

Muslims societies have traditionally encouraged their women to be well covered, even totally covered with clothes from head to foot. Originally there were practical physical reasons for such clothing in a desert environment. Yet now from an Islamic perspective the main reason for such clothing is to limit sexual temptation among men. The relative moral weakness of men in the sexual realm is also cited as a reason for the isolation of women at home and the need to accompany them in public.



Sept. 4, 2008



## Day 4



# Spain

## *Islam in 21st century Europe*

**M**uch of Spain was under Islamic rule for almost seven hundred years. Al-Andalus was the Arabic name given to those parts of the Iberian Peninsula governed by Muslims, or Moors, up until the fall of the last Islamic stronghold, the city of Granada, in 1492. Muslim Spain or “Al-Andalus” is still seen by some as a good example of how Christians, Jews and Muslims should live together. However, most scholars have demonstrated that this ideal of Al-Andalus is not realistic.

**Muslims:** Today, Spain has around 800,000 Muslims, most of whom are fairly recent Moroccan immigrants. One of the largest mosques in Europe, which was built with financial help from Saudi Arabia, is located in Madrid. Although the Muslim North Africans have now become a significant minority in Spain, few Spanish Christians are actively seeking to proclaim Christ to them. This is also surprisingly true in the two Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla which are actually on the northern Moroccan coast. In those cities almost half the population is Muslim.

**Evangalism:** Happily there have been large efforts, especially in the port cities of Algeciras and Malaga, to distribute literature, cassettes and DVDs to Muslim travelling

to and from Morocco. Unfortunately there are almost no Arab or Berber followers of Jesus who meet regularly for worship and mutual encouragement; some groups have made some attempts to do so but often in unfavorable circumstances. A few North Africans from a Muslim background are now studying in Spanish Bible schools. Their situation is not easy since they are often rejected by family and friends.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ *Committed Spanish believers are relatively few in number, however, there are increasing opportunities for them to reach out to Muslims living in Spain. Pray for greater wisdom, zeal and mobilization of Spanish Christians for ministry among Muslims.*
- ▶ *Pray for the distribution of Gospel literature and DVDs in areas where there are Muslims.*
- ▶ *Pray for North African young people who come to study in Spanish Bible schools.*
- ▶ *Pray for the radio and TV programs being produced in Spain for North Africa.*