



Cathy and Jim O'Connor dedicate the O'Connor Family Forest on November 15, 1994, in Israel.

תודה רבה

Thank You

To an Irish Catholic who grew up in Chicago, even the names sounded far away and of a time long ago. Jericho. Jerusalem. The River Jordan and the Sea of Galilee. Bethlehem. And yet there we were, Cathy and I, in a land where what has passed means all the difference to the future. We had come to Israel.

We had come to honor my father and my mother by planting a legacy for generations of Israelis. Of all the gifts I was ever able to give my parents, this forest in their memory is the most treasured.

And so I say thank you to the people of the JNF, for the gift of Israel that you gave to Cathy and me. Never during our visit did we feel like strangers in a foreign land. No, Israel is much closer than that. You can find it in your faith and in your hope, and wherever there is promise for the future.


Jim O'Connor