

South American Division – Fast Facts and Mission Posts

Bolivia

1. Bolivia has 481 churches and 673 companies. With 122,738 members, that's one member for every 95 people in the country.
2. Bolivia was the last of the countries of the South American Division in which Seventh-day Adventists established their work, although as early as the middle of 1897, Adventist literature was being distributed by Juan S. Pereira, a former colporteur for the Presbyterians who was discharged from their service for propagating Seventh-day Adventist doctrine. Pereira was arrested at the instigation of a priest for selling bad books. At his request, the books were examined and pronounced not bad, whereupon he was released with the official advice to leave the country. However, he remained and continued his work for 18 months. At one point, while in Bolivia, Pereira was imprisoned and condemned to death through the influence of the Catholic clergy, but escaped death through the help of a judge, Dr. J. Suarez Mirando, who later became interested in Adventist teachings.
3. The first official missionaries to Bolivia, Eduardo and Flora Thomann, arrived in June 1907. They met people who had become interested in Adventism through reading books purchased from Juan S. Pereira, a former Presbyterian colporteur discharged for propagating Adventist doctrine. A week before the Thomanns left for Chile in July 1909, Ferdinand and Ana Stahl arrived and began medical work in La Paz. Later the Stahls opened medical work among indigenous peoples.
4. Bolivia is a secular state whose constitution guarantees freedom of religion.
5. According to the most recent census (2001) by the National Institute of Statistics of Bolivia, 78 percent of the population is Roman Catholic, 19 percent are Protestant, a small number are Orthodox, and 3 percent adhere to traditional beliefs or are non-religious.
6. The constitutional capital of Bolivia is Sucre, but the executive capital and seat of government is La Paz.
7. Spanish is the main official language, although there are also 36 official indigenous languages; the most commonly spoken are the Aymara, Guarani, and Quechua languages.
8. Bolivia was named after Simón Bolívar (Simón José Antonio de la Santísima Trinidad Bolívar y Ponte Palacios y Blanco), a Venezuelan military and political leader who led what are now Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Panama to independence from the Spanish Empire. The Spanish rule of Bolivia began in the sixteenth century and came to an end in 1825, after 16 years of war.
9. The national animals of Bolivia are the llama and the Andean condor.
10. Bolivia has the world's largest salt flat (Salar de Uyuni), which covers 4,086 square miles (10,582 square kilometers) and is 11,995 feet (3,656 meters) above sea level. It is 100 times larger than the famous Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah, in the USA. It contains 50–70 percent of the world's reserves of the element lithium.
11. Bolivia and Peru share Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake at 12,507 feet (3,810 meters) above sea level. It has a surface area of 5,157 square miles (8,300 square kilometers).
12. Only about 11 percent of all roads in Bolivia are paved.

13. The Aymara are an indigenous people in Bolivia, Peru, and Chile, and they have lived in the Andes for more than 2,000 years. There are about 2 million Aymara in the region.
14. You can tell if an Aymara woman is married or single by how she wears her bowler hat: tipped to one side if she is unmarried, and on the middle of her head if she is married.
15. A traditional Bolivian dish is Sopa de Mani (peanut soup) made from pasta, vegetables, and ground peanuts.
16. The main exports of Bolivia are natural gas, mineral ores, tin, gold, soybeans, and soy products.

