
Spain

**Total area:**

505,992 km²

Population:

46,468,102 (2016)

Literacy:

97%

Official languages:

Spanish

GDP (PPP) per capita:

\$38,239 (2017 est.)

Life expectancy:

82 years

Religions:

76% Catholic, 10% Agnostic or Atheist, 2% Muslim, 2% other religions

Prayer points

Give thanks for increase in evangelicals in Spain

Figures recently released show that 2% of Spaniards are now considered 'protestant evangelical Christian'. That's an eight-fold increase in the last 20 years. Thank you, Lord for gospel growth! At the same time, sadly, there has also been a large increase in the numbers of those who don't believe in God or that don't believe they can know Him. Pray this week for Spanish evangelists, preachers, children's workers, authors, poets, artists, teachers, mums, dads, and kids who love Jesus. May their witness be real, attractive, and Spirit-empowered. (Platform 67 - May 2021)

The future of short-term mission

Please pray for us as we reimagine short-term ministry for the future. Limitations to travel and less structured events mean that we have less opportunities to involve short termers in summer ministries. Pray for creativity and ingenuity, so we can make a way to help these willing young people capture a vision for world mission and God's heart for Europe. Thank God that two of our current short termers finish up with plans to return long term. (European Christian Mission - September 2020)

Moroccan Arabs

Many from this distinct Arab group live in Europe and the USA. In these nations, they have access to churches and the full Bible in their language, yet they remain unreached. Pray that the Lord will call more Christians to share Jesus' love with Moroccan Arabs, so that their lives will be transformed and the good news will spread to their friends and families across northern Africa. (WEC International - July 2020)

Christian hostel on the Camino de Santiago

Part of European Christian Mission's team vision is to open a Christian hostel on the Camino de Santiago. Please pray that God would provide the right house and resources for this to happen. This ministry can help to share the gospel not only with the many pilgrims but also with the locals in Zalla and Güeñes. Many towns and regions of the Basque Country do not have any gospel witness. Pray that the Lord would raise up more gospel workers to reach this harvest field. (European Christian Mission International - August 2019)

Help for refugees

In 2017, 68.5 million people were displaced as a direct result of persecution, conflict or violence. People make treacherous journeys by foot and by sea, with few possessions. They arrive exhausted. Many are traumatised and feel unsafe and they often face resentment and extremist threats. Pray for the victims of human trafficking, who were promised hope and a future. Pray for safety and protection for people making treacherous journeys. Pray for Bible-believing churches and Christian migrants to have opportunities to respond in practical ways with the love and message of Jesus Christ. (Serving In Mission - December 2018)

Church Planting Resources

Church planting in Spain has recently been supported by a new resource. M4's website describes itself as, "a process tool that helps church planters explore important issues they face during the entire church planting process. From the first moment you start carrying a vision of starting a new fellowship to when you have your new church around you, M4 helps you turn your dream into reality" As the first gathering of church planters in Spain use the M4 approach, it's exciting to see so many people coming together with the heart to see God's kingdom spreading in Spain. Pray for this resource to continue to help many church planters, so that God's kingdom will be extended in Spain and beyond. (European Christian Mission - September 2016)

'Fresh expression' in Spain

ECM are currently seeking God's will for the development of a 'fresh expression' of church in the University district. This is a newish area of 35,000 inhabitants without a community of evangelical believers as yet. "We're excited to be here and see what God is going to do in this part of the city. We don't know what it will look like, but believe that, as in other parts of Europe, many Spanish people have rejected what they see as 'traditional religion' but are open to seeking God in a more personal and relational manner." Pray for workers for the field, and for God's guidance in new developments in unreached areas of Spain. (European Christian Mission - March 2016)

Programmes for Prisoners

About three years ago, Alberto began listening to *Programmes for Prisoners* aired on Radio Vida, a Spanish Christian FM station broadcasting to the area of southern Andalucía. These live phone-in programmes allow inmates from a nearby prison and their families to exchange greetings over the air. Alberto began listening because his grandson was in prison. He heard that the radio station was inviting the families of the prisoners to a special meal so Alberto attended and met the programme producer and the volunteers from the church. As a result of the relationship that formed, Alberto surrendered his life to Jesus, joined the local church and has now become one of the dedicated volunteers who are involved in the weekly radio programmes, where he shares his own testimony. Pray for the impact of such programmes and that lives will continue to be changed. (Reach Beyond - September 2015)

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Celebrating Mother's Day

Give thanks again for the work of Latin partner Noel Diaz leading St Andrew's church, and for the great initiatives in outreach. "There are several brothels in our street and neighbourhood. For Mother's Day we wanted to make contact with some of the women to express our concern and love, so we invited them to our service. None came, but many of the women were really touched that we had thought of them. We gave them gifts to celebrate Mother's Day as many of them have children." Pray for those women and for encouragement for Noel and the congregation in their ongoing outreach. (Church Mission Society - March 2015)

Hearing the gospel through the airwaves

Spanish FM station Radio Vida broadcasts Christian programmes to the area of La Linea de la Concepcion and Gibraltar in the area of Andalucía. Thousands of people tune in and the station receives many emails, texts and phone calls, especially for their special programme aimed at the relatives and friends of prisoners. Now Radio Vida has the opportunity to enlarge its transmission area to include Jerez de la Frontera, the largest municipality in the province. Pray that these plans will come to fruition and that many more people will hear the gospel through the airwaves in Spain. (Reach Beyond - July 2014)

Thinking outside the box

In Spain organised religion is mostly seen in very negative terms. Often churches make their focus Sunday morning attendance with little other activity that encourages relationships to be built. Previously, regular church attendance could be seen as normal with services lasting up to 2 hours, but these days, the pull of family commitments, Sunday football etc. means that attending such a service is alien for most people. Pray for church leaders to think outside the box so that they can begin to connect with people who currently think the church is irrelevant and has nothing to offer them. (Church Mission Society - January 2014)

Relationships with immigrants

Spain has long been a transit point and destination for migration. Immigrants formed 2% of the population in 2000. With jobs readily available, especially in the construction industry, this figure rose to 12% by 2010. With jobs scarce since the economic crisis, the competition between immigrants and Spanish citizens is the source of considerable tension. With over one third of immigrants unemployed, many are now leaving because life is easier back home. Pray for the economic situation in Spain and for a softening in relationships between locals and immigrants. (Church Mission Society - November 2012)

A window of opportunity

In many ways Spain is quite closed to the gospel. However, a new window has opened in the education system. Parents may now choose the religious education of their children from Catholicism, Islam and evangelical Christianity! Their children can be exposed to the truths of the Bible and discover for themselves the living God. However, with evangelicals making up about 1% of the population, there are currently not enough teachers to meet the demands. Pray for more teachers to come forward. (European Christian Mission - January 2012)