

2021

The Sixth Conference of Harmony in Jordan -Zarqa Report



Hashemite University & Christian
Youth Club

7-8-/2/2021

Introduction:

Religious harmony throughout history in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (from early history until the present day) is a reality and tangible through the most prominent Islamic and Christian materialistic landmarks established on the land of the Kingdom, especially during the Islamic eras.

We have no doubt that those great efforts made by the governments of Jordan have achieved more interest in Jordan at various levels, so that Jordan has become a model in common life, as these efforts will be dealt with in a balanced way to present examples of the efforts made by the Kingdom in interfaith dialogue, and the Kingdom's role in promoting Joint dialogue from its inception to the present day and foreseeing the future.

Previous studies:

Many scholars, experts, researchers and clerics have asserted that Jordan represents an advanced model in the field of transition to common life between Muslims and Christians on its blessed land during the Byzantine eras, as material evidence and archaeological discoveries indicate that this transition was characterized by flexibility and continuity, especially with regard to the life of the population. Socio-economic, administrative and civilization.

We have no doubt that the efforts of His Majesty King Abdullah II and the successive Jordanian governments have been fruitful, and the initiatives of His Majesty, including the Amman Message, the Week of International Religious Harmony, and His Majesty's role in this field at the local, Arab and regional levels.

These efforts resulted in the model of coexistence on the land of Jordan from the Byzantine eras to the present day, especially those historical churches as models of religious harmony on the land of the Kingdom, which were established during the Islamic ages, as they constitute unique physical models in Jordan whose remains and mosaic floors are still visible on the ground, and from These are the churches that were built in the early Islamic ages, the Stefanos Church in Umm Al-Rasas, the Church of Ma'in, the Church of the Cave of the Prophet Lot, the Church of the Qawisma, and many other Byzantine churches that the writings on their mosaic floors confirmed that they were built during the Islamic era, and

this is clear Connotations of common life in Jordan and the Arab neighboring countries During those prosperous eras.

Just as churches were booming, the emergence of the architecture of historical mosques in Jordan and the art of engineering and architectural planning for them has reached an advanced stage, and there are examples of these newly discovered mosques on the land of the Kingdom, such as the Omari mosques in Amman, Madaba, Zarqa and Irbid, which reflect the art of Islamic architecture, as these mosques and churches are still together, they represent a distinct model in harmony and co-life in the Middle East.

Harmony Through the Ages:

Philadelphia / Amman, with its strategic location in the heart of the Arab world, remained the cradle of civilizations according to their successive seasons and stages. When Islam entered it, it was called Amman. It increased its splendor and generosity in the rest of the era of Islamic civilization.

It lived through the ages of many ancient civilizations such as the Hittites, the Hyksos, the Amalekites, and the Ammonites, who called her the “ Rabbath Ammon”, meaning the king's house, Then came the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, and Ptolemaic Greeks who saw Philadelphia, and the Romans came to her, where the ancient Roman ruins that appeared in the emergence of the excavations are still, and the excavations have appeared in a number of them.

Today, Amman, the capital of the Hashemite Kingdom, is renewed, developed, full of life, growth and giving, flourishing with knowledge and science, and a pioneer in the Arab, Islamic and international arenas, distinguished by its moderation, diversity, tolerance, coexistence and cohesion among its people.

And from it, the Amman message to the Arab world and to all countries of the world was launched, a call for peace, harmony, dialogue and cooperation between the world's cultures and religions.

The city of Amman enjoys a historical place, and it is the position that Jordan occupies in international politics, and an expression of the position it enjoys as a model for moderate

Islam in the sign of the launch of many royal initiatives in this field, such as the Amman Message, A Common Word, the initiative to celebrate the World Interfaith Harmony Week, and other initiatives that Consolidating the values of dialogue, understanding, tolerance and mutual respect, and achieving world peace and harmonious coexistence among all human beings.

The Roots of Harmony in Jordan:

Since the emergence of religions, the blessed land of Jordan has enjoyed religious places for followers of religions through archaeological evidence, and to confirm this, a field study of some major sites such as temples, churches, mosques, paths, and historical roads in Amman and its vicinity has been confirmed and the results confirmed the importance of the cultural heritage extending across the countries of the region in Consolidating the values of shared life, for example the story of the boys of the cave, who are the boys who believe in the message of Jesus, and they were mentioned in the Holy Quran in Surat Al-Kahf, as well as the discovery of the site of **the Baptism of Jesus, which was supervised by a Muslim team who believes in the values of tolerance, harmony and common life**, thus becoming a model for the sites listed on the world heritage list.

And finish with what His Majesty King Abdullah II said (Here in Jordan, there is an ancient Christian heritage consistent with the Islamic heritage and identity of our country, and we are proud of this Heritage).

Goals and Objectives of the Conference:



- The event aims to representing the harmonious co- existence among the members of Jordanian cultural mosaic, through 100 years; Thought the different religious, origins and traditions.
- The Conference continues to better understanding, promote the harmonious, and strive to shorten the gap between diverse communities and to demonstrate that we can live together in the spirit of acceptance, harmony, and compassion.
- The objective of the event is to promote interfaith respect, harmony, inclusiveness, and diversity. It inculcates mutual understanding and respect between different faith traditions and philosophies of Jordan. It promotes respect, harmony, and cohesion among all people.

History of the Conference:

The Jordanian Christian Youth Club & the Hashemite University launched the harmony conference in cooperation with the local community organizations, NGOs, and governmental institutions in Zarqa. Intending to highlight the religious and cultural harmony in Jordan in general and Zarqa in particular, this is an embodiment of His Majesty King Abdullah II's visions of the importance of harmony; and to celebrate the World Harmony Week at the beginning of February every year.

The first conference was launched under the auspices of Minister of Culture Lana Mamkeg in 2015-2016, under the title "The First Harmony Conference in Zarqa Governorate". This conference affirmed that **Zarqa which is the second largest populated City in the Kingdom** lives true harmony between Muslims and Christians, and the religious heritage in the governorate attests to that.

The second conference was launched under the auspices of the Minister of Youth Rami Al-Dweikat in 2016-2017 under the title "Common Life through Tourism and Archeology". This conference was concerned with showing religious harmony on the blessed land of Jordan through the multiple archaeological sites. <https://www.ammonnews.net/article/287469>

Whereas, the third harmony conference entitled "Paths of Faith in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" 2017-2018 was launched under the patronage of His Excellency Mr Michael Hamarneh, former Minister of Tourism. Hashem bin AbdManaf took it during the trade trip between the Arabian Peninsula and the Levant. He also discussed the history of religious harmony and its fruit, which reflected positively on Jordanian society and contributed to its stability. <https://www.ammonnews.net/article/355327>

While each of the fourth conferences 2018- 2019 and the fifth 2019- 2020 titled "Paths to Holiness and Harmony through Tourism and Archaeology" and "Conference on Religious Harmony and Shared Life in Zarqa" respectively. The organizers of the conferences were keen to show the origins of harmony and harmony among the members of the Jordanian state from the earliest times to the present.

https://hu.edu.jo/NewsCenter/f_news_0_0.aspx?newsid=31442#.YCwtFHmxXIU

https://hu.edu.jo/NewsCenter/f_news_0_0.aspx?newsid=32380#.YCwj_XmxXIU

The First Harmony Conference 2015-16

The First Religious Harmony in Jordan

The first conference was launched under the auspices of Minister of Culture Lana Mamkeg in 2015, under the title "The First Harmony Conference in Zarqa Governorate". This conference affirmed that Zarqa lives true harmony between Muslims and Christians, and the religious heritage in the governorate attests to that.

<https://tinyurl.com/yxlp42>

Events

First Day: Research Session

- Riad Al-Khatib: Director of Zarqa Culture - Religious Heritage in Zarqa Governorate
- Muhammad al-Jabbul: Director of the Islamic Endowments in Rusaifa: The Amman Message and its importance in clarifying the goals of religion and strengthening relationships between people.
- Abdul Rahim Al Zawahra: Coordinator of the Jordan Youth Commission: His Majesty King Abdullah II's vision of the importance of dialogue, coexistence, love and peace.
- Dr. Mohammad Waheeb: The role of tourism and antiquities in religious harmony and coexistence.
- Mr Faris Hadad ,The Christian community in

Feedback

Second Day : Field Activities

- The initiative to establish a garden harmony. Second Day
- At its conclusion, the participants visited the Jordanian Christian religious monuments in the "Berain" region such as the discovered Byzantine church, as well as the heritage mosque of Sarut village and listened to the explanation from Dr. Mohammad Waheeb and local community inhabitants.
- Tour in Classical Sites in Wadi Zarqa – Amman (Ancient Pheladelphia) .

The Second Harmony Conference 2016

Common Life through Tourism and Archeology

The second conference was launched under the auspices of the Minister of Youth Rami Al-Dweikat in 2016 under the title "Common Life through Tourism and Archeology". This conference was concerned with showing religious harmony on the blessed land of Jordan through the multiple archaeological sites. <https://www.ammonnews.net/article/287469>

Events

In the first day scientific session, each of the following spoke:

The conference includes lectures, namely:

- Dr. Malik Badr, "Coexistence through Religious Tourism,"
- Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Huwaidi, "The Beginnings of the Settlement of Christian Families in Zarqa",
- Prof. Dr. Muhammad Wahib "The Journey of Jesus Christ in the Land of Jordan",
- Researcher Yenal Freihat , "The Elaf Al-Quraishi Caravan through Zarqa during the Byzantine Era" -Dr.Ziad Talafha, "The Cave of Christ, Linguistic Studies,"
- Researcher Nivin Rashad, "The role of engineering documentation in preserving the common heritage."

