

**The Tell Burna Archaeological Project
2012 Season
Information and Registration Package**

In the following pages you will find information and registration forms for participation as a volunteer or as a student in the Tel Burna Archaeological Project.

Please send applications to the address below (for additional information, please contact as well):

Dr. Itzick Shai and Dr. Joe Uziel
The Martin (Szusz) Department of
Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology
Bar-Ilan University
Ramat-Gan, 52900 ISRAEL
Fax: ++972-3-6354941
E-mail: joeuziel@gmail.com ; shai.itzick@gmail.com
Visit our website telburna.wordpress.com

The Tel Burna Archaeological Project 2012 Season

The site of Tel Burna is located in the Shephelah region, which served as a border between the kingdoms of Judah and Philistia in the Iron Age. A fertile area that supported agricultural production, the region became known as the breadbasket of the south and as suggested before by some scholars, we believe that the site is the best candidate for Biblical Libnah. The tel's prominence is notable in its flat-topped shape, extensive size, and fortification which are still visible today. Survey finds from the 2009 season indicate that the city was an important entity in the Bronze and Iron Ages.

Three seasons of fieldwork at the site, including a survey season and two excavation seasons – including 14 squares in three different parts of the site, have presented us with a coherent picture of the site's past settlement history. Over two seasons of excavation, we have excavated in 14 squares, in three areas of excavation. The first area is located on the center of the summit of the tel, where a fortification system, which will be discussed in depth shortly, has created a flat, almost square area of 70 by 70 meters. Thus far, 5 squares have been excavated there. The second area consists of six squares placed along the eastern slopes of the summit, forming a section of the upper tell. The third area (Area B) was placed in the terrace just below the summit, to the west of the fortifications.

Area B was opened for multiple reasons. First, the survey indicated that this area would have a significant Late Bronze Age presence, which we felt would add to our settlement data on the site, as it may take some years to reach LB levels on the summit. We also felt that this could be a very good place to challenge the results of our survey and compare it with results from excavations. Second, we wanted to see what differences there would be in the settlement within the fortifications and outside of them. Finally, as mentioned above, if our interpretations are correct, Burna is located on the western border of Judah, in close proximity to the Philistines, and we wanted to see whether or not this reality affected the way in which the site was settled.

Three squares were opened in Area B. Directly below the surface, we reached a series of Late Bronze Age IIB – 13th Century BCE surfaces relating to a single wall. While we still cannot define the nature of this structure, the discovery of a tabun (small oven) within it would suggest that it is of a domestic nature, and may be part of a typical courtyard house of the period. The pottery found within these layers include local forms, such as the Canaanite cooking pots and bowls with string-cut bases, alongside Mycenaean and Cypriote imports, such as Monochrome, Base Ring, White Slip and White Shaved wares. As these imports are commonly found in Late Bronze Age contexts, they are not indicative as to the nature or economic status of the structure or its inhabitants. Of particular interest are two mask fragments found in this area. The fragments are of the noses, with openings for the eyes and mouth visible. While exact parallels are not known for these noses, masks in general are found cross-culturally in many different periods, including the Late Bronze Age, with examples known from Hazor and Lachish. Three points are clear at this point:

First, there is a 13th Century BCE settlement at the site, which extends to the west of the summit, and seems to indicate that our assumption of a significant Late Bronze Age Settlement that was based on the survey results was correct. Interestingly, to date, we only know of a 13th Century BCE settlement on the site, as opposed to nearby Tel Zayit that exhibits a series of LB layers. Recently Nadav Naaman has suggested identifying Tel Zayit with Moreshet Gath based on the fact that it – and not Libnah – is mentioned in the 14th Century BCE Amarna letters. While it is too early to speak of anything definitive, we do not have evidence of 14th Century BCE settlement at Tel Burna.

Second, since the excavations proved that our survey results were on target in labeling this area as the location of Late Bronze Age remains, it supports site-size estimate of 6 hectares for this period. This may reflect the status of the site during the Late Bronze Ages one of the primary settlements along the Wadi Guvirn.

Third, as opposed to the east side of the tell – and more on this shortly, there does not seem to be an Iron Age settlement outside of the fortifications, to the west, facing Philistia. This may perhaps reflect the reality of living on the border with an enemy, where the side of the site facing that enemy needed to be the most protected and advantageous from a security point of view. There is no doubt that this would be the summit, with its controlling view and difficult approach.

