



world missions

Mobilize 100 new Free Methodist missionaries
(66 international; 34 North American)

Sergio and Mary Loyola

- ◆ From Chile
- ◆ Serving in Bolivia



After planting the Free Methodist Church in Chile in the 1980s, Sergio and Mary Loyola began ministering in neighboring countries, overseeing the growing FMC in Uruguay, Argentina, Peru and Bolivia. Even as they continued superintending the church in Chile, every trip Sergio took to Bolivia intrigued him more.

Sergio announced he would not stand for re-election at the November 2004 Chile annual conference. In January 2005, Sergio and Mary set off for their next church planting adventure. Their destination was Santa Cruz, Bolivia. With their belongings reduced to eight suitcases and boxes, they completed the 50-hour bus ride to Santa Cruz. Church services began in their house in April 2005.

Sergio and Mary are in the late 50s, a time when they could be forgiven if they said it was time to enjoy their seven grandchildren, to tend Sergio's hobby of breeding song-birds, for Mary to continue overseeing the International Child Care Ministries program in Chile. Instead, they have chosen to minister to the people of Bolivia, a country of profound needs.

Populist governments and radical folk leaders of their 200 coups and countercoups have led Bolivia into deepening poverty and alienation from its neighbors. There is little of the optimism of the Brazilians, the joy of the Argentines, or the steadiness of the Chileans. Bolivia is a country accustomed to betrayal, conspiracy and loss.

-David Roller, Latin America Area Director