**KKL-JNF: 125 Years of Strengthening**
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KKL-JNF is celebrating 125 years! How fitting, then, to turn to the Book of Psalms for inspiration.

Psalm 125 – *Shir Ha'Maalot* – "A song of Ascents" opens with a powerful image: "Yerushalayim, harim saviv lah" - "Jerusalem is surrounded by mountains, and God surrounds His People, now and forever."

The mountains surrounding Jerusalem evoke protection and permanence. They serve as a reminder that God is similarly encircling and protecting His People.

This realization helps us recognize that faith gives us strength, and that we are never alone in the work entrusted to us.

God's work is often carried forward through human hands, and for 125 years, KKL-JNF has been among those entrusted with this sacred task.

From its founding in 1901, when its mission was to acquire land in Eretz Yisrael for the Jewish People, KKL-JNF's work has grown to encompass forests, water, communities, education, and stewardship of the land.

We build because we have inherited a responsibility from those who came before us, and because we are obligated to those who will come after us.

A person who plants a tree in Israel does not plant only for today. He or she plants for children and grandchildren who may one day sit beneath its shade.

How meaningful then that the number 125 is the numerical value of הַחֲזָקָה – strengthening. For 125 years, this has been KKL-JNF's mission: to strengthen, to nurture, and to build for generations to come.

Psalm 125 concludes with the reassuring words: *Shalom al Yisrael*. Peace upon Israel. May the work of KKL-JNF together with its partners around the world be a source of strength, blessing and peace for the People and Land of Israel.

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