



July 23, 2009  
Issue #002

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## Featured Spotlight Members - Meeting the "Who's Who" in Faith Tourism

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### MTS Travel

**If you could summarize your organization in one sentence, what would it be?**

The North American leader in missions, church and humanitarian travel.

**How is your organization involved in religious travel and hospitality?**

A full-service travel company offering discount fares for cause-related travelers, as well as, wholesale, custom tour and vacation services.

**What specific products and/or services does your organization provide for faith-based travelers, groups and organizations?**

Fare discounts, relaxed restrictions, luggage benefits, custom tour planning experts, and wholesale sales for the business to business market.

**What is your organization's competitive advantage in the marketplace, and more specifically, within religious travel?**

MTS TRAVEL is the largest agency offering primarily cause-related travel products. This translates into superior vendor relationships and special products for our clients.

**Tell us about the "people behind your organization." What makes your personnel among the best in the industry for both the travel trade and consumers to work with?**

With 54 years experience in mission, church and humanitarian travel, we offer unparalleled

expertise. MTS TRAVEL employees have many more years of experience in this unique travel market than is generally available.

**If there is one thing about your organization that you would like for every travel professional and planner to know about (and remember you by), what would it be?**

Service \* Value \* Integrity

**Contact Information**

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**206 Tours**

**If you could summarize your organization in one sentence, what would it be?**

206 Tours is the premier tour operator offering Catholic Pilgrimages to Europe and the Holy Land.

**How is your organization involved in religious travel and hospitality?**

We are celebrating our 25th anniversary in offering Catholic Pilgrimages to Europe and the Holy Land.

**What specific products and/or services does your organization provide for faith-based travelers, groups and organizations?**

206 Tours specializes in Catholic Pilgrimages to Europe and the Holy Land, including: Fatima, Lourdes, Rome, Medjugorje, Guadalupe, Santiago de Compostela, Turin, Oberammergau, and much more.

**What is your organization's competitive advantage in the marketplace, and more specifically, within religious travel?**

Our 25 years of experience, our reputation for quality and service, and our knowledge of the needs of our pilgrims. Of course all of our pilgrimages are also accompanied by a Catholic Priest!

**Tell us about the "people behind your organization." What makes your personnel among the best in the industry for both the travel trade and consumers to work with?**

Our team of representatives, account managers, guides, and drivers are the best of the best! We all understand the importance of our pilgrims. We understand the calling that they feel to make a pilgrimage and it is our honor to be a part of the process!

**If there is one thing about your organization that you would like for every travel professional and planner to know about (and remember you by), what would it be?**

The quality of our pilgrimages and our genuine love for what we do!

**Contact Information**

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## RS Travel Developments

### **If you could summarize your organization in one sentence, what would it be?**

RS Travel Developments is your travel advisor in Italy, a specialist of "travel by purpose" and educational travel.

### **How is your organization involved in religious travel and hospitality?**

More than the 50% of our business turnover refers to faith travel. Destination management, hospitality and arrangement of tours from A to Z, including our own coach services, in the most important locations of relevant faith importance. Mainly in Italy as well as in Europe and the Holy Land.

### **What specific products and/or services does your organization provide for faith-based travelers, groups and organizations?**

RS Travel Developments is a Tour & Coach operator and we offer these services. I retain that what really makes the difference is our experience and the fact of being used to work with faith travelers and know exactly what they are looking for.

### **What is your organization's competitive advantage in the marketplace, and more specifically, within religious travel?**

Being competitive for us is the result of the equation: good costs management and company's buying power with respect to the services offered. We are in the market since several years and this has always been the rule no. 1, together with the care of the clients and the quality of the services.

### **Tell us about the "people behind your organization." What makes your personnel among the best in the industry for both the travel trade and consumers to work with?**

We have a small but very prepared and efficient staff. People coming from different experience in the travel business or grown in the company, but all motivated and responsible. I am proud to say that speaking with someone of our staff is like speaking with a friend.

### **If there is one thing about your organization that you would like for every travel professional and planner to know about (and remember you by), what would it be?**

More than the words, we retain that the best way to be known in our difficult job is that of being tested. In this respect we will be pleased and honored to make quotations for your future groups or simply to be of advise for your next programs in Italy. We are confident to have the capacity for supporting and fulfilling your needs at the best.

