

Those who TRUST in the Lord are like Mt. Zion which cannot be shaken but abides forever

O LORD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, THE SOURCE OF ALL HISTORY, THE AUTHOR OF ALL LIFE, AND THE CREATOR OF TIME, WHO HAS CHOSEN THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO BE HIS PARTICULAR INSTRUMENT IN PERFECTING THE WORLD AND WHO HAS ENDOWED EACH OF US WITH A PAST WHICH SHOULD HELP US TO DETERMINE THE COURSE OF OUR FUTURE AND WITH A FUTURE WHICH SHOULD ALWAYS BE LOOKED ON AS A PERSONAL CHALLENGE, GRANT THAT AS WE ALL GATHER HERE TONIGHT AT THIS Z.O.A. SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL CONVENTION, WE WILL ALWAYS BE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT WITHOUT A DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF OUR PAST WE WILL HAVE NO FUTURE, THAT OUR SURVIVAL AS THE JEWISH PEOPLE DEPENDS ON OUR FORGING TIGHT BONDS WITH OUR PAST SO THAT OUR PRESENT SHOULD NOT DISINTEGRATE AND OUR FUTURE SHOULD NOT DISAPPEAR. GRANT, O LORD, THAT OUR SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL SHOULD NEVER WAVER FOR ONLY IN IT DO WE HAVE THE PROPER TOOLS TO LINK OUR FUTURE WITH OUR PAST. GRANT, O LORD, THAT EACH OF US WILL UNDERTAKE TO BECOME FLUENT IN THE HEBREW LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE SO THAT WE ALL INDIVIDUALLY CAN TAP OUR RICH HERITAGE IN BUILDING OUR FUTURE. GRANT, ALSO, O LORD, THAT WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THE WORD ZION, ZIONIST COMES FROM THE HEBREW ROOT WHICH MEANS TO BE EXCELLENT. MAY WE NEVER FORSAKE EXCELLENCE IN ANY FIELD, IN MORALITY, DUTY, RESPONSIBILITY, THE ARTS, SCIENCE, OR RELIGION SO THAT WE WILL ALWAYS TRULY FULFILL OUR ROLE AND BE A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS. GRANT, O LORD, THAT EACH OF US WILL SUPPORT ISRAEL WITH ALL THE PHYSICAL MEANS AT HIS OR HER DISPOSAL BECAUSE WITHOUT A HEALTHY, STRONG BODY THE JEWISH SOUL CANNOT LONG ENDURE. BUT LET US ALSO AT THE SAME TIME ALWAYS BE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT TRUE ACHIEVEMENT AND GREATNESS COME FROM THE SPIRIT AND NOT THE BODY. MAY WE ALL ALSO REALIZE THAT EACH OF US MUST CONTRIBUTE THE STRENGTHENING OF OUR PEOPLE'S SPIRIT BY PERSONAL DEDICATION TO ITS IDEALS AND PRACTICES AS WELL AS BY PUBLIC AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS. MAY THE DAY SOON COME WHEN THE CHALLENGE OF OUR FUTURE WILL NO LONGER BE THE SHEER SURVIVAL OF OUR PEOPLE BUT HOW BEST WE CAN SHARE THE TEACHINGS OF OUR WONDERFUL HERITAGE WITH ALL PEOPLE. BLESS, O LORD, THE DAGANIS, THIS WONDERFUL DEDICATED COUPLE WHO HAVE DONE SO MUCH FOR THE PEOPLE DURING THE PAST YEARS. GRANT THEM LONG LIFE AND CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH SO THAT THEY MAY HELP THEE IN THIS GREAT WORK. AND MAY WE ALL BY WORKING TOGETHER MERIT A NEW YEAR OF HEALTH, HAPPINESS, PROSPERITY, AND SELF-FULFILLMENT AND THUS BE DRAWN CLOSER TO EACH OTHER AND TO THEE. AMEN.