

Focus on the Middle East and North Africa

Days 1 - 7

Testimony from North Africa and France

An Algerian couple now living in France were born and raised in Kabylia, Northern Algeria. When the wife, Djouzia, was eight years old she became furiously angry when she was told by other Muslims that God only speaks Arabic and that she must communicate with Him in that language. (Many Kabyles, who have their own Berber language, hate Arabic because it reminds them of centuries of oppression). One evening as a little girl, Djouzia went outside and looked up at the sky and saw the face of a man smiling down at her. She was so excited that she ran to get her mother and tried to show her the face, but her mother did not see anything. This happened for

three consecutive nights, until her mother forbade Djouzia to go out for fear that her daughter was losing her mind. But that gentle smiling face never left Djouzia's thoughts.

Years later, after her marriage, Djouzia asked her father-in-law, an imam (an Islamic religious leader), whether that face could have been Mohammed. He replied, "No, that could not have been Mohammed. It was surely Jesus because the Qur'an clearly states that Jesus is the only prophet who never sinned. And therefore, it could not have been Mohammed." Djouzia then asked how she could contact Jesus and her father-in-law replied, "That would be wonderful. Unfortunately, Islamic

law forbids us to do that." This was extremely frustrating for Djouzia!

Several years later when she and her husband moved to France, they met some Kabyle Christians. Djouzia's husband was a practicing Islamic fundamentalist who wanted to overthrow the Algerian government in order to establish an Islamic Republic. He was not interested in Djouzia's search for the "gentle face," however he did not want her to go to Christian meetings alone, without his protection and supervision. Therefore he accompanied Djouzia, and it was during those meetings that both of them met and believed in Jesus the Messiah.

The minaret of the Hassan II Mosque on the waterfront of the Atlantic Ocean in Casablanca, Morocco is over 600 feet high.