Feedback

Second day : Activities

- Prof Dr. Muhammad Wahib was publishing a book entiteled "Discovering Jesus Baptism site-Jordan " Participants mostly from Amman&Zarqa cities ,Bishops , Saints, muslims holy men & local community representatives .
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMBogO7IYps.7/12/2017>.
- The Head of The Organizing Committee of the conference was participated in the organizing and inviting Bishop Attalla from Jerusalem to Zarqa to initiate a Dialogue Between Muslims and Christian in the City
- Launched Trails: Hejaz–Jordan Railway Route, through old Amman churches and mosques .
- http://www.ammancitygis.gov.jo/_Tourism



The conference, Prof Waheeb (Head of The Organizing Committee) participated in the organizing and inviting Bishop Hana Atallah from Jerusalem to Jordan- Zarqa to initiate Dialogue between Muslims and Christian in the City .

The Third Harmony Conference 2018

Paths of Faith in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

The third harmony conference was launched under the patronage of His Excellency Mr Michael Hamarneh, former Minister of Tourism; and he has discussed the history of religious harmony and its fruit, which reflected positively on Jordanian society and contributed to its stability.

At the end of the conference the participants recommended activating the role of faith paths, and developing them and benefiting from the economics of religious tourism to create job opportunities and develop the economies of the local community, and to support some initiatives aimed at promoting common life, and to publish the results of research and studies to popularize the desired benefit, and the poet Fawzi Al-Abed concluded with a poem on the paths of faith On the blessed land of Jordan.

<https://www.ammonnews.net/article/355327>

Events

The first day of the conference includes lectures, namely:

1-Dr Jumanah Dweikat ,The holy places and the local communities ,future visions .

2- Dr. Ziad Talafha and Dr. Abdel Aziz Mahmoud in a lecture on "Islamic Mosques and Churches in the Jordanian Badia."

Dr –Muhanad Trad , Sacred architecture through ages ,in Jordan ,Function and way of construction.

3- Dr. Malik Badr on "The Objectives of Religious Tourism and Harmony".

4- Dr. Rami Al-Dahon, on "Marketing of Tourist and Historical Sites in Zarqa"

5- Researcher Nivin Rashad and Yanal Freihat on "Documenting the Byzantine Heritage in the Southern Jordan Valley".

Feedback

Second Day .Feild Activities

- Launched Trails: Jesus Journey Route, from Gadara (Umm Qais to Baptism Site)

The participants walked through the trail and visited the place where Jesus met the mad man in Gadara .

http://www.ammancitygis.gov.jo/_Tourism

- Cave of Seven Sleepers Route, from Pheladelphia- Abu Alanda-Al-Raqeem

http://www.ammancitygis.gov.jo/_Tourism

The participants walked the route of seven sleepers from Pheladelphia to the Famous cave in Amman (Cave of seven sleepers)through several Byzantine churches and mosques along the route to Abu Alanda where the cave discovered in 1962 .



**Part of The Conference Organizing Committee Team,
Dr Abdulaziz, Mr Michael Kefayeh, Prof Mohammed Waheeb,
Ms Faten Smerat ,Late Adnan Asfour, Mr Musa Hadad, & Ms
Niveen Rashad**

The Fourth Harmony Conference 2019

Paths of Holiness and Harmony through Tourism and Archaeology

The conference was launched from the Jordanian Christian Youth Club in Zarqa on Wednesday -2019 under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Culture and Youth, and the conference focused on the importance and role of holiness paths and how to develop them and benefit from the tourism economies to create job opportunities and develop the local community economies.

Also dealt with the most important features of common religious sites on the land of the Blessed Kingdom, and at the end, the delegate of the conference sponsor, Dr. Muhammad Jaradat, in the presence of the President of the Zarqa Governorate Council, Dr. Ahmed Olimat and the President of the Christian Youth Club, Miss Faten Smirat, honored students and graduates of the Hashemite University who contributed to the achievement of discoveries and achievements in harmony feild in Zarqa Governorate.

https://hu.edu.jo/NewsCenter/f_news_0_0.aspx?newsid=32380#.YCwj_XmxXI

Events

The first day of the conference includes lectures, namely:

1-Dr. Abdel Aziz Mahmoud from Al-Bayt University spoke in a lecture about the path of Khirbet As-Samra and Rehab and Sama Al-Sarhan,2- Dr. Ramzi Rousan spoke about the impact of religious tourism and harmony on common life, Then 3-Prof Dr. Hussein Qudrah , Head of the Tourism Department at the Hashemite University, spoke in his lecture on globalization and its relationship to beliefs, ethics,4- Dr. Mohammad Waheeb, head of the Organizing committee of Hashemite University, spoke about the Islamic-Christian harmony. and praising the initiatives of His Majesty the King to promote common life, while the researcher 5-Rahmeh Imran dealt with the most important features of shared religious sites on the land of the blessed Kingdom.6- Yanal Frehat discussed the role of youth inharmony .

Feedback

Second Day : Field Activities

The participants (Darb Al Mamoudeyh) visited site of Umm er Rassas where new churches were discovered & also where Bishop Baheere Met prophet Mohammed while he was 12 years old .

-Also visited Mount Nebo of Moses Phrofet , the churches the shrines the mosaic floors, as well as the mosque of Khatabyeh in Madaba District

-The participants shared the signing ceremony of the book entitled (Umm er –Rassas the Prophet and the Saint , 2018 by Prof Mohed Waheeb) The book represent the harmony types between Muslims & Christianes in Madaba City- south Amman the Capitle ,also visiting St Georgeous church where the earliest known mosaic map was found and dated to Byzantine Period .

The Fifth Harmony Conference 2020

Religious Harmony and Shared Life in Zarqa

The fifth conference for harmony and shared life was held under the auspices of the Governor of Zarqa, Mr. Hijazi Al-Assaf, under the organization of the conference, the Christian Youth Club and the Hashemite University, and in cooperation with the Yajouz Cultural Forum, the Ministry of Endowments, Zarqa Governorate Council, Al-Bayt University, Princess Sumaya University, the Jordanian Tourist Guides Association, and a number of cultural organizations And associations and research institutions and a number of Christian and Islamic clerics.

https://hu.edu.jo/NewsCenter/f_news_0_0.aspx?newsid=32380#.YCWj_XmxXIU

Events

The first day of the conference includes lectures, namely:

In the scientific session, 1- Dr. Hussein Al Qudra from the Hashemite University, the importance of harmony in supporting the intellectual and scientific production of the society and the contribution of this to its growth and prosperity. 2- Dr. Raed Al-Washah from Princess Sumaya University pointed out the importance of technological development in supplementing studies and research in the field of harmony and the importance of scientific research in documenting what is accomplished accurately and continuously. 3- Mr Michel Kifaya from the Christian Youth Club praised the effort exerted in laying the foundations for harmony, co-existence, and the sustainability of achievement and giving. 4- Dr. Adnan Lotfi explained the initiative for the path of civilized harmony, and pointed out the tourist tracks, the foundations of common life, and the importance of communication in laying the foundations for coexistence. Prof Mohammed Waheeb, Recent discoveries in the Baptism site, east of Jordan River.

Feedback

The Second Day: Field Activities

_ Distribution of Brouchoures of Baptism Trail which extended from Babtism site to Mountinans areas to Amman

- Signing a book entitled Muslims and Christian Harmony in Jordan 2019 by Prof Mohed Waheeb, in the Lutheran Church under aucipous of Father Samer Azer & with participation of academissions, holy men, NGO,s representatives, and forign missions in Jordan, the book was distributed free for the participants

- Visiting old Amman city were lot of Byzantine sites still visible on the surface.

Impact

The impact on speaker's panel and guests attended is enormous. There is no charge to attend the conference. Moreover, complimentary refreshments and lunch, are also provided; for the last 5 years exception for 6th Conference due to COVID-19, the number of guests was limited.

People benefit in the first place; because the conference is academic in nature. As most of the speakers are academics and professionals in multiple fields; And also from the multiple scientific outputs that emerged from this conference, such as a number of books, the most important of which is the book, The Harmony of Religions, by Prof. Muhammad Waheeb and many other books. The following are a number of them:

- Waheeb, M.2016, Mosque of Qastal, Book of(The First International Conference in Tourism Management and Heritage Preservation Conference),Editores ,Mairna Mustafa etal .. Hashemite University, Queen Rania college for tourism & cultural heritage-Zarqa, PP,131-146 .
- Waheeb, M. & Mahmoud, A .2017, Discovery of Jesus Cave in Iraq Al-Amir, Southern Levant-JordanInternational Journal of Innovative Research and Knowledge Volume- 2 Issue-10, October-2017. www.ijirk.com egap,ISSN-2213-1356 .www.ijirk.com.
- Waheeb, M.2017 A Unique Byzantine Architectural Remains on the Eastern Bank of Jordan River,American International Journal of Contemporary Research. Vol. 7, No. 4, December 2017 93.
- Waheeb, M. &Mahmoud, A .2018,The Discovery of Gharabaa Byzantine Caravanserai, Near Site of Jesus Baptism-Jordan River International Journal of Archaeology 2018; 5(3): 19-25, <http://www.sciencepublishinggroup.com/j/ijadoi> : 10.11648/j.ija.20170503.11 . ISSN: 2330-7587 (Print); ISSN: 2330-7595 (Online).
- Waheeb, M. & Mahmoud, A .2018,THE DISCOVERY OF AENON (SALEEM) NEAR SITE OF JESUS BAPTISM. ISSN: 2320-5407 Int. J. Adv. Res. 6(2), 1399-14111399 , Journal Homepage: -www.journalijar.com
- Waheeb, M.2019 : Science of Archaeology ,the beginning &Development in Training Guide of Shared Heritage , PP23-49 ,Editor Rene Hattar, Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, AlAn publishers and Distributers Amman-Jordan .
- Waheeb, M. 2019 : Mountain of Transfiguration & New Discoveries in Site of Jesus Baptism / Jordan RiverAmerican International Journal of Contemporary Research Vol. 9, No. 2, June 2019 doi:10.30845/AIJCR.vol,9n,2p,3- 15.
- Waheeb, M.&Abdulaziz Mahmoud.2019, :The Holy Triangular Along the Christian Pilgrims Road, East of Jordan.River (Baptism Site, Aenon Near to Saleem, and TyroeCave)Journal of Philosophy, Culture and Religion www.iiste.org ,ISSN 2422-8443 An International Peer-reviewed JournalVol.34.

