

for your partnership in order to do the work of making disciples and establishing reproducing churches in Spain. **This partnership comes in three ways:** 1) **Prayer support.** The Gilberts need people to be part of their dedicated prayer team who will pray for them regularly. 2) **Financial support.** Ongoing financial contributions are needed in order to fund this faith based ministry. No ongoing gift is too small. 3) **Sharing the Gilbert's story** with others who care. Jack and Simcha need your help in spreading their vision for a Spain transformed by the Gospel. You can help by putting them in touch with individuals, organizations, and churches who would be willing to hear their vision for making disciples in Spain. If you have questions or would like to hear more about this opportunity to partner with the Gilberts, call, email, or visit their website www.send.org/jsgilbert.

For more info on the Gilbert family or how to partner with them, see there ministry brochure or visit www.send.org/jsgilbert



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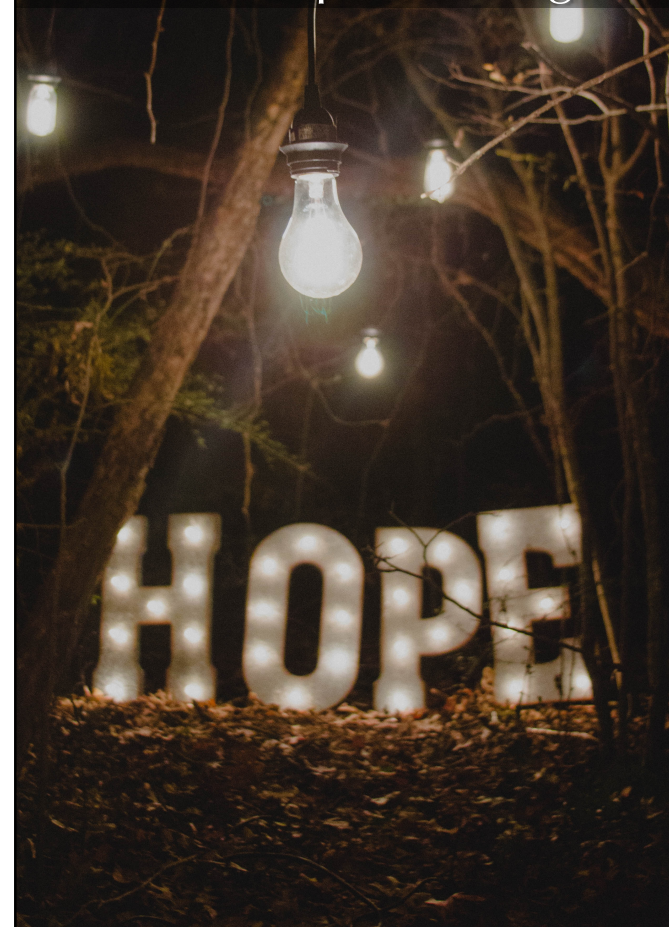
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The Gilbert Family (Jack, Simcha, Joshua, Abigail, & Joanna) are missionaries with SEND International. They want to make disciples and establish reproducing churches in Spain. Will you prayerfully consider partnering with them?

Why Spain?

A Call to Partnership
in Disciple-making



www.send.org/jsgilbert

Spain

Quick Facts*



Country

- **Area:** 504,783 sq km covering the Iberian Peninsula, Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean, and the Canary Islands off northwest Africa & two North African enclaves (Ceuta & Melilla).
- **Capital:** Madrid
- **Population:** 46.7 million
- **Government:** A constitutional monarchy with 17 semi autonomous regions and two enclaves.

Peoples

- ~ 5.6m Immigrants mainly from North Africa and Latin America
 - **European** 91.7%
 - Spanish 85%
 - **Latin American** 3.9%
 - **Arab world** 1.8%
 - **Gypsy/Romani** 1.4%
- *Information in this brochure comes from "Operation World: The Definitive Prayer Guide to Every Nation."

Religions (% pop)

- Evangelical Christian **1%
- Majority Catholic 67% (Generally culturally Catholic, non-practicing)
- Others: Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Occult, Atheist

**Evangelicals believe:

- Salvation by faith alone in Jesus, validated by his death/ resurrection.
- Personal faith and conversion with regeneration by the Holy Spirit.
- Bible as the ultimate basis and authority for faith and Christian living.
- Commitment to witness, evangelism, and missions

We use the term evangelical instead of Christian because many groups in Spain identify themselves as Christians (e.g. Jehovah's Witnesses, Cultural Catholics without a personal knowledge or relationship with Christ.)

A troubled Past

Spain's tumultuous past molds the present. The Muslim Moorish occupation lasted 700 years, ending in 1492. The worldwide Spanish empire lasted for three centuries. The Inquisition casts a dark shadow across Spain's history. In the 16th Century, thousands of suspected apostates were tortured or killed and hundreds of thousands of Jews, Muslims and Protestants were forced to convert or flee the country. The 19th and 20th Centuries were marked by instability, civil wars and dictatorships; the most recent one, under General Franco, lasted from 1939 to 1975, and it's association with the Church also tainted peoples' view of Christianity.

During Franco's dictatorship, Catholicism was the state religion. Non-Catholics, especially evangelicals, were subject to discrimination and even persecution. The 1978 Constitution guaranteed equality of rights for all people but discrimination still exists, even if outright persecution has faded. Preferential treatment of Catholics and restrictions on other religious groups have seen some congregations shut down by local authorities over issues of permits and licenses. Spain is fast moving from a traditional Catholic society to a secular-dominated, multicultural, multi-religious one.

The Current Climate

False beliefs are quickly multiplying – a natural consequence of the rapidly formed vacuum left by departure from religious faith. Spaniards flirting with occult practices is common. New Age deceptions abound. Marginal cults such as Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons have a large presence, augmented now by the arrival of new

foreign sects and other religions. Morality, and values in general, have suffered. Decadent behaviors and hedonistic lifestyles, combined with increased material possessions, cause greater degrees of depression, addiction, debt and loss of direction. The younger generation rejects the idea of absolute truth. Spain has never experienced a national outpouring of the Holy Spirit in revival, and, as secular attitudes predominate, the general spiritual atmosphere is drier than ever.

Gospel Hope

Spain is not without hope. Jesus Christ is able to transform people of any culture or background into a new creation. We believe if the Church will be faithful in taking the Gospel to Spain, it will take root because Christ has promised to be with us and empowers us through his Spirit to be his witnesses. If this is to happen then the Gospel must be preached, and Spaniards must be discipled and equipped to make disciples and plant reproducing churches.

That is what SEND has been doing in Spain since 1986. The SEND Spain team partners with local churches to help train leaders and look for opportunities to plug Spaniards into ministry. Mobilizing and training youth leaders is also a big need to reach the next generation.

A Call to Partnership

Not everyone is called to full time missions, but we are all called to be part of the mission of spreading the Gospel to the nations. Jack and Simcha Gilbert are asking