

**Introducing a new MAPI missionary couple:
Luis and Magdiel, from Bolivia**

I first met Luis by e-mail as he followed up on interest generated by our MAPI website. After an interchange of various e-mails, he came to Brazil from Bolivia to participate in a congress in which I was ministering to pastors, pastoral leaders, and their wives in the area of their marriages. He asked if we could talk. I asked if we could walk while we talked and took along two of my other coordinators. We must have walked several miles and, as they tell the story, at a pace they were unaccustomed to. The walk and our talk marked Luis' life profoundly, beginning a relationship that has drawn us more and more together. His life was characterized by a frenetic whirlwind of ministry, traveling in various Latin American countries. One of the repeated themes of our conversations has been to help him simplify his life, focus, and learn to say no to wonderful opportunities.

In March of last year (2005), I visited Santa Cruz, Bolivia, along with another Brazilian coordinator from our network. We spent 10 days with Luis, his wife, and his team-information as we ministered a mentoring clinic for pastors and wives, followed by a weekend training seminar for pastors and leaders in the area of developing gifts and ministry teams. It was delightful to meet his three children (ages 11, 6, and 1½) and deepen our bond. God used this time to



Luis and Magdiel, leaders of MAPI Bolivia.

birth MAPI Bolivia and to gradually confirm in Luis, through the course of the year, a calling to be a MAPI missionary. At the end of the year he and his wife, Magdiel, completed the application process and were accepted as our newest MAPI missionaries, joining us for a week in Brazil that included four days of retreat with the other missionaries.

I am working with Luis to limit the mentoring/pastoring pastors movement to Bolivia for three years (2005-2007). If it were up to him, he would be spreading it throughout Spanish-speaking Latin America and even over to Spain. But he understands my insistence that it needs to be well founded in Bolivia as a model before being spread to other Spanish-speaking countries. He's translating the materials and even some of the books I've written, from Portuguese into Spanish. His enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication to the vision leave many of my older coordinators in the dust. I'm astonished and grateful for how God has bonded him to me and anointed him for this ministry that is bringing strength and health to pastors in Bolivia as a base for many other countries. Both MAPI Brazil and MAPI Bolivia will be used by God to strengthen the missionaries going out from these countries also, enabling them to be healthier and better connected relationally. May God give us new "Luises" in many other countries in the years to come.

Gratefully,