Besides that, there were a series of international Discoveries made in collaboration with the Conference committee, Hashemite University ,and Dept. of Antiquities of Jordan among of them:

- The Discovery of Site Of Jesus Baptism ,Headed By Prof dr Mohammed Waheeb
- The Discovery of Christian Pilgrims Road from Baptism Site to Mount Nebo ,Headed By Prof Mohammed Waheeb
- The Discovery of Jesus Cave in Iraq Al Ameer –Jordan, Headed By Prof dr Mohammed Waheeb
- Documentation of Byzantine Architectures Project in Southern Ghor of Jordan
- Byzantine Churches Built During The Islamic Ages (Excavations and Documentation)in cooperation with Ministry of Culture .



Documentation Project for saving the Hermit Caves in Jordan Valley- Southern Ghor, one of several benefits of the conference , Several caves were documented and saved from direct threats of destruction caused by human and natural factors.

The group also emerged from this conference, the path of civilized harmony, which launched a significant number of multiple tourist routes all over Jordan, and the following are the most important of those paths:

- Waheeb, M. The Touristic Map of Baptism Route from Amman- Baptism Site, Jordan Valley. <http://www.ammancitygis.gov.jo/ Tourism>.
- Cave of Seven Sleepers Route, from Pheladelphia- Abu Alanda-Al-Raqeem, <http://www.ammancitygis.gov.jo/ Tourism>
- Hejaz-Jordan Railway Route, <http://www.ammancitygis.gov.jo/ Tourism>
- Quraish Caravan Route <http://www.ammancitygis.gov.jo/ Tourism>
- Jesus Journey Route ,<http://www.ammancitygis.gov.jo/ Tourism>
- Saham Touristic Route, see The Discovery of Saham Civilizations, supported by GIZ – Germany foundation, Irbid- Jordan 2018.



Field visits More Than 30 Visits were organized through 2015-2020 in our Program called (Trail of Harmony-Jordan) Participants are from Academicians, Holy men Students, NGOs,and local communities .

The Sixth Harmony Conference 2021

Conference Program

The Sixth Harmony Conference organized by the Hashemite University in cooperation with the Christian Youth Club and a number of local community institutions NGOs in Zarqa. On February 7, 2021; The conference came in response to the call of His Majesty King Abdullah II in the United Nations, to consider the first week of the beginning of February of each year as a week of religious harmony, and to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the title "Harmony in a Hundred Years", where the works of the first day were held at 5 pm Evening (local time) at the headquarters of the Jordanian Christian Youth Club in Zarqa; Miss Faten Smairat, president of the club, opened the conference with a welcoming speech in which she clarified the interest that the conference is receiving at the local, regional and international levels alike due to the scientific research and studies that result from the conference participants. The director of endowments (Awqaf) Zarqa Dr. Ahmed Harahsheh said that Islam is an approach of moderation, moderation, non-extremism, participation and tolerance with other religions. Whereas, Bishop Father . Ibrahim Nairouz explained the importance of recalling religious harmony by holding conferences and workshops between followers of different religions. The scientific session in the conference included a number of topics presented by academics from the Hashemite University and Al-Bayt University, in addition to a number of researchers and scholars from the local community and other institutions.

<https://culture.gov.jo/node/66684>

<https://royanews.tv/video/27551>

First Day

- ❖ **Prof Dr Hussein Qudrah ,Future Vision of Harmony in the region and Jordan .**
- ❖ **Dr Mohammed Waheeb, Harmony in Jordan Through one Hundred Years (1921-2021) .**
- ❖ **Dr Abdullaziz Mahmoud , Early Settlement and Harmony Practices in Zarqa in the Past and Future**
- ❖ **Ms .Faten Smerat: Continuous Harmony in the Sixth Conference of Harmony in Jordan**
- ❖ **Dr Ramzi Rousan : The Holy Trails in Wadi Zarqa – Jordan ,trails of Harmony .**
- ❖ **Dr Abdul Rahim Idais: Harmony and Education in Schools in Zarqa City Review and Perspectives.**
- ❖ **Dr Hussei ASI: Jerusalem the Place of Harmony, And the Role of Hashemite Family of Jordan Kingdom in the Holy Places of the City.**
- ❖ **Mr Faris Smerat : Zarqa An Ideal Example of Harmony in the World , Lessons learned and Future Vision .**
- ❖ **Dr Malek Bader :Goals of Religious Tourism and their effect on Harmony of Religions**
- ❖ **Ms Niveen Rashad & Mr Yanal Freihat: The Role of Youth in Harmony Activities in Jordan Future Vision.**

Second Day

Field Activities

- ❖ Visiting Newly Discovered Byzantine Mess rat Church.
- ❖ Visiting the Old Mosque of Zarqa Sarut Mosque
- ❖ Launching the Book entitled Baptism Site and The Surrounding Zone East of Jordan River(Still not Signed due to Covid 19)
- ❖ Dialogue with the Local Community
- ❖ Launching & Establishment of New Harmony Trail in Wadi Zarqa and Amman
<https://jfranews.com.jo/article/283547>.

Sites of Harmony



1- Jesus Baptism :





-The Discovery of Site of Jesus Baptism –By Prof Mohammed Waheeb

<http://www.sciencepublishinggroup.com/journal/paperinfo?journalid=209&doi=10.11648/j.ija.20190701.11>

-Field Achievements through the Conference and Cooperation with Hashemite University and local NGO,s .




▪ Baptism Site / Jordan – in The World Heritage Site By UNISCO



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

World
Heritage
Convention

Help preserve si




بحث في القائمة


advanced search advanced search

Baptism site

Describe

This archaeological site, which is located nine kilometers north of the Dead Sea, includes two main archaeological areas, namely Tell al-Kharrar, known as "Mar Elias Hill" or "Prophet Elias", and the "John the Baptist" churches near the Jordan River. This place in the middle of a wasteland is considered according to Christian tradition the site where Jesus of Nazareth was baptized by John the Baptist. The place is characterized by monuments dating back to Roman and Byzantine times, such as churches, small temples, monasteries, and caves that were used as shelters for hermits, as well as water pools for baptism, which indicates the religious value of this place. This site is also a popular destination for Christian pilgrims.



 Jordan
Reference : 1446
Registration year : 2015
Standards : (iii) (vi)
Central District: 294.1650 Ha
Buffer area : 957.1780 Ha

■ Recognition certificates in Baptism site :

The Discovery represents a turning point to real harmony, Guided by Prof Waheeb in Jordan and the Middle East countries

ΕΛΛΗΝΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΝ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ
ΙΕΡΟΣΟΛΥΜΩΝ

بطيريك كيرالاروقملا ارتوذكسيان
القدس

الرقم : 211

صاحب السمو الملكي الامير غازي بن محمد المعظم
المبعوث الشخصي والمستشار الخاص لجلالة الملك المعظم
رئيس مجلس أمناء هيئة موقع منطس السيد المسيح

أبعث إلى سموكم بصادق المودة والتقدير والاحترام وبعد ... ،

فإنه ليسعدني ان أُنذكم بأنه استجابة لطلب سموكم الكريم ، وتنفيذاً لتوجيهاتنا قام المجمع المقدس
لبطيريكينا الأرثوذكسية المقدسة بإدراج طلبكم بخصوص موقع المنطس على جدول أعماله ، وقد جرى
التداول في هذا الأمر من قبل المجمع في اجتماع يوم الأربعاء الموافق 19 كانون الثاني 2006 وفي الجلسة
الثانية المنعقدة يوم الأربعاء الموافق 26 كانون الثاني 2006 . وبعد الدراسة قرر مجمعنا المقدس
وبالإجماع وإستناداً إلى التقليد الشريف الطويل الأمد لكنيستنا الأرثوذكسية المقدسة احتيبار ضفة نهر الأردن
الشرقية كضفة شرعية لمكان العماد المقدس (Eastern Baptismal site).

وننتهز الفرصة لنعنيء المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية بهذا القرار الصائبر عن مجمعنا الذي يكرس قداسة
هذا الموقع مما يجعله موقعاً هاماً للحج المسيحي وثمن الجهود التي قامت بها المملكة لتطوير موقع
المنطس على الضفة الشرقية لنهر الأردن بصفته مكان عماد السيد يسوع المسيح ونيبارك الإحتفال السنوي
الذي يتم بانتسبيق مع الدوائر في الحكومة المعنية لتقديس المياه في الخامس من كانون الثاني من خدمة
الحجاج والقادمين إلى النهر المقدس الذي تقدمت كلبل مياه ضفتيه لما تعمد المسيح فيه من القديس يوحنا
السابق والذي زينته جموع التمسك القديسين من الرجال والنساء في القرون الأولى .

