

“ON NOT JUST SITTING THERE”

“Are your brothers to go to war while you sit here?”

That question, asked by Moses of the tribes Reuven, Gad and half of Menasseh, is particularly pointed on this day. That is why I am writing these lines while preparing to board a plane for Israel. Moses accepts that the tribes may live outside the land, but insists that they must help to liberate the land, for that historical mission is tied to all the people.

So thirty-five people from Sinai Temple are going, and we are bringing with us a million dollars to help soldiers, their families, and other urgent causes. The money was raised and the trip organized in two weeks. Because we are not permitted to sit here while our sister and brothers are at war.

In difficult times, some people are canceling trips to Israel. They should be planning more trips. We should be pouring money into the land, to help the soldiers, those who are displaced, those who need our help and wish to know that, in an often hostile world, they are not alone. Each Jew who lives outside the land of Israel owes a tax to the land. We owe a tax for not living there. For all the services we receive from the land of Israel, that our people receives, do not come free. The Jewish Federation is raising money for the children of Israel. 10,000 people showed up at a rally in the blistering heat to demonstrate solidarity. We should be proud of our synagogue and our community.

We will be visiting soldiers, people who have been injured, children and adults -- our family.

Please, help us. Give what you can. Visit if you are able.

Do not sit there while your sisters and brothers are at war.