

Pastoral Visit to South Ossetia

During the month of August, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone made a brief pastoral visit to South Ossetia, in his capacity as *Locum Tenens* of the Holy Diocese of Alania, of the Holy Synod of the Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece, in order to celebrate the Feast Day of the Dormition of the *Theotokos* together with the local clergy and laity.

On the eve of the Feast, August 14/27, 2014, he celebrated festal Vespers and Matins, according to the Slavic Typikon, in the Cathedral Church of the Nativity of the *Theotokos* in Tskhinvali, the capital of this tiny country.



The next day, August 15/28, Bishop Ambrose liturgized at the newly built wooden Church of the Dormition of the *Theotokos* in Znauri, which was celebrating its Patronal Feast, with the Priests, Father Simon Gagloev (the Church's Rector) Father George Djoev and Father George Dzhanaev.

During his pastoral visit, His Grace also laid the foundation stone of the new Church of the Nativity of the *Theotokos* in the village of



Khodabul, supervised renovation work on the Churches of St. George in Dzher and of the Nativity of the *Theotokos* in Skit, had meetings with government representatives regarding matters pertaining to the Diocese, and dealt with pastoral issues, among other things.

On his return journey, by way of Russia, Bishop Ambrose visited the historic Convent of Diveyevo and the Sanaxar Monastery, as well as other places of pilgrimage in the Russian capital of Moscow.