وإننا إذ نستمطر نعم وبركات الثالوث القدوس المعنن في هذا المكان المقدس على الأردن ملكا وحكومة
وسعيه وأرضه وضيوفه وحجابه الأكتفاء ، لندعو لسموكم بالتفريق والسداد في ظل صاحب الجلالة الملك
عبدالله الثاني ابن الحسين أيده الله ورعاه .

ثيوفيلوس الكسبي
بطيريك المديف المقدس
2006

القدس اشريف : 2006/4/10



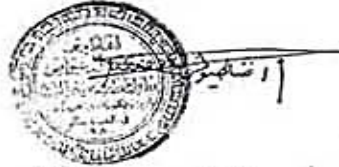
صاحب السمو الأمير غازي بن محمد حفظه الله ورعاه
رئيس مجلس أمناء هيئة موقع المغطس "نهر الأردن" الأكرم
عمان - الأردن

تحية عربية طيبة وبعد:

بهنا أن نكتب إليكم لتتكرموا بمنح كنيستنا السريانية الأرثوذكسية في المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية والقس وسائر الديار المقدسة قطعة أرض في موقع المغطس، وذلك لبناء كنيسة ودير عليها بهدف استقبال آلاف الحجاج السريان القادمين من أوروبا والولايات المتحدة الأميركية والشرق الأوسط، وخاصة من الأردن وفلسطين وسورية ولبنان والعراق وتركيا.

وقد مررنا باكتشاف موقع المغطس الحالي، وهو المكان الصحيح الذي اعتمد فيه السيد المسيح له المجد استناداً إلى ما جاء في الإنجيل المقدس والتاريخ والأبحاث والاكتشافات الأثرية. ونظراً لما لهذا الاكتشاف من أهمية كبرى نعتبر موقع المغطس هو ثالث مكان مقدس من الناحية الدينية لدى المسيحيين بعد كنيسة المهد في بيت لحم وكنيسة القيامة في القدس. وسوف نبحث أبناء كنيستنا السريانية الأرثوذكسية المنششرين في العالم على ضرورة زيارة موقع المغطس على الضفة الشرقية من نهر الأردن لبنالوا البركات والسلم الروحية.

فنأمل السماح لكنيستنا ببناء كنيسة ودير على قطعة الأرض التي ستخصصونها لكنيستنا السريانية الأرثوذكسية في موقع المغطس. مع خالص شكرنا وامتناننا لتعاونكم وجهودكم المشكورة لما يعود بالخير والفائدة على المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية بقيادة حامي البلاد وبانيها جلالة الملك عبد الله الثاني حفظه الله ودعم بالصحة والتوفيق.



اغناطيوس زكّا الأوّل عيواص

بطريرك أنطاكية وسائر المشرق
الرئيس الأعلى للكنيسة السريانية الأرثوذكسية في العالم أجمع



ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTERBURY

His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein
of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

18 January 2008

Your Majesty,

Warm greetings to you from London.

Our Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, the Rt Revd Suheil Dawani, has informed me of your generous offer to grant the Anglican church some land on which to build a church at the site of the baptism of Jesus.

In our Christian tradition this site is linked to a very important moment in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, marking the beginning of his public ministry. The Baptism Site is, therefore, a very holy site to which pilgrims have been drawn since the earliest times. The accounts of these pilgrims show that, guided by the words "beyond the Jordan" in the Gospel of St John (Ch3, v.26), the eastern bank of the River Jordan was venerated as the site of the baptism. The extensive archaeological work being done at the Baptism Site supports these accounts.

Anglican pilgrims from around the world will certainly wish to join their prayers and worship at the Baptism Site with those of other pilgrims, taking their place in the continuous witness of Christians throughout the centuries to the importance of the site. I am, therefore, most grateful for the proposed grant of land, on which our diocese would expect to build a church to facilitate and enhance the pilgrims' experience. We are most keen to encourage the faithful to visit the holy sites and experience for themselves the warm welcome that we have always received in Jordan and throughout the Holy Land.

Your Majesty, please be assured our continued prayers for you and the people of the Hashemite Kingdom,

*With every blessing & good wish,
+ Rowan Cantuar:*

Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU



**ПАТРИАРХ МОСКОВСКИЙ И ВСЕЯ РУСИ
АЛЕКСИЙ**

• 15 • *МОНА* 2006 г.

119034 Москва, Чистый пер. 5

№ 4194

**ЕГО КОРОЛЕВСКОМУ ВЕЛИЧЕСТВУ,
КОРОЛЮ ИОРДАНИИ АБДАЛЛЕ II**

Ваше Величество!

Сердечно приветствуем Вас, желая Вашему Королевскому Величеству доброго здоровья, а дружественному иорданскому народу - мира и процветания.

От Нашего представителя в Святой Земле архимандрита Елисея Мы узнали о том, что Ваше Королевское Величество имеет богоугодное намерение развивать международное паломничество к месту Крещения Господа нашего Иисуса Христа на священной реке Иордан. Мы восприняли эту весть с радостью и глубоким удовлетворением, ибо для каждого христианина евангельское событие Крещения Господня имеет важное значение как свидетельство Его Божественного посланничества и начало Его общественного служения.

В Евангелии от Иоанна говорится, что Крещение Господне происходило «в Вифаваре при Иордане, где крестил Иоанн» (Ин. 1, 28). Тот же евангелист повествует, что спустя некоторое время Господь, уклоняясь до времени от преследования иудеев, «пошел опять за Иордан на то место, где прежде крестил Иоанн, и остался там» (Ин. 10, 40). Христиане глубоко почитают все места, связанные с земной жизнью Иисуса Христа. Поэтому освященные стопами Господа берег и воды Иордана так же дороги нам, как вифлеемский Вертеп и Гроб Господень в Иерусалиме.

Русская Православная Церковь готова тесно сотрудничать в организации такого паломничества с властями Иорданского Хашимитского Королевства при содействии российского государства и во взаимодействии с православным Иерусалимским Патриархатом. Полагаем, что расширению потока паломников во многом способствовало бы наличие на берегу священной реки помещений для размещения странников.

Выражаем надежду, что плодом нашего взаимопольного сотрудничества станут благодарные сердца многих тысяч паломников, которые будут прибывать сюда для поклонения этому святому месту.

С глубоким уважением

ПАТРИАРХ МОСКОВСКИЙ И ВСЕЯ РУСИ

**His Royal Majesty
King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

Your Majesty,

We extend to You Our heartfelt greetings and wish Your Royal Majesty good health and the friendly people of Jordan peace and prosperity.

We have learned from Our representative in the Holy Land Archimandrite Elisey that Your Royal Majesty has a God-pleasing intention of developing international pilgrimage to the site of Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy River of Jordan. It was with a feeling of joy and profound satisfaction that We received the news since for every Christian the evangelic event of Our Lord's Baptism is of particular importance, bearing testimony to His Divine mission and marking the beginning of His public ministry.

The Gospel according to St. John tells us that Our Lord's Baptism took place 'in Bethany beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing' (John 1:28). The same Evangelist says that afterwards Our Lord, avoiding persecution by the Jews until the time came, 'went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode' (John 10, 40). Christians have a deep reverence for all the places connected with the earthly life of Jesus Christ. This is why this bank and waters of the Jordan River blessed by the footsteps of Our Lord are as dear to us as the Grotto in Bethlehem and the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

The Russian Orthodox Church is ready for a close cooperation with the authorities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in organizing such pilgrimage with the assistance from the Russian state and in collaboration with the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem. We believe that the stream of pilgrims might be substantially increased if we could have premises to accommodate these pilgrims right on the bank of the Sacred River.

We hope that our mutually beneficial cooperation will have as its result high appreciation of many thousands of pilgrims that will come to venerate this Holy Place.

With high esteem,

Alexy II,
Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia

Armenian Patriarchate



ՀԱՅԿԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԱՊՈՍՏՈՒՆԻԿԱԿԱՆ ԵՊԱՐԿՈՍՅԱՆ ԿԵՆՏՐՈՆ

بطريركية الأرمن

سمو الأمير غازي بن محمد المعظم
رئيس مجلس أمناء هيئة موقع المغطس - الأردن

تحية و دعاء وبعد،

يشرفنا، يا صاحب السمو الملكي، و يسعدنا جدا، أن نرفع إليكم خالص التقدير و الاحترام، ساتلين الياري تعالي، عز و جل، أن يحفظكم و يغمركم بوافر الصحة و الهناء و يمد بعمركم لتتقوا ذخرا و دعامة للأردن الحبيب في كنف سيد البلاد جلالة الملك عبد الله الثاني بن الحسين المعظم، حفظه الله بألف خير و سلام.

و نرجوكم، يا صاحب السمو، أن تنقلوا إلى جلالته، خالص حبنا و عميق ولاتنا للعرش الهاشمي، و نحن و جميع أبنائنا، نرافق جلالته دوماً بآدعيتنا و صلواتنا. أجل لقد جسدت جلالته مفهوم القيادة في ابسط معانيها، و هي قنطرة القائد على أن يستشف الظرف التاريخي و مكانة بلده في لعب دوره. و جلالته قد أثبت مرارا و تكرارا أنه يملك مقومات القيادة الواعية لحركة التاريخ من خلال قدرته الحكيمة على فهم مكونات النظام الدولي الراهن، الذي يشهد حاليا تحولات جذرية تجاه الكثير من القضايا و المحاور. ففي لقاءاته و حواراته مع قادة العالم و زعمائه، قدم جلالته المقترحات العملية و الناجعة لمعالجة بعد التحديات و المعضلات بما يقوي و يعزز مكانة الأمة العربية و يجعلها قادرة على المشاركة في صنع التاريخ ضمن الحق و العدل، اخذ الله بيده و أمد بعمره لسنين كثيرة.

