

December 2009
Issue 2

DESMOS

International Link of Christian Orthodox Scouts



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Christmas Wishes

DESMOS Committee would like to express their wishes for the Christmas and the New Year 2010 to all member countries and sincere wishes for prosperity to all Scout of the World.



May the Nativity Star and Newborn Jesus Christ, guide all our steps.

DESMOS leaders' Training in Jordan

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. The agenda included the following: Presentations, small groups works, learning by doing workshops.

The Planning Team - **Christos Papageorgiou, Maher Sahlieh, Georges Abboud, Naaman Shahada, Zoran**

Petrovic, Marko Petrovic, Athanassios - Nassos - Efstathiou, and Rimon Hanna Qamar, - prepared the core programme and presented the training topics. **Amman Orthodox Scouts, Saeed, Rakan, Emad** were always ready to offer all necessary logistics and capable of organizing excellent social programme in Madaba and a day visit in Petra. **Archimandrite Innokentios** and his associates had the key-note presentation on the topic "Youth and Orthodoxy".

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.



DESMOS leaders' Training in Soko Grad, Serbia

The second leaders training on spiritual dimension in Scouting organized by DESMOS for the leaders of member-countries in the Balkans took place in the Monastery "Свети Николај Српски", in Soko Grad, in Western Serbia from 1st to 4th of October 2009.

His Excellency, **Episcope Lavrentije** of the **Serbian Orthodox Church - Eparchy of Šabac**, gave His Blessing to the **Scout Organization of Serbia** to organize the Training in the premises of the Monastery "Свети Николај Српски", in Soko Grad, and **Father Zoran Ristivojević** and the civil staff of the Monastery were excellent hosts, offering very good conditions for work. The Training was organized for participants from DESMOS member-countries in the Balkan region. However, member-countries: Cyprus, Moldova and Russian Federation were invited as well. The Training had participants from Cyprus, Romania and Serbia, and the Planning Team was composed of trainers from Greece **Christos Papageorgiou**, Palestine **Maher Sahlieh**, Romania **Roxana Boltasu**, and Serbia **Zoran Petrović**, **Marko Petrović**, **Milan Ristić**. The Key-Note

address "Spirituality and Young people in the Modern World" was prepared and presented to participants by **Father Veselin Stefanovski**, Priest.

The central topic of the Training was the Spirituality in Scouting and its importance for proper development of young people's personality. The Training emphasized the essential role of the first principle of Scouting - **Duty to God**, which implementation consequently guarantees realization of other two principles of Scouting - **Duty to Self** and **Duty to Others**.

The Training was focused on practical aspects of Spiritual Dimension in Scouting and the positive impact of Orthodoxy, offering a number of ideas for implementation in practice. Participants also had the opportunity for exchange and discussion on the examples of good practice in their NSOs. The event was financially supported by the **Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Serbia**, while the **Public Enterprise "Serbian Railways"** took part in sponsorship by putting on DESMOS' disposal the bus for transportation of participants from Belgrade to the Training venue.



Photographs from the trainings in Serbia and Jordan respectively

3rd World Scout Inter-religious Symposium

The 3rd World Scout Inter-religious Symposium (WSIS) was held from 21st to 25th of October 2009 in Kampala, capital city of Uganda. This event is the third biggest world scout event organized every 3 years that brings together scouts from **8 religious affiliations** to discuss pertinent issues affecting the scouts, their religions and the world they live in. The first WSIS was held in Spain in **2003** while the second was held in **2006** in Taiwan. It was organized by the World Scout Inter-religious Forum (WSIF), an informal network of religious groups/organizations in Scouting and was jointly hosted by International Union of Muslim Scouts (IUMS) and The Uganda Scouts Association (USA).

The programme of the event was suitable and interesting for older members of the Youth Sections and young adults, in addition to adult volunteers. Following suggestions and recommendations from previous Symposiums, the WSIF and representatives from the Educational Methods Committee (of the World Scout Committee) have prepared a new approach with emphasis on the Scout Method, especially for the educational

content of the event. There were plenary sessions, small group workshops, study visits to eight different venues (schools, hospitals and health centers, prisons, rehabilitation centers, home for the elderly etc). The social programme included visits to various religious places of worships, to Kasubi Tombs, an UNESCO world heritage site and of course a visit to a Scout Camp where the participants had the opportunity to meet the President of Uganda and other state officials. The main topic of the symposium was: **"Solidarity, Reflection and Celebration for Peace"**.

DESMOS was represented in WSIS by Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos President and Vassilis Birtsas, Desmos Communications and PR Commissioner. DESMOS President had a main presentation at the Symposium on the above mentioned theme.

