



## Argentina

### Fast facts

- Argentina is the largest Spanish-speaking country in South America (pop. 40 million).
- Buenos Aires is the 11<sup>th</sup>-largest city in the world, with 13 million people living in the metropolitan area.
- Approximately 90 percent of the population is Roman Catholic. Only 20 percent of these practice their faith.

### Who knew?

- Because Argentina is in the Southern Hemisphere, it's hot at Christmas and freezing in July.
- Buenos Aires and Washington, D.C., are the same distance from the equator and have similar weather.
- A phonetic study (conducted by the Laboratory for Sensory Investigations of CONICET and the University of Toronto) showed that the accent of the inhabitants of Buenos Aires, known as *porteños*, is closer to the Neapolitan dialect of Italian than any other spoken language. This gives credence to the common saying, "Argentina is a nation of Italians who speak Spanish."
- "Argentina" comes from the Latin word for silver, *argentum*.



### Tim & Annette's history with Argentina

- 1995 – We are assigned to Argentina by OC International, but for a variety of reasons end up being reassigned to Mexico.
- 2001 – Begin relationship with *Roots* training ministry and Argentine leadership specialist Gerardo Muniello.
- 2002 – First visit to Buenos Aires to participate as speakers in first *Youth Specialties* international convention for youth leader. We've gone every year since.
- 2005 – We ask to join the OC team in Argentina, only to find out it has been officially closed two months prior to our request.
- 2006 – Director of *Youth Specialties* (Latin America) asks us to join the launch team for a series of youth ministry institutes opening simultaneously in Buenos Aires and Guatemala City.
- 2007 – The International Ministry Team of OC approves our joining the launch team for the campus in Buenos Aires. We begin moving our things down, carrying 50-pound suitcases of books, clothing, kitchen implements, and Mexican pottery which we store in various friends' homes.
- 2008 – February 12, Tim's parents help us carry down the final suitcases and begin to assemble our life there.