إننا يا صاحب السمو، لفي غبطة و ارتياح، كونكم، على رأس مجلس هيئة الموقع " المغطس "، و نقدر عنانكم الكبير و جهودكم المتواصل لكل ما تبذلون في سبيل تعزيز هذا الموقع التاريخي و المقدس، و إعطائه ما يستحق من الرعايا و الاهتمام.

و لقد أثبت تقليدنا الكنسي و أكدت الأبحاث الأثرية و الدراسات العلمية، و بخاصة ما تم اكتشافه حديثا في الأراضي الأردنية من إن هناك ما يقارب الـ 46 / كنيسة قديمة في الأردن تعود إلى ما قبل الإسلام و حتى العصر الأموي، و منها موقع " المغطس ".

و لقد تأكد لعلماء الآثار أنه سنة / 333 / ميلادية، قد بنى، أجدادنا المسيحيون الأولون، ديرا كبيرا على اسم القديس يوحنا المعمدان < النبي يحيى > على الضفة الشرقية من نهر الأردن، و على بعد ما يقارب الثمانية أو عشرة أميال عن بحر الميت، و ذلك تخليداً لذكرى عمادة السيد المسيح، عليه السلام، على يد يوحنا المعمدان في هذا الموقع بالذات المعروف باسم " المغطس "، الذي يعتبر ثالث أقدس موقع ديني مسيحي بعد كنيسة المهدي و كنيسة القيامة.



Latin Vicariate

*Al - Ameerah Aliah Street 28 - Sweifieh - P.O.Box 851379 Amman 11185 Jordan
Tel. 962-6-5929546 - Fax. 962-6-5920548*

Amman, 18.1.2003

His Royal Highness
Prince Ghazi Bin Mohammad
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Baptismal Site

Warm and sincere greetings.

We have the honour to extend to Your Royal Highness our sincere appreciation and distinct loyalty and invoke God Almighty to endow your goodself the enjoyment of ample good health and a happy long life under the protection of the Sovereign of the State and Master of all Jordanians. We are overwhelmed with joy for your generous granting of continuous and endless attention with the objective of shedding light upon the Baptismal Site, the virtuous place in which Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist, and the Holy Site which embodies the magnanimous life, whose place is the dwelling of the Spirit eternally bestowed thus giving life to the believers in Jesus Christ throughout the ages. This Site has become the meeting place of God and the human being, in which interpenetrate the past with the present and the future, transforming all periods of history into spiritual breaths of faith which become deep-rooted in the hearts of the faithful throughout ages and generations.

The Christian tradition has always linked the baptism of Jesus Christ with the river Jordan, as mentioned in the Holy Gospel and a large number of pilgrims have written memories of their pilgrimage to holy places, some of which have come to our knowledge. We mention as an example the writings of Meliton, the Bishop of Sardis, in the second century after Christ, saying: "*.. I went to the East and saw the places mentioned in the Holy Bible; thus everything has become clear and meaningful*". At the end of the third century and the beginning of the fourth century, Eusebius of Caesarea, the famous ecclesiastical historian mentioned in the Onomasticon dictionary, described the biblical sites and said that numerous faithful brethren who desired the second birth were baptized in Jordan and submerged themselves in the riverbed following the example of Jesus Christ who was baptized in the same place. The pilgrim coming from the city of Bordeaux in the year 333, - who did not mention his name, like other pilgrims who mentioned theirs - said that the Baptismal Site of the Lord in the river Jordan is eight miles beyond the Dead Sea. The pilgrim arriving from Piacenza in the year 570 added another information which is that the Baptismal Site was opposite the convent of Saint John the Baptist in the East Bank of the river.

In the fifth century in the era of Patriarch Elijah, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Emperor Anastasius ordered the construction of three churches, one in the West Bank of the river, the second the baptismal church in the East bank of the river. It was constructed on arches to avoid damages, which may be caused by the overflow of the river. The third was constructed in honour of Saint John the Baptist in the convent of Safsafa, on the hill of Prophet Elijah near Al-Kharrar fountain, and in commemoration of Beit Anya across the Jordan which John the Evangelist has mentioned in the twenty eighth verse of chapter one.

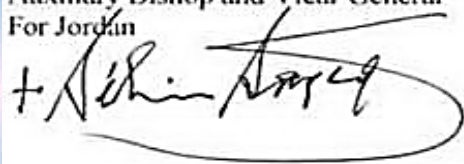
Until the fourteenth century, the pilgrims used to arrive from Jerusalem and the neighbouring towns and villages to the river and cross it to the East bank in order to pray and worship God in the baptism church of Jesus Christ - known as the church of the robe or gown, and in the church of John the Baptist, on the hill of Prophet Elijah, near Safsafa - Al-Kharrar fountain.

The antiquities which were recently discovered in the Jordanian territory date back to the first Christian tradition and give it historic value.

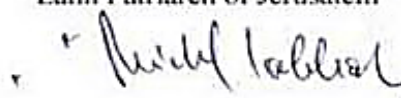
The tongues of the faithful will constantly keep praising with gratitude and thankfulness the sublimity of your exalted vision by your gracious allocation of a piece of land to us in the Baptismal Site to construct a church and its annexes for the glory and commemoration of the Baptism of Jesus Christ to offer the fragrance of spiritual service to Christian pilgrims arriving from different parts of the world to this Holy Site in which Jesus Christ was baptized. Your Highness is certainly aware that the majority of Christian pilgrims are affiliated to the Catholic Church and to the traditional established Protestant Churches. We are prepared to receive in the church, the sons of all Christian Churches who desire to celebrate mass and ritual worshipping in this Holy Site. We and our population are citizens who dedicate ourselves to serve our homeland and are proud of our Hashemite leadership and boast of our homeland and our Christian and Islamic Holy Places. This is our duty and obligation and a right for our invaluable land. We invoke God to grant your goodself good health and a long life to bestow liberally upon your Highness his profuse blessings.

With all our esteem and our deep gratitude.

Signature
+Bishop Selim Sayegh
Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General
For Jordan



Signature
+Michel Sabbah
Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem



From this point we understand that the Jerusalem patriarch, Mother of Churches, assigned a bishop responsible for this area under the name of "Archbishop of the River Jordan." Owing to its importance, and for the first time in history, Patriarch Dorotheos I (AD 1376) was titled Patriarch of Jerusalem, Syria, the Arab world, and Transjordan. This title remains to this day.

Jordan's liturgical and spiritual significance rendered our ancestors, the Patriarchs of the Sacred Orthodox Apostolic See, to own what exceeds as 1000 dunums of land at the Holy Baptism site.

Your Royal Highness,

Determining Jesus Christ's baptism site is not an easy task today, but we are taking guidance from the verses of the Holy Book, as well as the history and holy tradition of our Orthodox Church. Hence, we believe that Jesus Christ came to John the Baptist to become baptized; that place was at "Bethany Beyond Jordan" (John 19:1). We also believe that Saint Kerless the Jerusalemite's complaint regarding the difficulty of completing Christmas and baptism prayers (as both festivals were celebrated together in the past)— in the west of River Jordan, the birthplace of Christ, and in Bethlehem and the Baptism site (The History of the Church in the Holy Lands – Dr. Fredrek Hayer)— proves the site's place. This situation later prompted Patriarch Evangelios to separate the holidays. Patriarch Dositheos II indicates in his book, The History of Jerusalem's Patriarchs (17th century) that the celebration of the Lord's existence (baptism) used to take place in the river on a small boat. Shihada and Nicola Khouri wrote in their above-mentioned book that Ibrahim Pasha allowed the rebuilding of John the Baptist Monastery that was on the west bank of the river and cancelled the fee on Jordan's pilgrims. Gradually and for historical and political reasons, the celebration moved to the west side of the river.

Your Royal Highness,

From what has already been mentioned, we can identify that the baptism area of the Lord Jesus Christ, the place where John the Baptist baptized Him in Transjordan, is on the east bank of the river facing Jericho and about seven miles from the watercourse flow of the river in the Dead Sea. From this, we show that the Baptism site of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ lies in the lands of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, exactly on the east bank of the river.

Your Royal Highness,

We are enormously delighted and reassured over your assignment by our King as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Baptism Site. We acknowledge and are familiar with your continued discretion and care in portraying the Holy Baptism site in the utmost appropriate and correct spiritual path, as it is the spiritual starting point for all Christians in the world.

The church has devoted itself, under Your Highness' directions, to build Saint John the Baptist Church at the Baptism site during the reign of Jordan's King Abdullah II, to facilitate visits from all believers from across the world in the Baptism site, and to fulfill the hearts of believers as "the wilderness, earth, and land joy ... at that moment the eyes of the blind and ears of the deaf open ... and becomes a path called: the Holy Path." (Elijah 35).

We pray before God Almighty to keep you, Your Highness, a generous person to the country, and bestow on you health and a life of comfort and determination to prosper with your generosity and work to raise and flourish our beloved Jordan under the reign of our Hashemite King Abdullah II.

