

Portuguese-speaking Jews in Portugal



The word Sephard was the name used by Jews in medieval times for the Iberian Peninsula. Sephardim Jews, then, are the descendants of the Jews who lived in Spain or Portugal prior to expulsion in 1492 by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. Sephardim also have a distinctive language called Ladino, or Judeo-Spanish, which is a dialect of Castilian Spanish with Hebrew and Turkish elements. Most Jewish people in Portugal today speak Portuguese.

Ministry Obstacles

For religious Jews, God is the Supreme Being, the Creator of the universe, and the ultimate Judge of human affairs. Beyond this, the religious beliefs of the Jewish communities vary greatly. Whoever reaches out to the Jewish people in Portugal will need to understand this religious diversity.

Outreach Ideas

Jewish people everywhere, including Portugal, have a strong ethnic identity. Those who reach out to them can use this as a way to highlight their connection with the Jewish Messiah.

Prayer Focus

Pray that the Jewish people will understand that Jesus is the long-



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POPULATION: 3,300

LANGUAGE: Portuguese

RELIGION: Ethnic Religions

BIBLE: Complete

STATUS: Unreached

awaited Messiah. Pray that God will grant Jewish believers favor as they share their faith in Christ with people in Portugal. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth loving Christians to work among the Jewish communities. Pray for a movement to Christ among Portuguese Jews.

SCRIPTURE You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' (Acts 2:28)

PRAY the Lord makes known to today's people group the true path of life. Pray they learn to rejoice in God's presence.