

Thanks to the understanding of The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem and His Beatitude The Patriarch Theophilus III himself, who supported the initiative of representatives of The Orthodox Scouts of Israel, George Bahow and Naaman Shahada, as well as to the efforts invested by the Orthodox Scouts of Amman, who did so much to make the Meeting possible, The Desmos Committee Meeting was organized in the town of Madaba, in Jordan, February 21-24, 2008.

The attendance of the Meeting was excellent. Besides the Committee members and Desmos countries' representatives:

Christos Papageorgiou, Georges Bahow, Christos Marneros, Georges Abboud, Zoran Petrovic, Marko Petrovic, Naaman Shahada, Maher Sahlieh, Momcilo Petkovic, Vassilis Birtsas, Mahfouz Qahoush, Salim Zeidan, Elias Juha,

at the Meeting participated the President of The Orthodox Scouts of Amman Mr. Nasif Ziadeh and the Jordanian leaders: Nabila Haddadin, Saeed Daoud, Rakan Fakes, Rami Salameh.



Archimandrite Innokentios welcomed the Meeting participants wishing all the success in Desmos efforts and endeavors and emphasizing that, from now on, Desmos may consider Madaba as its new home. Father Innokentios said the fact that Desmos is acting under umbrella of Ecumenical Patriarchate is very important. He pointed out the significance of the town of Madaba for Jordan history, culture and tradition and made comparison saying it's in a way Jerusalem for the area on the eastern bank of the Jordan river.

Archimandrite Innokentios pointed out the importance of St. George's Church and its worldwide famous mosaics. He presented to the Meeting participants a brief history of the Church of Jerusalem and its particularity as a church that welcomes the pilgrims from all over the world.

The Desmos Committee worked in the premises of the Orthodox School within the complex of the **St. George's Orthodox Church**. The Committee had the rich Agenda of 17 items to deal with. A number of important issues was considered, among which the forthcoming Desmos Conference, which will be organized on July 13, 2008, on the Jeju Island in Korea, just one day before the World Scout Conference.

The Committee expressed expectations the Jordanian Orthodox Scouts would join Desmos soon.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Besides a very good organization of the Meeting itself, the Orthodox Scouts of Amman have set up the pleasant programme of social activities.

The participants of the Meeting were highly impressed with the visit to the **Baptism Site** on the Jordan river. This trip took a good part of the day, but it was worth it, since the experience gained is extraordinary and unforgettable.

The visit to the **Orthodox Club of Amman** with a nice lunch was also organized. The participants of the Meeting had the opportunity to see how well organized is the Orthodox community in Amman and to enjoy the local food and drinks.

Those who wanted to see more of Amman had the opportunity to visit some other spots in the Jordan capital city, like the **old town of Amman** or the **Royal Automobile Museum**, or simply to walk the streets and feel the atmosphere.



The evening before the closing of the Meeting, the hosts organized a wonderful dinner in Madaba, in a nearby restaurant, with typical food and drinks and authentic live music, which the participants of the Meeting enjoyed very much.

The social activities programme was very good and offered everyone the opportunity for informal exchange and friendly discussions.