

**ORTHODOX LEADERS' TRAINING
ON SPIRITUAL DIMENZION IN SCOUTING
MADABA, JORDAN, JULY 2-5, 2009**

Following the decision of DESMOS Committee, which has identified the need to offer its leaders the training on spiritual dimension in Scouting, the event was organized for member-countries from the Middle East.

DESMOS is grateful to His Most Godly Beatitude, **The Patriarch** of Jerusalem, **Theophilus III**, for His accord and blessing, to **Archimandrite Innokentios** for His great support and hosting of the event and to **Amman Orthodox Scouts** for extraordinary efforts they made, offering excellent logistics and very good additional programme and for covering significant part of expenditures of the event.



The Training was conducted in Arabic language and in English language with consecutive translation to Arabic, with the following Agenda:

Thursday 2nd of July

15.30	Registration
16.00	Opening of the training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome - Prayer - Address for "The aims of the Training" - DESMOS' Committee Honorary Members addresses - Ice break: Who are we? - Ice break: What is my team?
16.30	Presentation: The Great World Scout Family
17.30	Break
17.40	Presentation: What is DESMOS
18.00	Archimandrite Innokentios' Key-note address: Youth and Orthodoxy
19.00	Break
19.15	Presentation: Practical ideas for your Scout Program
20.00	End of the first day
20.30	Dinner
	Teamwork: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good practices of my troop/group for the Duty to God and/or Spirituality in Scouting - 2 Ice breaks per delegation

Friday 3rd of July

08.00	Breakfast
09.00	Opening of the training: - Prayer - Ice break 1 / Ice break 2
09.30	Presentation: World Interreligious Forum
10.00	Presentation: Promotion for Growth and Development
11.00	Break
11.15	Presentation: Leaders' Questions – WOSM Answers
12.00	Presentations: - DESMOS' Triennium 2005-2008 - DESMOS' Newsletter No 1
13.00	Presentation Spiritual Dimenzion in the Scout Movement / Spiritual Education
14.30	Lunch
17.00	Good practices of my troop/group for the Duty to God and/or Spirituality in Scouting
18.00	Presentation: World Scout Interreligious Symposium
18.45	Presentation of the National Jamborees 2010-2011: Lebanon 2010 / Greece 2010 / Serbia 2011
19.30	Evaluation of the Training
20.30	Dinner

Saturday 4th of July

06.00	Full day excursion to PETRA
21.00	Closing dinner



The Planning Team - **Christos Papageorgiou**, Desmos President; **Maher Sahlieh** Desmos Vice-President; **Georges Abboud**, Desmos Committee member; **Naaman Shahada**, Desmos Committee member; **Zoran Petrovic**, Desmos Committee member; **Marko Petrovic**, Desmos Secretary General; **Athanassios Efstathiou - Nassos**, Assistant Desmos Secretary General; and **Rimon Hanna Qamar**, former Scout Group Master and former President of the Palestinian Orthodox Scout Society - prepared the core programme and presented the Training topics.

Archimandrite Innokentios and his associates had the key-note presentation on the topic "Youth and Orthodoxy".



The Planning Team and the participants had the pleasure to welcome two Honorary members of Desmos Committee (to the left), Mr. **George Bahow** and Mr. **Odeh Bishara**, who both contributed to the success of the Training.



The Planning Team had a significant support of **Sipora Iskandar** and **Cesar Souty**.

The Training was very well attended - 57 participants coming from four Middle East member-countries concerned, including the Planning Team. The participants were Orthodox scout leaders, aged up to 25, with good gender balance. There was a high level of motivation and commitment. The leaders were participative and ready to share their opinion and ideas with others.



Groups were formed of participants coming from different countries. Group work was very productive and the outcomes were presented through group-work presentations, in which participants presented interesting ideas that can be implemented in their associations.



During the breaks participants had the opportunity to relax through games and fun ...



...dancing with **Nassos** ...

... or singing a famous scout spiritual song Cumbaja with Desmos President **Christos**...



... having **Maher** always available for constructive discussions ...



... and **Georges Abboud**, doing a difficult translation work, and encouraging all with his smile ...



... with **Naaman**, always ready to offer support ...



... with **Salim** and **Zoran**,
in the background,
but always ready to help ...



... and **Marko**,
available
at any time ...



... with **Rimon** keen to explain essentials
of spiritual dimension in Scouting ...

... but, most importantly,
with representatives of
Amman Orthodox Scouts,
ready to offer all necessary
logistics and capable of
organizing excellent social
programme ...



Saeed, Rakan, Emad,...
did the job excellently and
made the Planning Team and
participants feel in Jordan like at home. We all owe them a big **THANK YOU!**



Generally, the Orthodox Leaders' Training on
Spiritual Dimension was a good event and a
precious experience. It definitely confirmed the
necessity of having such activities within The
Link, so DESMOS should make efforts to offer its
membership more trainings in future.

In order to see all the strong
and weak points of the event,
The Planning Team is
analyzing participants' written
evaluations. The Report will
be prepared and made
available to all participants
and others, who are
interested in the matter.

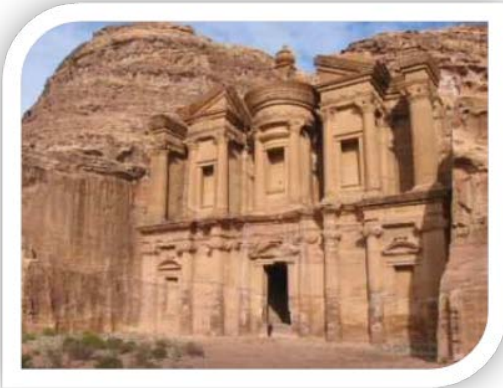
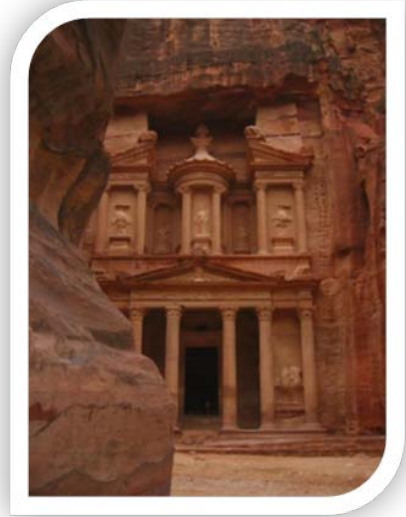


ADDITIONAL PROGRAMME / SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Amman Orthodox Scouts organized a whole-day trip to PETRA, the famous Jordanian historical-archeological site, so the participants had the opportunity to experience that extraordinary complex.

Petra (Greek "πέτρα" (petra), meaning *cleft in the rock*; Arabic: عارتبجلا, *Al-Batrā*) is an archaeological site in the Arabah, Ma'an Governorate, Jordan, lying on the slope of Mount Hor in a basin among the mountains which form the eastern flank of Arabah (Wadi Araba), the large valley running from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba.

It is renowned for its rock-cut architecture. Petra is also one of the new wonders of the world.



The Nabateans constructed it as their capital city around 100 BCE.

The site remained unknown to the Western world until 1812, when it was introduced to the West by Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. It was famously described as "a rose-red city half as old as time" in a Newdigate prize-winning sonnet by John William Burgon. UNESCO has described it as "one of the most precious cultural properties of man's cultural heritage." In 1985, Petra was designated a World Heritage Site.

In addition, the trip to Petra offered the opportunity for further exchange among young leaders, as well as for friendly discussions and fun, which is a good basis for cooperation and networking in future.



Both the participants and the Planning Team enjoyed the excursion very much, since it was realized in a very good spirit.