The main feature of the Iron Age settlement at the site is the fortification system, built around the summit. The fortifications of the summit at Tel Burna have been exposed in four squares. The outer fortification wall, uncovered in Squares T6-7 is approximately 2 meters thick, with six courses of large field stones and at least three faces surviving. This is the eastern side of the same wall that Aharoni and Amiran saw, in which they claim that Tel Burna should be thought of as an important Iron Age site. Large amounts of Iron Age II restorable pottery were found outside of the wall, although no surface has been reached relating to this wall. In Squares S6-7, the inner line of fortification, running north-south, was uncovered. The wall is 1.5m wide and is built of large field stones. To date, four courses of the wall have been excavated. No surface has been found in the area between W13002 and W12006, although the pottery in the fills almost exclusively dates to the Iron Age II. The two walls are connected by a perpendicular wall, indicating that this must have been a casemate wall. With approximately 2 meters between the walls, the entire fortification system was approximately 6 meters thick, 280 meters long, and while it stands to a height of about 2 meters, it was certainly much taller in antiquity .

To the east of the inner fortification wall, two surfaces were uncovered. The upper surface had Iron Age IIB pottery on it, while the earlier surface had a small installation built of small fieldstones, with several loomweights and 9th Century BCE pottery in it. These surfaces and installation clearly relate to the fortification wall, indicating that it was in use during both the 8th and 9th Centuries BCE. It is certainly plausible that it was built earlier than this, although only future excavations will tell us for certain the original date of construction.

In addition, a firm terminus ante quem can be given, as the wall is cut by one of the 7th century silos which will be described below. The silo, lined with field stones yielded pottery of a 7th Century BCE date, meaning that wall must pre-date this, and that at least the inner

wall went out of use in this period. While it is possible that the outer fortification continued to be used, it seems unlikely that part of the casemate wall continued to be used, with the other part dismantled. It is more likely that the Tel Burna was unfortified in this period, perhaps relating to the status of the settlement or perhaps the changing geopolitical situation in the Shephelah following Sennacherib's campaign and Assyrian intervention in the period.

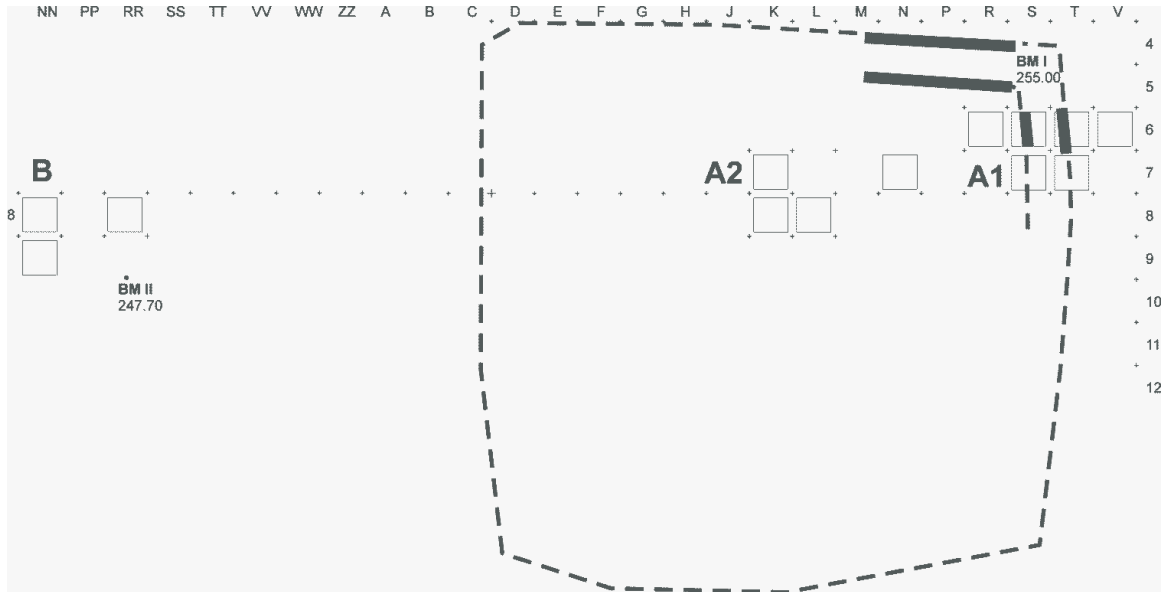
No Iron Age settlement was found outside of the walls of the summit's fortifications to the west. However, to the east, a 9th century structure, with smashed pottery vessels typical of the period, was uncovered. The structure, located in the easternmost square of the section, has only been partially excavated, but shows that to the east, the city extended beyond the fortifications. It is interesting to note that the 9th Century pottery from here, as well as that found on the surface and installation on the inside of the fortifications, displays typical forms and features of the period in this region.