From Holy Jerusalem 2/10/2003
(19/9/2003)

My Constant Prayers
Erinious I
Patriarch of the Holy City

Greek Orthodox Patriarchate

Jerusalem

**His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Bin Mohammad
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Baptism Site**

Your Royal Highness,

The Baptism site holds great importance to the Ecumenical Church especially Jerusalem's Patriarch of Orthodox. Patriarchate Our liturgical understanding derives its inspiration from the River Jordan, and our church, which approved the baptism of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is linked to Jordan's riverbed spiritually and historically.

Since our Orthodox tradition was supported by monks and hermits across Jordan in the early centuries, we believe, as Chrysostomos indicated in The History of Jerusalem's Church, that Bishop of Venis (Transjordan), Saeed Al Wafidi, participated with Patriarch Evangelios in the fourth ecumenical council in the year AD 451, where he determined to promote Jerusalem's Church to an independent Patriarch. The monks of the River Jordan together with Saint Saba also played a major role in strengthening and consolidating the Orthodox belief and returning Patriarch Elijah from his exile in the year AD 516 to assume his patriarchal position. As a show of gratitude and honor to Jordan's monks, Patriarch Elijah requested that Saint John the Baptist Monastery be built under the patronage of Emperor Justinian , who in the past built luxurious churches and monasteries including the Monastery of Virgin Mary in Karak. During the Crusades, the monks of Jordan refused to deal with the crusaders and their principles and devoted themselves to reproducing the Arabic Church Books (Shihada and Nicola Khouri in The History of Jerusalem's Church).

With time, we recognized Christianity's interest in this holy site, and the expansion and prosperity of monastic activity at the banks of the Jordan. Saint Helena built a church at the banks of the Jordan in AD 327, and Peter, bishop of the Arab tribes, also built a church on the east bank of the river, known later as the Church of Arches, which was mentioned by pilgrim Egeria in her book Journals of a Journey (4th century). The flourishing of monasticism and the building of churches and monasteries at the banks of the River Jordan are indications of the importance and the sanctity of the site. We must also remember the association between the Old and New Testaments, for this site witnessed the passage of Moses' ecclesiastical law (Joshua 15:3), the crossing of Prophet Elijah to the east bank and rising up to the heavens, the crossing of Prophet Elisha to the west bank, and the washing of Nu'man the leprous (Kings IV). All these point toward the significance of Jesus Christ's baptism and transition to the salvation and paradise of the New Testament. The Holy Bible also mentions that John the Baptist used to perform baptism at this site. Throughout history, several saints and the pious lived and prayed in this place such as Saint Mary of Egypt. In the ninth century, Patriarch Thomas I rebuilt the monasteries around the River Jordan at the recommendation of the Abbassid Caliph, Harun Al Rashid. These monasteries included John the Baptist Monastery, the Church of Arches, Saint John the Gold Mouth Monastery, Kiryakos Monastery, and many more.

Undoubtedly, in the heart of the liturgical concept of our Orthodox Church life, Jordan is an inspiration for writers of glorifications and rituals. The tradition of our Church, which approved Jesus' baptism from John the Baptist, derives from the waters of the River Jordan. Many people recited the saying: "Oh, River Jordan why are you surprised when seeing Jesus naked? It answers saying: I looked and then shivered, how could I not shiver and fear ... for Jesus came to the River Jordan to sanctify the water."



-His Holiness Pope John Paul II holds the first bathing ceremony after its discovery in 2000. 23 thousand citizens and visitors attended for the first time in Jordan.(Organizing Committee : Prof Waheeb)



Participants in the Baptism discovery celebrations light candles at the site marking the start of the annual celebration of the baptismal feast at the site



-All participants visited the site (Baptism), where the celebration was organized through direct supervision of the site director Prof Waheeb.

2-Christians Pilgrims Road: From Baptism site to Mount Nebo.



-The excavations directed by Prof Mohammed Waheeb along the pilgrims route from Baptism site up to Mount Nebo of Moses .



The Spanish Pilgrim Egeria followed the ancient Road from Jerusalem to Baptism site to sixth milestone to Mount Nebo.

3- Jesus Cave:

Cave (baptism) of Christ:

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Cave (Baptism) of Jesus Christ After a series of excavations in the Jordanian town of Al-Bassa ^[1] that spanned for years, a Jordanian research team was able to discover what is believed to be the “Cave of [Christ](#)” which contains a Byzantine church located in the [town of Iraq Al-Amir](#), west of the [capital Amman](#) ^[2]. The expert of archeology and tourism at the Hashemite University - Queen Rania College of Tourism, Dr. Muhammad Wahib, ^[3] confirmed that the results of [studies](#) and [scientific research](#) carried out by a research team from the university in cooperation with a number of archeology specialists led to the discovery of the master’s cave. Christ in the [town of Iraq Prince](#). Archeology expert at the Hashemite University, Dr. Muhammad Wahib^[3] He confirmed that the documentation work of Al-Bassa Cave ^[1] did not stop, as a survey was conducted of the [Iraq Al-Amir](#) Valley and the main religious buildings along the valley along the permanent waterway, which had the greatest impact on the formation of the religious site .

[https://ar.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/كَهْف_\(مَعْمُودِيَّة\)السيد_المسيح](https://ar.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/كَهْف_(مَعْمُودِيَّة)السيد_المسيح)

Cave of Christ



31.935916 ° N  Coordinates
35.774364 ° E

general information

Amman	Village or city
Jordan	Country
Christian architecture	Architectural style



 Source Amendment - Amendment



Prof. Mohammad Waheeb introduces the explanation to the conference guests and visiting delegations to the site of Christ Cave in Iraq Al-Amir 2019.

(Second Day Field Activities) .

4- Trails of Harmony (Conference Activities)



Participants of Trail of Harmony during their visit to Byzantine churches & Mausoleum of potash in southern Jordan.



Participants of Trail of Harmony during their visit to al “Monastery of Mullaqa” in Iraq al -Ameer west Amman with participation of Perlman members &His Excellency Minister Taha Al-Habahbeh 2018 .

5- Publications in Field Harmony :

Books :

❖ English Books :

- ✓ Waheeb,M ,2003 The Discovery of Bethany Beyond the Jordan , Site of Jesus Baptism, Arabic Line Printing Press , first edition , (134 pages)/ Amman Jordan , English.
- ✓ 2004 The Discovery of Site of St. Mary of Egypt in Site of Jesus Baptism ,Arabic Line Printing Press ,first edition ,(110 pages) English.
- ✓ 2009: The Great Discovery, Site of Jesus Baptism. Al-KhatAlarabi Printing - Press ,first edition , (181pages) Amman –Jordan, English
- ✓ 2011 (A)- The Discovery of Bethany Beyond the Jordan , Site of Jesus Baptism. Support by Amman Municipality, Al Dustour Press , ISBN : 9789957-530-05-1 , (Second Edition) / English .
- ✓ 2011 (B)- Bethany Beyond the Jordan (Booklet) Support by Jordan Tourism Board , Amman. / English .

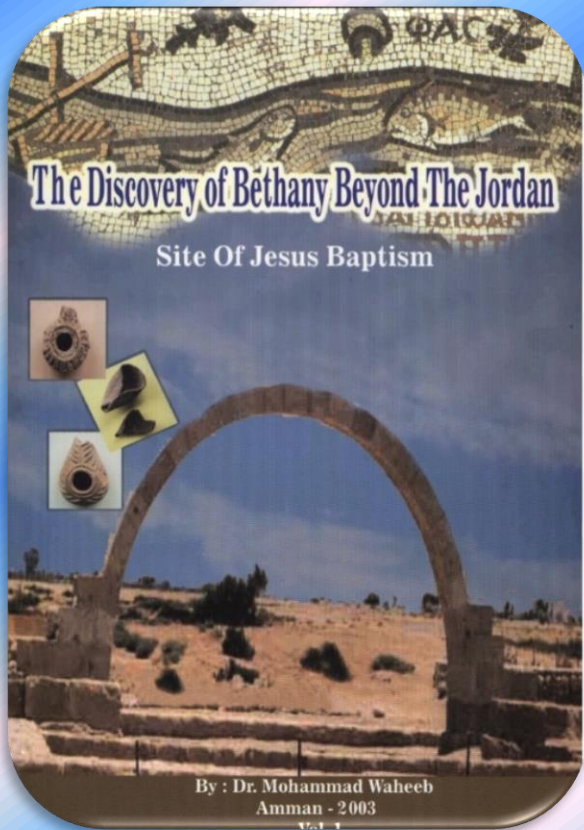
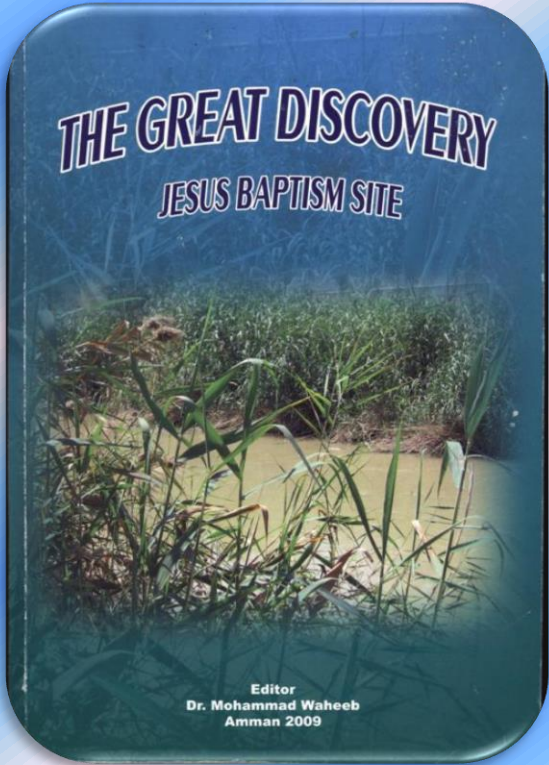
❖ Italian Books

- ✓ 2016 :BethanyBeyond the Jordan, Site of Jesus Baptism Site/ Italian Language.

