIATIVE IN MODI'IN



To our dear friends and colleagues overseas, Shalom!

The summer of 2009 (5769) hopefully marks the tentative beginnings of a worldwide economic recovery.

Many times over this past year we found ourselves worrying what the future would hold for our overseas friends and colleagues – in addition to concerns about our own prospects.

While we had faith in our abilities – repeatedly tested over the course of our lives and careers – we knew that every crisis has its unique challenges and that the stakes are continually raised.

Many people all over the world lost their jobs over the past year. Many more lost their retirement savings or even their homes. Our hearts and prayers go out to those in crisis. We have faith in the tremendous psychological strength that lies in each and every one of you. We trust in the force created when we work together as an organic unit – taking responsibility for each other.

In the Torah portion *Beha'alotcha*, from the Book of Numbers, special note is made of the importance of creating the Tabernacle lamp as one piece. Let us recall that this portion follows *Parashat Naso* which tells of those who are called to lead the people. Aharon the High Priest understands the abstract importance of "standing together as one" and thus is drawn to the concrete expression of this – a seven-branched *menorah* made in one piece.

So too it is with us these days - as those of you abroad and those of us here in Israel work together tirelessly to further the spiritual, emotional and material lives of each and every one of the individual pieces that make up the Jewish human "puzzle" of our day. Together, we work to improve the lives of the weak and helpless. We work to strengthen our leaders so that they may lead us to new heights.

The security threats which have become our daily fare force us to dedicate ourselves all the more to tolerance, understanding and seeking paths of peace. At the same time, it is clear that our enemies – at home and abroad – can neither discourage us from our work nor physically or emotionally defeat us.

Would that we all stand as one – together in joy and in hardship.

Wishing you all a peaceful and pleasant summer,

Rabbi Kinneret Shiryon

Rabbi Nir Barkin