Brazil

1. Brazil has 9,730 churches and 8,919 companies. With 1,726,488 members, that's one member for every 123 people in Brazil.
2. The Adventist message first entered Brazil through publications that arrived at the port of Itajai, Santa Catarina, in 1879. A young German named Burchard, in trouble with the law, fled Brazil as a stowaway on a German ship. When he was discovered on the way to Europe, he had to work off his passage. While on board he met and talked with Adventist missionaries, and gave them the address of his stepfather, Carlos Dreefke, who lived in Brusque, Santa Catarina. The missionaries decided to send Dreefke some Adventist publications, although it was almost two years before he received them. At first, Dreefke was reluctant to open the strange package, which he had not ordered but eventually he opened it and found 10 copies of *Stimme der Wahrheit* (Voice of Truth), printed in Battle Creek, Michigan. Dreefke kept one paper and gave the rest to friends. As a result, the 10 families that received the papers became interested in Adventist teachings and asked for more information.
3. In July 1900, the first issue of *O Arauto da Verdade* (The Herald of Truth), the first Adventist periodical in Portuguese, was published.
4. In 1939, Adventist medical work was established in Brazil, with the foundation of the Boa Vista Clinic (Good View Clinic) under the direction of Dr. Antonio Alves de Miranda. In 1942 the clinic was replaced by the Casa de Saude Liberdade (São Paulo Adventist Hospital), under the direction of Dr. Galdino Nunes Vieira, a university teacher who left his job to dedicate himself to medical missionary work.
5. Leo B. Halliwell, a pioneer in boat medical-missionary work, began what grew into a well-known welfare ministry in 1931 with the launch of a boat designed and built by himself on the Amazon River. The boat was the first in a series of craft named Luzeiro (Light Bearer) that were subsequently built and used on branches of the Amazon. These boats still give assistance to thousands of people. Besides distributing clothing and food, medical help is given for many issues, the most common being malaria, intestinal parasites, malnutrition, skin diseases, general and tropical diseases, and tooth extraction.
6. The Latin-American Adventist Theological Seminary (Seminario Adventista Latinoamericano de Teologia), is located in Brasilia, Brazil.
7. Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth-largest nation in the world. It forms an enormous triangle on the eastern side of the continent with a 4,600-mile (7,400-kilometer) coastline along the Atlantic Ocean. It has borders with every South American country except Chile and Ecuador.
8. Most Brazilians are descended from three ethnic groups: Amerindians, European settlers (mainly from Portugal), and Africans.
9. **Brazil is home to the world's largest carnival in Rio de Janeiro. Each year about 2 million people take to the streets of Rio to enjoy music, dancing, elaborate costumes, and parades.**
10. Brazil has the greatest variety of animals of any country in the world. It is home to 600 mammal species, 1,500 fish species, 1,600 bird species, and 100,000 different types of insects.

11. Brazil has many different soils and climates, so it can produce a great variety of crops. Its agricultural exports include sugarcane, latex, coffee, cocoa beans, cotton, soybeans, rice, and tropical fruits.
12. Brazil was added to the map of the world during the European explorations in the late fifteenth century, led by Portugal and Spain. When Europeans first reached Brazil, the country was home to about 30 million indigenous people. Today, only about 300,000 remain, living mainly in Brazil's remotest places.
13. Brazil is the only country in South America that speaks Portuguese.
14. The capital city is Brasilia, while the largest city is São Paulo. Other major cities include Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Fortaleza.
15. The Amazon River flows through Brazil and is the second-longest river in the world after the Nile.
16. About 60 percent of the Amazon rainforest is located in Brazil.
17. Soccer (football) is the most popular sport in Brazil. The national team consistently is among the best in the world, winning the World Cup a record five times.
18. Brazil's highest mountain is the Pico da Neblina (Mist Peak), on the border with Venezuela, at 9,823 feet (2,994 meters) above sea level. Because it is almost permanently shrouded in cloud, it was not discovered until the 1950s, and was first ascended in 1965 (12 years after Everest).
19. Brazil has been the world's largest exporter of coffee for more than 150 years. In the 1920s it supplied around 80 percent of the world's coffee; today it is around a third.
20. São Paulo has some of the world's worst traffic jams. According to the city's traffic management agency, a congestion record was set on November 15, 2013, with a total of 192 miles (309 kilometers) of traffic jams around the city during the evening rush hour.
21. Brazil has about 4,000 airports, more than any other country other than the United States, which has 13,513.
22. At least 70 uncontacted tribes live in the Brazilian Amazon.
23. The statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro weighs 635 tons (576,062 kg), is 125 feet (38 meters) high, including its pedestal, and has been named one of the "New Seven Wonders of the World."
24. The story goes that on January 1, 1502, the first official tourist arrived in Brazil. The bay where they landed was named Rio de Janeiro (Bay of January).