❖ Arabic Books

.Waheeb, M,

- ✓ 2014: The Discovery of Site of Jesus Baptism /Al-Maghtas -Tell Mar Elyas, Ministry of Culture, Al Safer Press , 1st Edition ,ISBN:978-9957-(380 pages) Amman – Jordan / Arabic .
- ✓ 2016:The Discovery of Site of Jesus Baptism, / Tel Mar Elias,first edition , Ministry of Culture , Al-Safer Press , ISBN : 978-9957-94-8594- 5-9 ,Amman-Jordan (381 pages) Arabic .
- ✓ 2017:The Muslims &Christians Harmony in Shadow of Place Unity,Published by Ministry of Culture , Amman Capital of Islamic Culture , first edition ,Amman – Jordan ,(365pages) Arabic , Isbn:978-995794382-0.
- ✓ 2018: Umm Al-Rassas,The Prophet &Saint ,Dar Al-Orobah for Studies &Media Consultancy,Amman-Jordan , first edition (240 coloured pages) Arabic ,(Author with another one).
- ✓ 2019 :: Trail of Baptism (Darb al Mamodyeh),Pheladelphia-Iraq Ameer-Baptism Site, Dar Yafa publishers and Distributers ,first edition ,(218 pages+maps) Amman – Jordan ISBN : -978-9957-877-27-9 /Arabic .
- ✓ 2021 : The Discovery of Site of Jesus Baptism , Ethno-Archaeological Study , 343 pages, Dar Al-Abrar Publishers &Distributers, Amman – Jordan (Senior Aothur with another one).
- ✓ 2021: The Discovery of Cave of Jesus Christ in Iraq Al-Ameer – Jordan (Archaeological& Cultural Heritage Study) (Forthcoming).



Articles :

The Discovery of Byzantine Laura of St Mary the Egyptian in Site of Jesus Baptism	Annals of Archaeology Volume 2, Issue 1, 2019, PP 1-9 ISSN:2639-3662	https://www.sryahwapublications.com/annals-of-archaeology/pdf/v2-i1/1.pdf
Site of Jesus Baptism: From Discovery to World List Heritage	International Journal of Archaeology.2019	http://www.sciencepublishinggroup.com/ijia .
The Holy Triangular Along the Christian Pilgrims Road, East of Jordan River (Baptism Site, Aenon Near to Saleem, and Tyre Cave)	Journal of Philosophy, Culture and Religion . V.34	https://iiste.org/Journals/index.php/JPCR/article/view/40036
Mountain of Transfiguration & New Discoveries in Site of Jesus Baptism / Jordan River	American International Journal of Contemporary Research	http://www.aijcrnet.com/journals/Vol_9_No_2_June_2019/3.pdf
THE DISCOVERY OF AENON (SALEEM)NEAR SITE OF JESUS BAPTISM.	International Journal of Advanced Research	https://www.journalijar.com/uploads/988_IJAR-21762.pdf
The Discovery of Gharabaa Byzantine Caravanserai, Near Site of Jesus Baptism- Jordan River	International Journal of Archaeology	http://www.sciencepublishinggroup.com/journal/paperinfo?journalid=209&doi=10.11648/j.ija.20170503.11
A Unique Byzantine Architectural Remains on the Eastern Bank of Jordan River	American International Journal of Contemporary Research	http://www.aijcrnet.com/journals/Vol_7_No_4_December_2017/11.pdf
Discovery of Jesus Cave in Iraq Al Amir, Southern Levant-Jordan	INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE	http://www.ijirk.com/issue-details/184
Ancient Water System in Tel Mar Elyas during the Byzantine Period: A Study	Journal of the Human Ecology	http://www.krepublishers.com/02-Journals/JHE/JHE-49-0-000-15-Web/JHE-49-3-000-15-Abst-PDF/JHE-49-3-327-15-2449-Waheeb-M/JHE-49-3-327-15-2449-Waheeb-M-Tx[18].pdf
Unique Byzantine Complex near the Jordan River in Southern Levant	BYZANTINOSLAVICA REVUE INTERNATIONALE DES ÉTUDES BYZANTINES.2014	http://www.slu.cas.cz/4-byzant_2014-1-2.pdf

Media :

Achieved Projects in Field of Harmony

- **1-Ghor Safi Project for Documentation of Caves of Hermits**
- **2-Saham Civilization project ,Partly supported by GIZ-Jordan**
- **3-Churches Built During Islamic Age in Jordan , Supported by Ministry of Culture**
- **Documentation of the Oldest Known Christian Minaret and Islamic Minaret in Madaba.**
- **5-Carnaval of Cave of Seven Sleepers in Amman (In Collaboration with Amman Municipality), First Car naval and Workshop organized by Conference and Hashemite University .
Narrative of Sleepers mentioned in Holy Koran an Christian Sources**
- **Books Translation in Field of Harmony :**
 - 1- The Discovery of Site of Jesus Baptism Site (English Language)**
 - 2-The Discovery of Site of Jesus Baptism Site (Italian Language)**
 - 3-The Discovery of Site of Jesus Baptism Site (French Language in Progress)**
 - 4- Site of Jesus Baptism, Translation from German Language to Arabic (in Progress)**

- Harmony Achievements in Western Press:

A lot of articles were published in daily news papers in Europe & America, about the discovery of Jesus Baptism Site, the conference of harmony supported the work of documentation, and publishing the data recovered through field work, here is samples only:

Giovedì
19 Maggio 2016

AGORÀ cultura | 21

Napoli. Riscoprire Matilde Serao Un libro a 160 anni dalla nascita

A 160 dalla nascita, in questi giorni, i libri di Matilde Serao sono in vetrina. L'editore Garzanti ha pubblicato "Matilde Serao. L'arte della scrittura", un volume di 400 pagine, a cura di Maria Pia Casella. Il volume racconta la vita e l'opera della scrittrice, con molte immagini, e una prefazione di Maria Pia Casella. Il libro è in vendita per 18,90 euro. È un libro che si può leggere in un'ora, ma che ha un valore di un'opera di un secolo.

Usa. Ritrovata lettera di Colombo

Sintorno alla Biblioteca del Congresso Usa, una lettera di Cristoforo Colombo scritta a Bartolomeo de las Casas, l'11 settembre 1492, è stata ritrovata. Il documento, l'11 settembre 1492, è stato ritrovato nella Biblioteca del Congresso Usa, a Washington. La lettera è stata ritrovata in un archivio della Biblioteca del Congresso Usa, a Washington.

Roma. Architettura sociale e Città dell'uomo oggi ai Maxxi

La Città dell'Uomo nel fondo delle istituzioni romane, è un tema che si ripete da sempre. La città dell'uomo è un tema che si ripete da sempre. La città dell'uomo è un tema che si ripete da sempre.

L'intervista

Waheeb, lo studioso giordano che ha scoperto il luogo del battesimo di Gesù: «Una ricerca resa possibile dalla pace con Israele»

ALESSANDRO BERTINI

«C

Il nome in Betania della città del Giordania, dove Cristo è battezzato. L'archeologo giordano Muhammad Wahab l'ha ritrovato e gli scavi che hanno portato nel 2002 alla scoperta del sito nell'area del battesimo di Gesù. L'archeologo, di epoca romana e bizantina, ha scoperto il luogo dove Cristo è battezzato. Il luogo è un sito di un villaggio di Betania, un villaggio di Betania, un villaggio di Betania.



TERRA SANTA. Il luogo, nei pressi del fiume Giordania, dove è stato battezzato Gesù.

Archeologia tra le GUERRE

Archeologia tra le guerre. La ricerca di Betania è un esempio di come la ricerca archeologica possa essere fatta in un'area di conflitto. La ricerca di Betania è un esempio di come la ricerca archeologica possa essere fatta in un'area di conflitto.

Il sito è un sito di un villaggio di Betania, un villaggio di Betania, un villaggio di Betania. Il sito è un sito di un villaggio di Betania, un villaggio di Betania, un villaggio di Betania.

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Mostre

Benedini e Sofonisba dialogo sull'essere artiste

Foto Di. Gioez Caratola

Sono al primo di giugno a dialogare al Museo del vicino di Carosino l'artista romana - scultore, installatore, Benedini, e la scultrice sarda Sofonisba. Le mostre si aprono con un dialogo tra le due artiste, Benedini e Sofonisba, che si aprono con un dialogo tra le due artiste.



Benedini, "Materone"

Il dialogo tra le due artiste è un dialogo tra le due artiste. Il dialogo tra le due artiste è un dialogo tra le due artiste.

IL CONVEGNO L'ULTIMO PADRE DEL DESERTO

Il convegno si terrà il 22 maggio a Napoli. Il convegno si terrà il 22 maggio a Napoli. Il convegno si terrà il 22 maggio a Napoli.

Teologia. Matta el Meskin e lo svelamento di Dio

Monica Scarpini

Venuto tra il 1919 e il 1920, Matta el Meskin, padre spirituale di San Marcin, è un uomo di Dio. Matta el Meskin, padre spirituale di San Marcin, è un uomo di Dio.