8th Century remains include not only the fortifications and related surfaces, but a large exposure of architectural elements, including a flagstone pavement and beaten earth floor located on opposite sides of a partition wall. It seems these two surfaces belong to a larger structure of this period, which we have begun to expose. Pottery found on these floors includes wheel burnished pottery, Judean folded-rim bowls and LMLK-type jars. Unfortunately, these jars are not stamped, although one was recovered in a fill above these surfaces. The stamp depicts a two-winged emblem, with no writing having survived. Recently, some have suggested dating these types of stamps to the 7th Century BCE, which would be completely possible in the case of the Burna stamp, as there are 7th Century BCE remains in this same area, as will be discussed shortly. The debate on the date of the LMLK stamped handles is beyond the scope of this presentation, particularly in light of the context in which the Burna seal was found.

The 7th Century BCE remains uncovered at Tel Burna consist of a series of silos and related architectural elements. Five such silos, all lined with stone, cut into the earlier remains, and are spread over the summit. In one case, the silo reuses an earlier 8th Century BCE pavement as its flooring, while in another it cuts through the fortifications of the site, as mentioned earlier. Other than 7th Century BCE pottery, the silos yielded grain recovered through flotation of the sediments. Preliminary archaeobotanical analysis of the remains, conducted by Dr. Simone Riehl of the University of Tübingen indicates the presence of a number of crop species, with olive, free-threshing wheat and grass pea constituting the main portion of the assemblage. Other frequent taxa were barley, fig and wild, mostly weedy species. The grain is still under analysis, however we hope that the finds from these installations will help us gain understanding on the nature and economy of the site in this period.

- The northern side of the summit was cleaned of thorns, in order to reveal the fortification system, which was partially visible on the surface and which encloses the entire summit. Two parallel walls were uncovered. The upper wall is built of

large hewn stones – the lower wall of large field stones. Both walls are very well built, and can now be dated to the Iron Age II.



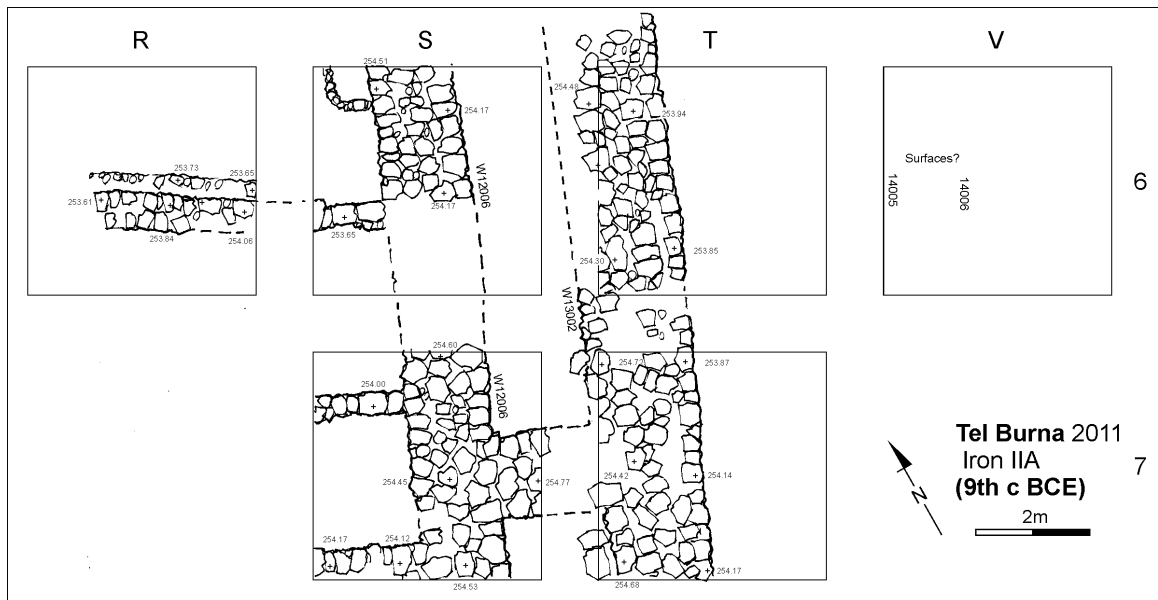
Map Showing the Locations of Areas A and B



