

Israel News Desk

With BPF Secretary
Steve Lloyd

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Genesis 12:2-3 **And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

A belated happy new year to you.

If COVID-19 were a song it would have been at No 1 in the hit parade for almost a year, breaking all records. Well, of course it is not, but it has been the headliner in the news every day for almost a year....and it does not look like that is going to change anytime soon.

In politics there are leaders and there are leaders. With the roll out of the various vaccines across the world and with the USA, Israel and the UK probably being the nations at the forefront of the roll outs, we see the differences in leadership.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on the arrival of the first shipment of 100,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine in Israel stated, "What is important to me is that Israelis get vaccinated" and went on to say "I believe in vaccines. I want to be the first in the queue". He was as good as his word and was the first to be vaccinated along with his Health Minister Yuli Edeistein when the rollout began.

Even US President Biden has had his jab.....but where are the UK leaders?

Boris Johnson and Matt Hancock, when asked about when they are having the vaccine are still coming up with excuses. Well, if they want the British public to get vaccinated amid all the worries people have about it, they should lead from the front. After all, they keep telling us its safe, so put your arm where your mouth is and get it done.

Coronavirus News – Israelis are once again in the forefront of technology in fighting COVID-19. The Israeli co-founder of a nasal spray that kills 99.9% of the coronavirus which causes COVID-19 believes it will be a game changer in the fight against the pandemic. Dr Gilly Regev, who co-founded SaNOTize Research and Development Corp, based in Vancouver, explained that clinical trials have shown that people who use it did not become infected. NONS is designed to kill the virus in the upper airways, preventing it from incubating and spreading to the lungs.

400 UK Buses in Britain and Ireland have been fitted with Israeli developed anti-covid air purification systems. The buses have been fitted with air filtration and disinfection devices from the Aura Air Company of Tel Aviv. The buses will be used to transport essential workers safely to their workplaces.

The technology uses three methods to kill coronavirus and informs passengers on the state of seven air quality indexes in their vehicle.

Tested at Tel Aviv's Sheba Medical Centre, the system was found to be 99.9% effective in disinfecting indoor air from bacteria, viruses, fungi, and moulds and catching particles that can cause sickness. If there is any danger, the driver receives an immediate alert.

Israel – Jonathan Pollard, who spent 30 years in an American prison for spying for Israel, arrived home on Wednesday 30th December 2020. He and his wife, Esther both kissed the ground when they disembarked from the aircraft. He was greeted at Ben Gurion Airport by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who jubilantly presented them with Israeli ID cards, granting them citizenship. Pollard, a civilian intelligence analyst for the US Navy, sold military secrets to Israel while

working at the Pentagon in the 1980's. He was released from prison on a 5-year parole on November 20th, 2015. That came to an end in November clearing the way for him and his wife to leave America.

Three days before the inauguration of Biden as President, Israel risked a clash with the new US administration over the advancement of building 800 new settler homes in the West Bank. Biden is opposed to settlement expansion and has clashed with Israel in the past. Sources say it could even strain ties between the two countries. With many groups in Israel against the building, Prime Minister Netanyahu stated, "We're here to stay, we're continuing to build the Land of Israel". In a joint statement, Egypt, Jordan, Germany, and France's foreign ministers called for Israel to "immediately and completely cease all settlement activities, including in east Jerusalem. The United Kingdom has also condemned Israel's settlement expansion plans stating it could threaten future peace negotiations.

Israel has offered to free Palestinians who killed Israelis in acts of terror, according to recent reports. "Hundreds" of Palestinians would be released in exchange for the bodies of two Israelis killed in the 2014 Gaza war, said the Hezbollah-affiliated newspaper Al-Akhbar.

Two Israeli civilians held in Gaza – Avera Mengistu and Hisham al-Sayed – would also be part of the deal.

The concessions were handed to Hamas through Egyptian mediators who visited Gaza in December, the newspaper said. Hamas has denied any reports of a breakthrough in negotiations to achieve a prisoner swap. One Hamas leader also told the newspaper that the 'concessions' were "below expectations".

The two Israeli civilians are both believed to suffer from mental illness and, as a result, crossed over into Gaza where they were taken captive back in 2014 and 2015.

UK – Whether you liked Donald Trump or loathed him, when he moved the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, he started something that has been rippling on ever since, with many other nations following suit.

Israel's new ambassador to the UK has called on the international community to follow America's lead and move their embassies to Jerusalem.

At a United Jewish Israel Appeal Zoom meeting in late December Tzipi Hotovely said that "Jerusalem was in the heart of every Jew around the world. I don't think there is one single Israeli that thinks a country's embassy should be located anywhere else than Jerusalem", she went on to say "the International community should do what America did last year (2019)

Please continue to hold Israel before the Lord in your prayers and especially the men and women of the IDF and IAF and Navy, that they may be protected and have success.

Maranatha

Steve