### **Contact Information**

Ruggero Scoma

Owner

RS Travel Developments

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## Rail Europe

### **If you could summarize your organization in one sentence, what would it be?**

Rail Europe celebrates over 75 years as the leader in European travel and believes that the spirit of train travel is about enjoying simple pleasures, respecting the environment and connecting with people, places and cultures.

### **How is your organization involved in religious travel and hospitality?**

Rail Europe has a long history of working with faith-based groups of all sizes, offering the most

competitive rates and services in the marketplace. Traveling by rail is a unique mode of transportation as it offers your group the

**What specific products and/or services does your organization provide for faith-based travelers, groups and organizations?**

For groups of 10 or more traveling together, we offer a full array of rail products and services. From high-speed to overnight trains, train charters, exclusive carriages, panoramic trains and rail passes. We can also arrange for meal service on board as well as luggage handling in selected cities, including Lourdes.

**What is your organization's competitive advantage in the marketplace, and more specifically, within religious travel?**

We are a privately held company, with the French National Railroads (SNCF) and the Swiss Federal Railroads (SBB) as majority shareholders. As the leading authority of European rail in the United States, representing more than 35 European railroads in both Western and Eastern Europe, we have competitive group rates, with direct access to rail inventory. With Rail Europe, no deposit is required to block space; therefore, your group will not be subject to any cancellation penalties prior to ticketing.

**Tell us about the "people behind your organization." What makes your personnel among the best in the industry for both the travel trade and consumers to work with?**

Collectively our staff speaks English, Spanish, French, Italian and German. We are here to answer all of your questions about pricing and reservations and to make sure you get started off on the right track.

**If there is one thing about your organization that you would like for every travel professional and planner to know about (and remember you by), what would it be?**

Your groups travel experience does not begin when you board the train, but rather at the moment you contact Rail Europe. We are committed to providing your group with the best service experience, from start to finish. Bon Voyage!

**Contact Information**

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**Norman Allen Group Travel**

**If you could summarize your organization in one sentence, what would it be?**

Special interest groups only travel in to Britain and Ireland

**How is your organization involved in religious travel and hospitality?**

We design and operate faith based travel, primarily in to Britain and Ireland

**What specific products and/or services does your organization provide for faith-based travelers, groups and organizations?**

6 specific faith based itineraries that will be on line by the end of June or available now by direct contact.

**What is your organization's competitive advantage in the marketplace, and more specifically, within religious travel?**

Our attention to detail and ability to custom build itineraries to suit any faith based groups requests

**Tell us about the "people behind your organization." What makes your personnel among the best in the industry for both the travel trade and consumers to work with?**

Highly experienced, knowledgeable, flexible and friendly!!

**If there is one thing about your organization that you would like for every travel professional and planner to know about (and remember you by), what would it be?**

Our capabilities to provide unique group experiences in a professional manner.

#### **Contact Information**

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## **Unitours**

**If you could summarize your organization in one sentence, what would it be?**

We are proud to be considered the premier company for providing high quality custom pilgrimage group travel to Europe and the Middle East.

**How is your organization involved in religious travel and hospitality?**

We are a full service tour operator focused almost exclusively on customized Pilgrimage group travel.

**What specific products and/or services does your organization provide for faith-based travelers, groups and organizations?**

We provide custom Pilgrimages to the Holy Land, Jordan, Egypt, Greece, Turkey, Italy, France, Spain & Portugal and other European destinations and Mexico.

**What is your organization's competitive advantage in the marketplace, and more specifically, within religious travel?**

With over 50 years of continuous operation in this unique industry Unitours is able to maintain our own offices and staff in both Europe and the Middle East. Our long time reputation for high quality, reliability and integrity speaks for itself.

**Tell us about the "people behind your organization." What makes your personnel among the best in the industry for both the travel trade and consumers to work with?**

Bob Faucett, our Vice-President and Director of Religious Tours went on his first pilgrimage in 1977 and led his first group pilgrimage in 1984 and has led the pilgrimage activities for Unitours since 1990. President Fabrizio Fabbri is a native of Tuscany and a veteran of the international airlines industry and brings a wealth of knowledge to the operations side of Unitours.