View of the Architectural Element in Area B



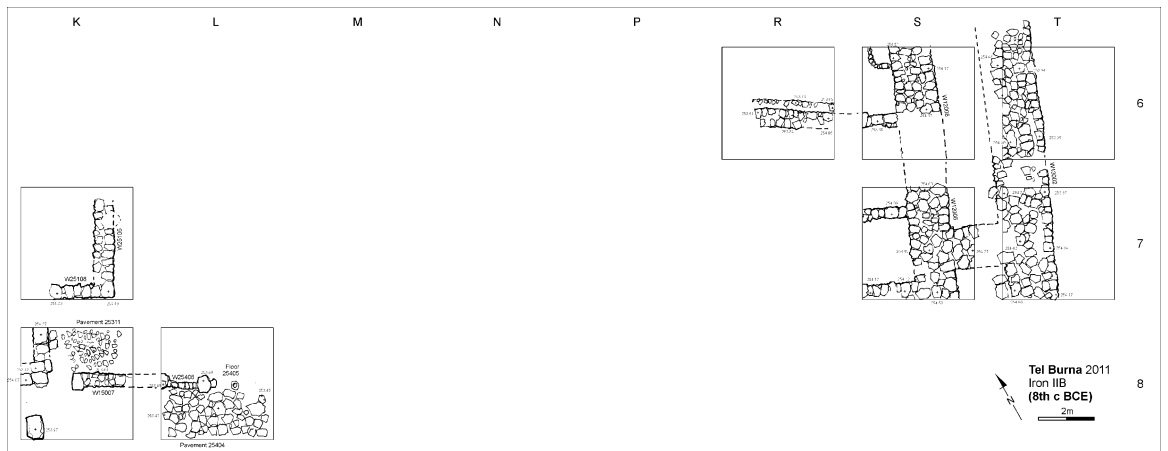
One of the Two LB Masks



Plan of the Casemate Wall



View of the inner Wall and the 7th Century Silo that cuts it



Plan of the 8th century BCE Remains



LMLK Stamped Handle

Summary and Future Plans

The first two seasons at Tel Burna began revealing Late Bronze and Iron Age II levels, including the fortifications and a series of silos. They provide the first step in a long-term investigation of the site's history, particularly stressing its location along the Judean-Philistine border. This coming year, we intend to focus on the following goals:

1. Continue excavation in the open squares, in order to verify the dating and relationships of the various features, and to continue studying the silos, and their function and use at the site.
2. Expanding the section to the south, in order to expose more of the fortifications and determine the relationship between the two.
3. Excavate squares surrounding K8 and L8, in order to expand the horizontal exposure at the center of the upper tel and the structure that has been partially exposed.
4. Expanding the excavations in Area B in order to gain a better understanding of the LB building.
5. Excavate, map and document additional agricultural installations around the site, applying a landscape approach to the study of the tel.

I understand that to enable my participation I am required to complete and submit the attached medical, insurance and conduct & behavior form (either by mail or upon arrival to the excavation).

Signature: _____

I wish to volunteer for (check appropriate):

One Week Two weeks Three weeks

Starting date (check appropriate):

June 10 June 17 June 23

Payment:

For every week of work at the excavation, each volunteer must pay \$450 (US). In addition, there is a non-refundable \$50 application fee. Minimum stay - one week. Deadline for registration and Payment is May 1, 2012. Registration will be finalized with the receipt of **\$500, \$950 or \$1400** (= registration fee + payment according to planned duration at excavation), in one of the following methods of payment: Personal or bank check, made out ONLY to "**THE ISRAEL EXPLORATION SOCIETY**" (Payment not in dollars will require a \$30 processing fee).

Payment:

Enclosed **Sum** _____

PLEASE! MONEY TRANSFERS OR TRAVELLER'S CHECKS NOT ACCEPTED.

Standard lodgings are 4-6 people per room.

Signature: _____

Refunds:

In the event of cancellation of participation, the following refund policy will apply:

- 1) Cancellations effective before May 15th, 2012 **will receive full refund** (not including non-refundable \$50 registration fee).
- 2) Cancellations effective after May 15th, 2012, but before June 1, 2012 will receive **refund of 50% of their payment** (not including non-refundable \$50 registration fee).
- 3) Cancellations effective after June 1, 2012 **will not be refunded.**

This refund policy is in effect since we order, and pay, for services according to pre-planned numbers of participants. Thus, we must have sufficient prior notice of cancellations so that we are not charged for these services. **All cancellations must be done by email and must receive a written confirmation before they are effective.**

I understand and agree to the refund policy delineated above:

Signature: _____

Note:

Actual participation in the excavation will be approved once the attached Health, Insurance and Conduct & Behavior form is received as well.

