

**From:** ellen horowitz  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 12, 2010 6:31 PM  
**To:** 'elankin@jnf.org'  
**Subject:** JNF's messianic and missionary policy

Dear Rabbi Lankin,

My name is Ellen Horowitz and I am the content and research director for [JewishIsrael.com](http://JewishIsrael.com). Our organization monitors and reports on fundamentalist Christian missionary activity and influence in Israel.

(name of source removed), suggested that I contact you with some of our concerns.

In the wake of the devastating Carmel forest fire we know that you and the entire JNF staff are very busy. So we appreciate you taking the time to address our concerns.

We are aware that the JNF has launched a Forest Fire Emergency Campaign to help rebuild and renew the Carmel forest and to bolster Israel's fire prevention readiness. From official government press releases we understand that, in addition to the traditional Jewish donor base, JNF will be officially and actively soliciting and accepting contributions from evangelical Christian sources.

We acknowledge that many gentiles who do contribute to and partner with the JNF likely do so out of a sincere concern for Israel and the Jewish people. We recognize that in a humanitarian crisis it is appropriate to accept aid from non-Jews who take a moral stand with the state of Israel, as long as Torah values and the Jewish faith are not compromised. And we know that JNF has a history of having accepted funding from righteous gentiles representing a number of faiths.

However, at present, there are various evangelical groups who promote a clear missionary and/or blatant eschatological agenda, while simultaneously advertising a relationship with the JNF. Below are several examples we have come across in our research:

- **The GODTV Forest** in the Negev

GODTV televises out of Jerusalem and regularly schedules and hosts a number of missionary/messianic programs which target Jews for conversion. Their mission is to "enable every television household to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that each family member may believe in Him, call upon His name and be saved." You can watch their recent video program [here](#)—where they repeatedly mention their partnership with the JNF.

- **MJAA's Messianic Forest** in Northern Israel

*The Messianic Jewish Alliance* (MJAA) in conjunction with the messianic *Joseph Project* promote both spreading the gospel to the Jews and planting a Messianic Forest in the same promotional material (see [video with KKL plaques](#)).

- **Bible Land Trees**

[BibleLandTrees.org](http://BibleLandTrees.org) is a Christ-centered, end-days site which boasts of [a partnership with the JNF](#). They feature a homepage which states: "The Bible tells us that Jesus the Messiah will come only after the Jewish People have returned to the Land of Israel and it is well

*populated and fruitful*". Their video promotion states *"And we plant trees so the land will blossom for his [Jesus'] coming"*. Throughout the rest of their site are quotes from the New Testament and references to the second coming of Jesus. Also of concern is their seeming affiliation with Israeli messianic pastor and missionary [David Decker](#) who is quoted on their site.

Before running [a post](#) on this matter in June 2010 at [JewishIsrael.com](#), we attempted to contact Mr. Alon Badihi, executive director of the JNF-USA in Israel. He never responded to our email or phone messages. In light of recent events and the outpouring of support coming from evangelical and messianic sources, we will most likely be presenting a new report in the coming days.

It is our understanding that in 2006, the JNF board adopted a well-written and comprehensive "messianic resolution" which distanced JNF from messianic groups and resolved not to recognize *"the participation of or accept donations from groups qua groups that call themselves Hebrew Christians, Messianic Jews, Jews for Jesus groups or their institutions, in any JNF function or program."*

Is this resolution still a part of the JNF's policy?

As a JNF representative, do you feel that partnering with those engaged in missionary activities, or those who aspire to fusing Jew and Gentile together in a Christian theological union, is within the spirit of the JNF whose mission it is *"to serve as caretaker of the land of Israel, on behalf of its owners—Jewish people everywhere"*?

Don't you feel it would be appropriate for the JNF to publicly request and state as policy that their Christian partners respect the Jewish nature and sensitivities of Israel and the Jewish people by refraining from advertising overt theological messages, because those messages run contrary to the very foundations of Judaism and the aspirations of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel?

We at [Jewish Israel](#) feel that the JNF has an opportunity to perform a great service for the State of Israel and for Jewish spiritual continuity by clarifying matters for the Jewish and Gentile public.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

We wish the JNF continued success in building, restoring and redeeming the land of Israel for the Jewish people.

With hopes and prayers for better days ahead.

Most sincerely,

Ellen Horowitz  
Content and Research Director  
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