On the 20th of October at the same premises, took place the meeting of WSIF for the evaluation of the work up to then and the discussion of the last details for the Symposium.



Romanian Scouts Activities Light Festival

It is said that the simplest way to calm yourself and to find you inner peace is to look at a candle. Just imagine how you would feel having around yourselves 8000 candles... Through the Light Festival we want to rediscover the spiritual values left behind by our modern society. How will this be accomplished? They will be placed on a primary alley in a park in Bucharest none less than 8000 candles in "gulgute" (little paper boxes made using origami). Any person can participate, the only rule is that you don't use the flash from the camera. All the light will come only from the candles.

The central theme of the festival it will be "The beauty of simple things". For

this a photo exposition will be held, as well as other activities. An important moment will be the "fire playing", the program will include also a small theatrical play "Cinderella" played by InDart, street animation held by Art Fusion and a corner for storytelling.

The project is held in 9 different cities at the same time. The other cities in which the project will be held are: Cluj Napoca, Targu Mures, Miercurea Ciuc, Oradea, Timisoara, Tirgu Jiu, Tulcea and Suceava.

In the end, everyone who wants to unplug from the everyday routine has to join us and try to discover the beauty of small things.

Greek Venture Scouts visits to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople



Some of Greek Venture Scout troops included in their summer camps program visits to Turkey. The ones that were visited Istanbul did not miss the opportunity to go to St. Sofia and of course to pay a pilgrim to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in Fener. His All Holiness the Patriarch Bartholomew warmly welcomed all Scouts, gave His blessings and wished them accordingly. In an instance the Patriarch in his speech mentioned the Scouts and their good

deeds as well as thanked them for their presence there and being next to church. All Scouts were really amazed meeting in person such a bright Spiritual personality and leader of millions of Orthodox Christians of the world.

Fundraising dinner of the DESMOS friends in Athens

On December 4th the friends of DESMOS in Athens organized a gala dinner for supporting the purposes of DESMOS in Greece. The dinner took place in a traditional and historic restaurant of Athens, and was well attended by many friends, both Scouts and non Scouts. All the attendees had a very nice evening and especially enjoyed the variety and quality of food together with the live music.

These kinds of meetings - among others - took place twice a year and are very important not only because the financial support they offer but also because DESMOS friends have the opportunity to inform members and

potential members for the purposes and the activities of DESMOS and Scouting in general.

The annual general meeting of friends of DESMOS in Athens, as every year, will take place in January 2010.

Pavle Patriarch of Serbia passed away



With deep sorrow we heard the sad news about the death of Serbian Patriarch Pavle.

Patriarch Pavle passed away 15th of November in Belgrade. He was 95 years old. Serbia and Serbian people lost the great spiritual leader. The Orthodoxy lost its brilliant son.

The late Patriarch was himself a Scout in His early youth.

He gave His Blessing for our Link during the Committee meeting in Belgrade, in 1999, when he received the Committee members.

May His soul rest in peace.

Father Farid Shoucair

With deep sorrow we heard the bad news about Father Farid Shoucair. He was an active member of the Orthodox community of Lebanon, and a keen supporter of the Scout movement and our Christian Orthodox Scout Link. His contribution was really great both to religion and Scouts.

DESMOS Committee Expresses its deepest condolences to his loved ones: his family, to fellow Scouts and to Orthodox Community of Lebanon.

May God rest the soul of his Servant Farid in eternal peace.

2nd Ecumenical Encounter, Greece October 2010

The Ecumenical Encounter as a means of dialogue between Christians of different denominations was born during the World Scout Jamboree in England, UK in 2007. World Scouting already accepted the need to have an inter-religious dialogue and as a consequence it was established a dialogue between Christian denominations as well. The 1st Ecumenical Encounter was organized by ICCS, in Canterbury, England, in 2008. There were in total 36 participants representing five different Christian denominations.

It was decided that DESMOS will be hosting the next Ecumenical Encounter

in 2010, and Greece accepted to be the host country. The Second Ecumenical Encounter will be organized in Athens, in the beginning of October. Details about the event will follow soon.



DESMOS

INTERNATIONAL LINK
OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SCOUTS

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The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts "DESMOS" is an autonomous body of Scouts of the Orthodox Christian faith, who belong to National Member Organizations of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. For more information visit: www.desmos.info

DESMOS IS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE WORLD ORGANIZATION OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT



We would like to ask you to send your comments or your correspondence by mail: office@desmos.info or birtsas@gmail.com