Peru

1. Peru has 2,580 Adventist churches and 3,189 companies. With a membership of 414,344, Adventists make up one in 79.
2. Seventh-day Adventist work in Peru began in 1898 with a Chilean missionary named Escobar who, with six others, settled in the city of Lima and worked as self-supporting missionaries.
3. Early Adventist workers in Peru found a hostile reception. One group of Chilean Adventists that went to Mollendo arrived on a Friday and began missionary work the next day. They were immediately attacked by a mob, arrested by the police, and in a few days shipped back to Chile. The first baptisms had to be done in secret.
4. In 1911, Ferdinand and Ana Stahl, who had previously worked in Bolivia, were transferred to Plateria, Peru. The history of the pioneer experiences and missionary service that endeared them to the Aymara Indians is recounted in Stahl's book *In the Land of the Incas*. In 1921, the Stahls moved to the Chanchamayo district in central Peru to work among the Amazonian people. They established the Metraro mission station on the Perene River. A wood-burning steamboat named Auxiliadora (Helper) was purchased in 1928, and Stahl used it to make long missionary trips up and down the rivers. In 1940, it was replaced by a more practical diesel-powered boat built in Belem, Brazil, as the twin sister of L. B. Halliwell's Luzeiro II.
5. The largest species of bromeliad, a kind of flowering plant, is the Queen of the Andes (in English), Titanka (in Quechua) or Puya de Raimondi (in Spanish). Native to Bolivia and Peru, it grows at high elevations in the Andes and produces a spike 16–23 feet (5–7 meters) high, bearing 8,000 to 20,000 flowers each. It grows for up to 40 years before flowering and quickly dying.
6. The Andes, the second-highest mountain range in the world, run through Peru. They run from north to south and can be seen from Peru's beaches 50 miles (80 kilometers) to the west. The highest peak, Mount Huascarán, is 22,205 feet (6,768 meters) high.
7. The people of Peru are a mix of many different cultures, including Indians, Spaniards, and other Europeans, descendants of African slaves, and Asians.
8. Until recently, most Peruvians lived in the countryside. But now, more than 70 percent live in cities.
9. One of the most important Peruvian cultures was the Inca, who lived in Peru about 600 years ago. Their capital, Cusco, is still a major city today. The Inca also built Machu Picchu, a mysterious ancient city in the Andes. They thrived for centuries before being conquered by the Spanish in 1532.
10. Peru shares borders with Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Chile, and Bolivia.
11. The capital city of Peru is Lima and is home to more than a quarter of Peru's population.
12. Spanish is the main language in Peru, although many also speak the Inca language Quechua. The third official language is Aymara.
13. The currency of Peru is the Nuevo Sol.
14. Peru celebrates its Independence from the Spanish Empire on July 28 and 29. It is known as *Fiestas Patrias* which means "Patriotic Holidays" or "National Holidays" in Spanish.
15. The potato is originally from Peru and comes in more than 3,000 varieties. Peruvians use the phrase "Soy mas Peruano que la papa" (I am more Peruvian than the potato).