**If there is one thing about your organization that you would like for every travel professional and planner to know about (and remember you by), what would it be?**

We are committed to assisting our travel agent partners understand this unique marketplace and we offer a host of videos and printed material to provide that assistance. Please contact us for a full set of useful tools.

#### **Contact Information**

Bob Faucett

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800-777-7432

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## **Homeric Tours**

**If you could summarize your organization in one sentence, what would it be?**

America's #1 Choice to Greece

**How is your organization involved in religious travel and hospitality?**

We have published our 2009-2010 36-page Faith Based brochure.

**What specific products and/or services does your organization provide for faith-based travelers, groups and organizations?**

Tours and pilgrimages to Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Portugal, England, Ireland

**What is your organization's competitive advantage in the marketplace, and more specifically, within religious travel?**

As the leading tour operator for Greece and Med, We have been involved with religious tours before it became fashionable

**Tell us about the "people behind your organization." What makes your personnel among the best in the industry for both the travel trade and consumers to work with?**

Each of our people have personal experience living abroad to the destinations we service.

**If there is one thing about your organization that you would like for every travel professional and planner to know about (and remember you by), what would it be?**

Great Value and service

### **Contact Information**

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## **Tarpon Travel Agency**

**If you could summarize your organization in one sentence, what would it be?**

We turn your dreams into memories!

**How is your organization involved in religious travel and hospitality?**

We promote cruises and tours to the Holy Land.

**What specific products and/or services does your organization provide for faith-based travelers, groups and organizations?**

Footsteps of Paul Cruises; Globus Faith Based Travel; Oberammergau Tour in Europe and admission to the play

**What is your organization's competitive advantage in the marketplace, and more**

**specifically, within religious travel?**

I provide flawless service and work with every faith to provide the needs of their people.

**Tell us about the "people behind your organization." What makes your personnel among the best in the industry for both the travel trade and consumers to work with?**

We are focused on the needs of our customers. We listen to hear the real wants and needs of our clients.

**If there is one thing about your organization that you would like for every travel professional and planner to know about (and remember you by), what would it be?**

I am a friendly, outgoing, optimist person who accomplishes 2 days of work for my clients each and every day. Sunday is a day dedicated to God in my home and business.

**Contact Information**

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**Who's On Deck for Next Month's Spotlight on Members?**

Here's a look at a few of the companies to be featured in our upcoming publications....

Lifetree Adventures

Christian Tours

Faithful Holidays

Travel Guard

Shrine of Christ's Passion

Passport Health

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**Submit Your Profile - and Be Featured!**

**Are you a WRTA Member?**

If you are a WRTA Member, you are eligible to submit your online profile for possible publication in an upcoming issue of Spotlight on Members. Fill out your [Profile Questionnaire](#) now!

<http://vovici.com/wsb.dll/s/2420g3cee3>

*Note: Only WRTA Members are eligible to have their profiles published. Non-members are welcome to complete and submit the questionnaires, however - before WRTA can publish your profile, you will need to register as a WRTA Member. [Join now!](#)*

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**World Religious Travel Expo - Updates**

Looking for details about the World Religious Travel Expo 2009?

Access information and details about the Expo:

[Official Expo website](#)

[Expo video](#)

[Expo Sponsorship & Exhibit Guide](#)

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## Personal Note from WRTA President

Dear Faith Tourism Friends & Colleagues,

Our newly revised *Spotlight on Members* issue has quickly become a "fan favorite" among our readers. Thank you to everyone for your feedback and letting us know how much you enjoy this publication.

As such, we'll continue to feature and "spotlight" members each month. Be sure to keep each issue and build up your own encyclopedia of the "Who's Who" in religious travel and hospitality.



In the meantime.....if you are a WRTA Member but haven't yet completed and submitted your online profile - here's your chance. We'd love to feature and highlight your organization in future issues of *Spotlight on Members*.

Look forward to hearing from you - and receiving your profile.

Best Wishes,  
Kevin J. Wright  
WRTA President

This email was sent to: [kate.bunnell@imgworld.com](mailto:kate.bunnell@imgworld.com)

This email was sent by: Headquarters  
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