Payment includes the following:

Participation in the excavation and related activities; **Room and Board from Sunday afternoon until Friday morning**; Travel from the base camp to the site and back.

Payment DOES NOT include the following:

Medical and accident insurance; travel to and from Israel; travel to and from airport (or other places of origin) to base camp; travel to and from base camp on weekends; laundry; R&B from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning.

Signature: _____

Requirements:

Volunteers will participate both in excavation (ca. 6AM-1PM) and in post-excavation activities such as pottery washing which will be conducted in the afternoon and evening. Additional information about working and living conditions will be supplied following application acceptance. See as well the attached form below.

Applications should be sent to:

Dr. Itzick Shai and Dr. Joe Uziel

The Martin (Szusz) Department of

Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology

Bar-Ilan University

Ramat-Gan, 52900 ISRAEL

Fax: ++972-3-6354941

E-mail: joeuziel@gmail.com ; shai.itzick@gmail.com

Conduct & Behavior:

All participants are required to participate, to the best of their abilities, in the various activities that are part of the excavation process. Volunteers are required to follow the directives of the excavation project's staff. Volunteers will not act in any manner that could endanger themselves or other people. Volunteers will not act in a manner that can cause physical injury and/or damage to other people or objects. Volunteers will not behave in a disruptive and/or rowdy manner and will not act in a fashion that is offensive to other participants or the surroundings. Volunteers will not act in a manner contrary to accepted legal norms. Volunteers are expected to behave in a manner that is tolerant to other believes, lifestyles and convictions. **Substance abuse of any kind (save for moderate consumption of alcohol) will not be permitted.** The project director reserves the right (at his discretion) to expel from the excavation (and all related activities) volunteers whom will not conform to these requirements.

Participant's Declaration:

I understand the above and will conform to these required modes and rules of conduct & behavior:

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Minors

In the case of minors (under the age of 18), the parent/legal guardian will insure that this form is properly filled-out and that this code of conduct & behavior is fully understood by the volunteer. In the case of misconduct (and subsequent expulsion from the excavation) the parent/legal guardian will be notified by the excavation staff and it will be the parent/legal guardian's responsibility to find alternate plans for the minor.

Parent/Legal Guardian's signature and information (PRINT CLEARLY):

Name: _____ Relation: _____

Address: _____

Tel. for contact 24 hours a day: _____

Additional Tel. for contact: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

The Tel Burna Archaeological Project
2012 Season
Undertaking and Release Form

In consideration of being permitted to participate in the Tel Burna Archaeological Project, I agree that I shall so conduct that study in a responsible and professional manner and shall respect and abide by the laws and customs of Israel, the host country.

I have enrolled in appropriate medical and insurance coverage programs.

On my behalf and on behalf of my heirs, executors, personal representatives, contractees and employees, I hereby release and forever discharge Bar-Ilan University and the Tel Burna Archaeological Project, their officers and employees from any claim for loss, death, disability, delay, or damage to person, property, or for accident or illness howsoever arising which may be suffered by me or by anyone claiming through me, during the period of, in consequence of, or in any way related to the work and/or study undertaken by me in connection with my participation in this Project.

I have fully informed my Next of Kin regarding all aspects of my proposed volunteering and/or study, including the nature of any possible risks.

Volunteer's Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Date: _____ **Witness:** _____

I appoint the following person my Designated Next of Kin and authorize Bar-Ilan University and the Tel Burna Archaeological Project to contact that person for or with information about me in my absence (**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**):

Name: _____

Telephone: (h) _____; (w) _____

Telephone: (m): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Name of Designated Next of Kin: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

The Tel Burna Archaeological Project

2012 season

List of Suggested Equipment for Participants

Introduction:

The following should be seen as a list of recommendations for participants in the excavation. This list has been formulated on the basis of a familiarity with the climate, working, and living conditions in Israel and at the site. We believe that adherence to the list will assist in making your stay at the dig as comfortable as possible. Needless to say, this list consists of basic recommendations only – ultimately, you will have to decide what you need and what you do not! Included in the list are various types of equipment and supplies, but not their quantities. Please use your own discretion in deciding what to pack. Take into account that clothes can be washed on site by hand, or for an additional charge, at a local laundry. Please, try not to bring excessive and/or overly expensive personal effects. If you do forget something, most everything is available in Israel, although it may be more expensive and it may not be the brand that you are used to.