16. While Peru remains a poor country, it is one of the richest in terms of natural resources. It is one of the world's top producers of metals like gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, and zinc, as well as oil and natural gas.
17. The largest bird on Earth, the Giant Andean condor, can be found at Colca Canyon. Standing up to 4 feet (1 meter) high with a wingspan of up to 14 feet (4 meters) and weighing as much as 27 pounds (12 kilograms), the bird can fly for hours without flapping its wings. The condor is native to the Andes and was considered a sacred bird by the Incas. It is now listed as "vulnerable" by the World Conservation Union.
18. Peru's Nazca Lines is a collection of giant human and animal geoglyphs scattered along the high desert plateau between Nazca and Palpa and were first noticed from the air in 1927. This collection is made up of more than 70 human figures and animals and 10,000 lines (with some lines running up to 30 miles [50 kilometers] long!).
19. Since pre-Inca times, salt has been collected in Maras by evaporating salty water from a local subterranean stream. The water comes out of a spring, a natural outlet of the underground stream, and is directed into a system of channels so that the water runs down into several hundred ancient, terraced ponds. As the water evaporates from the sun-warmed ponds, the salt crystallizes around the edges of the ponds. Today, you can still see families dressed in traditional clothing and some in top hats sifting the water for salt. Each family has their own salt pond that is managed by them and has been passed down to them for generations since Incan times.
20. Thanks to the abundant rainforests and 90 distinct microclimates, Peru counts among the 10 most biologically diverse countries in the world.
21. The oldest mummy of a human was found in the Atacama coastal desert of Peru. Some areas of this desert are so dry, they have only received 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) of rain in the past 30 years.

Uruguay

1. Uruguay has 60 churches and 50 companies. There are 7,127, making each Adventist one in 495 Uruguayans.
2. The first Adventist in Uruguay was Mrs. Juan Rivoir, who came to Uruguay with her husband in 1890 and who, four years before her arrival, had listened to sermons by Ellen White in Piedmont, Italy.
3. The first Seventh-day Adventist school in Uruguay was organized in 1908, in the home of Julio Ernst, with Otto Heydeker as teacher, in Nueva Helvecia colony. Uruguay Academy, now Uruguay Adventist Academy (Instituto Adventista del Uruguay), was founded in 1944 in Progreso.
4. Uruguay has two Adventist radio stations: Uruguay Voice of Hope Radio (Radio La Voz de la Esperanza Uruguay) in Maldonado and Montevideo.
5. In Uruguay there are three cows for every one person.
6. Although 46 percent of its population practices Catholicism, Uruguay is the most non-religious country in the Americas.
7. The national dish of Uruguay is a sandwich called Chivito. It is made with thinly sliced steak (churrasco), mozzarella, tomatoes, mayonnaise, olives, and hard-boiled eggs, and is served in a bun. It is often eaten with french fries.
8. The Guaraní word Uruguay means “river of the painted birds.”
9. Uruguay inhabitants refer to themselves as “orientals” (people from the east) to reflect their location — east of the Uruguay River. So, the official name of Uruguay is The Oriental Republic of Uruguay.
10. Uruguay’s national anthem is the world’s longest. The “National Anthem of Uruguay,” also known by its first line, “Orientales, la Patria o la Tumba” (Orientals, our country or the grave), has 11 verses, each followed by the chorus, and lasts about five minutes when played in full. Normally, only one verse and the chorus are sung.
11. The clothing styles that are favored by South American ranch hands are known as gaucho clothes. These styles were first used by traditional Uruguay cowboys, and they continue to be very popular with modern day gauchos.
12. Uruguay is the second-smallest South American country (covering an area of 68,000 square miles, or 176,000 square kilometers) and is situated in the southeastern part of South America. This country is bordered by the Uruguay River to the west, Brazil to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the southeast, the estuary of the Rio de la Plata to the southwest, and the Rio Grande do Sul to the south.
13. Uruguay has a literacy rate of 98.1 percent for adults, thanks to the provision of free, compulsory education. In 2009, it became the first nation in the world to provide every school child with free wireless internet and a laptop.
14. Around 95 percent of the electricity is generated from renewable resources, mainly from wind farms.
15. In 1930, the first-ever FIFA World Cup was held in this country. The capital, Montevideo, hosted all the matches during the competition.
16. Uruguay is unique in having the letter “u” appear three times within the first five letters.

