



## GREETINGS TO THE TENTH ANNUAL MIDWESTERN CONFERENCE OF YOUNG ISRAEL

By William Cherrick, President Young Israel of St. Louis

Once again the National Council of Young Israel finds itself in convention assembled, but not as in other years. This year, we meet at the 10th Annual Midwestern Convention in a time when it seems as though the candle of civilization is being extinguished, glimmer by glimmer.

In these troublesome days, when the peace of the world is being shattered, when in the darker land abroad there exists a struggle for the survival of right and justice against might and intolerance, the Almighty has seen fit to entrust American Jewry with the sacred responsibility of carrying on our great heritage. In these moments the program of Young Israel takes on added significance.

We cannot refrain from facing the fact that in many localities Traditional Judaism is waging a battle against ignorance. In many instances the admonition of the Torah "Ask thy father and he will tell thee," does not exist, for the father is strange to our culture, and does not possess an understanding of our past or future. Only in some cases it is, "The elders will inform you."

As the only great American Jewish Youth movement with whom rests the future of Torah-True Judaism in this country, we must realize that it is vitally necessary for the Torah to shine forth as a beacon light in a sea of darkness and ring forth, "from the four corners of the earth," its message of truth, of peace, of social justice, and brotherhood of man, a message which was always emphasized by our prophets and expounded by our rabbis.

Thus it becomes the task of all of the departments of our movement to appear on the scene today with redoubled efforts and uphold the commandment of, "the words of the Torah shall not leave thy mouth nor the mouth of thy children nor thy children's children, saith the Lord from henceforth and forever."