

# Brother, Can You Spare the Time... TO SAY A PRAYER?

## Mi Shebeirach for Times of Financial Uncertainty

by Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller (Temple Beth Torah, Ventura, CA)

[The *Mi Shebeirach* prayer is both a communal and individual conversation with God with a request for 'healing.' It is appropriate to recite aloud, together with your family, or privately as you reflect on your personal situation. This very special *Mi Shebeirach* relates to the impact of today's realities on you and those you love.]

### Dear God,

So often we reach for you in times of personal need, but [today/tonight] we offer this prayer of collective concern. We face a time of economic uncertainty; in our country and in the world. We are concerned for ourselves and our families, for those in our community and those around the world for whom economic hardship will be an

uncalculated burden. We, your children, labor to provide for our families and ourselves. We work so that our salaries might bring us the blessings of life, sustenance, shelter, education and recreation. We know that in so many ways we are amongst the most blessed children in Your world and we are grateful. May we know that we can always turn to you for strength and courage in the times ahead: as we weather upsetting news and unprecedented realities. May we know that we can turn to members of our sacred community to give us comfort and encouragement. May our temple always be a haven and a home for us, regardless of our financial burdens. And may we know, too: That our true assets are the loving

relationships we have created, the goodness we instill in the world each day and the wisdom we have acquired along life's journey. Our net worth is measured in the smiles we have brought to others, the laughs we have shared, the handshakes and hugs we have exchanged and what we have taught to others from our heart and from our experience. Our liquid assets are to be measured in the wet kisses of grandchildren, the tears we have wiped away from a friend's cheek and the Kiddush wine we have lifted saying "L'chayim." These are riches that can never be devalued. May the One who has blessed our ancestors continue to bless us with your steady Presence in unsteady times. **Amen.**