17. Uruguay is ranked first in Latin America in democracy, peace, lack of corruption, quality of living, e-government, and equally first in South America when it comes to media freedom, size of the middle class, prosperity, and security.
18. Uruguay is the only country in South America where tap water is safe to drink.
19. Uruguay has tight restrictions on salt use in restaurants (even McDonald's does not salt french fries), and you have to ask specially for salt at your table.

Bolivia

Budin de Coco - Coconut Pudding
(Serves 8)

Ingredients

4 cups (1 liter) of milk

1 grated coconut (about 1 lb, or 0.45 kg), preferably fresh but, if dried, 6 ½ cups of unsweetened wide shreds

2 cups (0.45 kg) sugar

1/2 cup (64 g) cornstarch

Ground cloves (to taste)

Ground cinnamon (to taste)

Whipped cream (for serving)

Preparation:

In a pot, mix three-fourths of the milk, the coconut, and the cloves and cinnamon and bring to a boil. Add the sugar and cook on low heat for 10 more minutes. Strain and return the liquid to the pot.

Mix the cornstarch in a little bit of cold water until it is a smooth, thin paste. Add to the strained liquid, along with the remaining one-fourth of the milk. Cook on low heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture thickens.

Remove from heat, cool completely, serve in a glass or bowl topped with whipped cream and powdered cinnamon.

Yo Tengo Gozo

Sung to the tune of "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, Down in My Heart"

Portuguese:

Yo tengo gozo, gozo, gozo, gozo
En mi corazón, En me corazón
En me corazón
Yo tengo gozo, gozo, gozo, gozo
En mi corazón
Porque Cristo me Salvó

Yo tengo paz, paz, paz, paz
En mi corazón, En me corazón
En me corazón
Yo tengo paz, paz, paz, paz
En mi corazón
Porque Cristo me Salvó

English:

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart
Because Christ saved me

I have peace, peace, peace, peace,
Down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart
I have peace, peace, peace, peace,
Down in my heart
Because Christ saved me

Pronunciation:

Yo TEN-go GO-zo, GO-zo, GO-zo, GO-zo
En me COR-a-zone, En me COR-a-zone
En me COR-a-zone
Yo TEN-go GO-zo, GO-zo, GO-zo, GO-zo
En me COR-a-zone
POOR-keh CREESH-too me SAL-voh

Yo TEN-go pahsh, pahsh, pahsh, pahsh
En me COR-a-zone, En me COR-a-zone
En me COR-a-zone
Yo TEN-go pahsh, pahsh, pahsh, pahsh
En me COR-a-zone

POOR-keh CREESH-too me SAL-voh

Hit the Penny is a game from the country of Brazil.

Cut a stick (a broomstick or thick dowel) to a length of 12 to 16 inches (30 to 40 cm). Draw a circle on the ground about 2 feet (60 cm) across and hammer the stick into the middle of it. Place a coin on the top of the stick.

1. To play Hit the Penny, stand all the players in a line about 3 feet (1 meter) from the edge of the circle.
2. Players take turns throwing a coin at the coin on top of the stick. They must try and knock it off the stick and have it land outside the circle. If they are successful, they can have another turn and continue until they miss. If not, the next player has his or her turn.
3. Players receive one point if they successfully knock the coin off the stick so that it lands outside the circle.
4. The winner is the player with the most points at the end of the game.

Pinwheels

(International, featured in “Mission Pinwheels” on p. 26)

Materials

Piece of paper about 6 inches (15 cm) square

Scissors

Push pin/thumbtack

Straw or pencil with eraser

Instructions

Using the push pin, poke a hole in the very center of the paper. Cut from each corner toward the center of the square of paper, stopping 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the center point. Bend the point at the long end of each cut (every other corner) toward the middle (don't fold it). Make a hole with the push pin near the point and then line up all the holes with the middle hole and put the pin through all the holes, from the front to the back. Push the point of the pin into the straw near the top, or into the eraser of the pencil. Don't push it in too tightly or the wheel won't spin. If the pin sticks out the other side of the straw or eraser, put a bit of tape over it to keep it from poking little fingers.