Il padre spirituale di San Marcin, è un uomo di Dio. Il padre spirituale di San Marcin, è un uomo di Dio.

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Il padre spirituale di San Marcin, è un uomo di Dio. Il padre spirituale di San Marcin, è un uomo di Dio.

Holier Than Thou?

By Lee

Hockstader Washington Post Foreign Service

Monday, October 18, 1999; Page A13

WADI KHARRAR, Jordan—Three years ago, Mohammad Waheeb gazed out at the chalky desert by the Jordan River here and spotted the footsteps of Jesus where others saw only the old front line in the conflict between Arabs and Jews.

Using the gospels as his guidebook, Waheeb, a top Jordanian archaeologist, began digging in what until 1994 had been a no man's land laced with land mines, patrolled by soldiers, swarming with flies and broiling in 115-degree summer heat. What he has found in this desert moonscape, he claims, is the likely site of Jesus's baptism.

This area's ruins of early Christian monasteries, churches, prayer halls, pools that may have been used for baptism and--most improbable--a network of still-active springs flowing into the Jordan River are, Waheeb says, "Bethany beyond the Jordan"--the spot pinpointed by the Gospel According to John for Jesus's baptism.

"This is a holy place," said Waheeb, 37, whose warm, crinkly-eyed smile conceals a low-key scholarly intensity.

But as he oversees an excavation team of 20 archaeologists and 100 workers here, Waheeb is stirring up a new, albeit non-lethal, conflict between Arabs and Jews. For Jordan's next-door neighbor, Israel, has a competing claim as to where the baptism took place--on its side of the Jordan River.

As historical battles go, this one is classic Holy Land stuff: Jews and Muslims spatting over the location of a sacred Christian site. And with a mass of Christian tourists expected here for the millennium, this is not some musty

academic debate. Serious cash is on the line.

More than 3 million visitors, including Pope John Paul II, are expected in the Holy Land next year. At least a third of them are likely to be on the pilgrimage trail, retracing Jesus's path from his birthplace in Bethlehem to his haunts in Nazareth, Jerusalem and Galilee.

All those sites are in Israel or on the west bank of the Jordan, and they will translate into millions of dollars in tourism revenues for the Jewish state. Yet if Waheeb can make a convincing case that Jesus was baptized just over the border on the east bank of the river, Jordan may be able to attract at least some of the tourists.

"When we say we're opening the site, we mean we're giving the world a chance to look at the birthplace of Christianity, to complement the birthplace of Christ himself," said Aqel Biltaji, Jordan's minister for tourism and antiquities.

Biltaji's department, which has already invested \$1 million in the site, is funneling another \$6 million--much of it in U.S. assistance--to develop it in the coming year.

Although the land mines have been removed, Wadi Kharrar is an unlikely place for a tourist mecca. In addition to the heat and flies, fine sand billows in the air and only the most pathetic of roads serve the area. This is one of the lowest points on Earth; the shimmering flatness of the Dead Sea is just to the south.

Still, the Jordanian attitude is: If we excavate it, they will come--if not for the millennium, then soon thereafter. Jordan is building a visitors center and conference hall, a John the Baptist Research Center, a library, an archaeology lab and, of course, baptismal pools for pilgrims. As might be expected, the merchandising has already started in earnest, with hats and T-shirts proclaiming, "JORDAN: The River and the Land of the Baptism--2000 A.D."

"That area has a God-given--well, some sort of power," said Biltaji. "Those who don't accept it have to propose an alternative."

Enter the Israelis. Although they are not willing to dispute Waheeb's excavations and their potential historical significance, they regard Jordan as a Johnny-come-lately to the baptism game. When Israeli tourism officials talk about the Jordanian site, they seem barely able to suppress a smirk.

"There's nothing developed there, but they're trying to promote something," said Orly Doron, spokeswoman for Israel's Tourism Ministry. "We were a little bit worried before we visited it last month, but after we saw it we decided there's no problem."

As the millennium approaches, disputes are swirling around a host of biblical sites.

In Nazareth, the city of Jesus's boyhood, Christian and Muslim Palestinians are engaged in a heated argument over the Muslims' insistence that a towering mosque be erected beside the city's Church of the Annunciation.

In Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, traditional site of Christ's tomb and a place revered by some as the holiest in Christendom, Israel's proposal that an additional entrance be opened for safety purposes has set off a firestorm of controversy.

Elsewhere, there are arguments about where precisely Jesus turned water into wine, the exact location of Mount Sinai and one businessman's proposal to build a submerged platform in the Sea of Galilee so that tourists can walk on water like Christ.

Scholars say the answers to many questions, including where Jesus was baptized, are impossible to know for sure. Archaeology in the Holy Land is obscured by centuries of earthquakes, conquests and competing myths and traditions. Yet no recent site or controversy has excited more attention--and attracted more investment--than that of Jesus's baptism.

One reason is that Waheeb may make a persuasive case for his site in Jordan.

Waheeb, a devout Muslim, has been reading the Bible for two or three hours daily since he began excavating the site at WadiKharrar in late 1996. At the dig site he carries around a well-thumbed and yellowing English language copy; at home he keeps one in Arabic. So conversant has he become with Scripture that his assistants have taken to calling him "Father Muhammad."

He is convinced that Jesus was far more likely to have been baptized in fresh spring water than in the Jordan, which these days is a murky, pea-green stream. Some biblical historians agree that the river may not have been considered sufficiently pure at that time.

Biblical scholars, including some in Israel, are not dismissing Waheeb's arguments out of hand.

"Unfortunately for Israeli tourism, the Book of John specifically says that Jesus was baptized east of the Jordan," said Yadin Roman, editor in chief of Eretz magazine, Israel's answer to National Geographic. "They have a very plausible claim that during the Byzantine era that site was accepted as the site where Jesus was baptized."

That's not the universal view in Israel, and no wonder. The Israelis control their

own sites associated with Jesus's baptism, and they are not about to declare them defunct.

One site is Kasar el Yehud, located on the western shore of the Jordan near Jericho, just across from Waheeb's excavations. Before the late 1960s, tens of thousands of Orthodox Christians flocked to Kasar el Yehud every year--believing it to be the location of Jesus's baptism--in a tradition dating back well over 1,000 years. The riverbank near there is dotted with the remains of more than a dozen churches and monasteries, some of them from the Byzantine era (the 4th to the 15th centuries).

Soon after Israel conquered the West Bank in 1967, however, Kasar el Yehud became the scene of cross-border clashes and terror attacks, and the Israelis declared it a closed military area. Since then it has been open to pilgrims just twice a year.

But the lack of access to the Jordan River could not dissuade Christian tourists in buses from trying to get close to the river, so in 1980 Israeli authorities devised a novel solution: Open the Jordan to pilgrims and tourists at Kibbutz Kinneret, where the river meets the Sea of Galilee.

So what if the kibbutz is 70 miles north of Kasar el Yehud? To many Christians, the Jordan is the Jordan, they say.

"Since I was a little girl, 6 or 7 years old, I've wanted to do this," said Willie May Gillmore-Vaultz, 77, a Baptist from Long Island. Her jeans rolled up and her sneakers left behind on dry land, she waded out of the water at the kibbutz the other day after filling an empty soft drink bottle with the Jordan's holy water.

These days some 500,000 tourists such as Gillmore-Vaultz descend on the kibbutz annually, and the kibbutz is gearing up to receive a million visitors next year. A new restaurant and gift shop have been opened for the pilgrims. For the kibbutz, the Jordanian excavations are a direct economic challenge.

"I know they are doing it to make money off the millennium," said Yonathan Bobrov, tourism manager for the kibbutz. "I know it will hurt us to a degree."

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Eastern Press:

Hundreds of articles were published in the Arab World about the harmony activities through the conference and the role of the Baptism Site in encouraging the involvement of people in its Programs and annually activities.

-Signing of the book *Discovery of the Baptismal Site of Christ* by Professor Waheeb

<https://www.ammonnews.net/article/329586>





-Book signing (Discovery of the Baptismal Site of Christ) under the auspices of the Italian ambassador, Madaba, John Baptist Church – Jordan



-GIZ-Germany in Jordan Support the Trail of Harmony and Awarded the Trail Harmony Team – Saham Project 2019.



-Signing the second book of Discovery of Baptism Site of Jesus Christ



Conference NO: 1

Name : " The First Religious Harmony in Jordan "

Date: 2015

Place : Christian Youth Club

Media :

<https://tinyurl.com/yxlp42>



Conference NO: 2

Name : Common Life through Tourism and Archeology

Date: 2016

Place : Christian Youth Club

Media :

<https://www.ammonnews.net/article/287469>



Conference NO: 3

Name : Paths of Faith in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Date: 2018

Place : Christian Youth Club

Media :

<https://www.ammonnews.net/article/355327>



Conference NO: 4

Name : Paths of Holiness and Harmony through Tourism and Archaeology

Date: 2019

Place : Christian Youth Club

Media:

https://hu.edu.jo/NewCenter/f_news_0_0.aspx?newsid=31442#.YDJsAhozbc



Conference NO: 5

Name : Religious Harmony and Shared Life in Zarqa

Date: 2020

Place : Christian Youth Club

Media :

https://hu.edu.jo/NewCenter/f_news_0_0.aspx?newsid=32380#.YCWj_XmxXIU



Conference NO: 6

Name : The Sixth Conference of Harmony in Jordan – Zarqa

Date: 2015

Christian Youth Club

Place : Christian Youth Club

Media :

<https://culture.gov.jo/node/66684>

All Interfaith harmony conferences over time