Clothing:

Overall, the climate in Israel at this time of year is very hot and dry, especially during the working hours at the site. Nevertheless, during the evening it can be relatively cool. Thus, one should have clothing appropriate for hot weather, although a light sweater or jacket for evening wear will also come in handy. Although many of us like to expose as much of our bodies as possible to the sun in hot weather, the expedition director advises that work in the field be conducted in light-weight, long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and needless to say, with a wide-brimmed hat. In addition, liberal use of sun-screen lotions is highly advised. Although it may seem like a great opportunity to get a tan, prolonged exposure to the sun is not particularly pleasant, nor good for your health!

Suggested List of Clothing and Supplies:

Clothes:

- Wide-brimmed lightweight hat (preferably washable)
- Short sleeved and long sleeved cotton shirts
- Cotton shorts
- Cotton pants (slacks)
- Underwear
- Socks
- Sweater/Sweatshirt
- Lightweight jacket
- Pajamas
- Bathing suit
- Work shoes – preferably ankle height
- Extra shoelaces
- Sandals

Toiletries:

- Toiletries bag
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Sunscreen (ample quantities; high level of protection)
- Toothpaste & toothbrush
- Deodorant
- Athlete's foot powder
- Anti-chafing cream

- Nail clipper
- Anti-bug spray/cream
- Medications if necessary (such as aspirin, antihistamines, etc.)
- Personal supplies (as needed)

General Equipment:

- Canteen/water bottle for personal use
- Work-gloves
- Trowel (preferably “Marshalltown” brand, size 4/5). Since this is not available in Israel, try to purchase one for your own use to bring to the excavation. Can be purchased on-line at: http://www.marshalltown.com/catalog/display_item.asp?edino=11121. For those coming from the UK, you might prefer the “WHS professional archaeology trowel” (http://archtools.co.uk/prod5.asp?prod_id=486&id=274&grpId=486&msg=&offset=).

Note: if you will not be using the trowel after the excavation, the project will appreciate it if you will leave us the trowel for use in future seasons.

- Duffle-bag/suitcase for gear
- Small bag/knapsack for carrying daily equipment
- Bag for laundry
- Money belt
- Pocket knife
- Camera and film
- Knee-pads to protect knees while working
- We highly recommend that you bring with you photocopies of: 1) the photo and information page on your passport; 2) credit cards that you will bringing; 3) your airline ticket. If any of the above is lost/stolen during your trip, having photocopies simplifies the process of getting replacements. 2-3 extra passport photos are good to have as well.

The Tel Burna Archaeological Project

2012 Season

This Year's Excavation and the Security Situation

Due to the “ups and downs” of the security situation in Israel, questions have been asked regarding the safety and security of the participants in the excavation. In fact, throughout the world we are all going through quite troubled times, and being a bit worried is actually a logical (and healthy!) response. This is especially true for those of you that are hearing about the events via the media outside of Israel. Nevertheless, we would like to try and ease your worries a bit.

First of all, as the directors of the team, we put the highest priority on ALL safety issues (not only security-related). The constant, overall safety of all participants is always at the top of our list. Thus, we will never do anything that in any way would put any of the participants in any risk! Second of all, keep in mind that often, the situation as reported in the media seems much worse than it actually is!

Tel Burna itself, and the region around it, is not in, or near, the West Bank, Gaza, and/or the border with Lebanon, where most of the acts of violence have occurred in the past. In addition, there have not been any terrorist activities on, or in the vicinity of the Tell. To this can be added that all the activities relating to the excavation (including the excavation itself, field trips, outings, etc.) are conducted under strict supervision (as to where and how we go).

On weekends, as the volunteers make their plans to go sightseeing, we carefully review their itineraries, to ensure that they are not planning to go to any dangerous areas.

Thank G-d, we have never had any security-related problems and we hope and pray that this will continue. If we may add, it should be remembered that the main objective of terrorism is to obstruct us from living our lives in a usual manner. Yes, we must be more aware of security-related issues (and take these matters seriously), but, on the other hand, we will continue with our plans, and yes, we will be out in the field this season!!

Hoping that you will join us this season,

All the best,

The Tel Burna Staff