

Lima, Paulo Ferreira (1936–2022)

THE BRAZILIAN WHITE CENTER – UNASP (2)

The Brazilian White Center – UNASP (2) is a team of teachers and students at the Brazilian Ellen G. White Research Center – UNASP at the Brazilian Adventist University, Campus Engenheiro, Coelho, SP. The team was supervised by Drs. Adolfo Semo Suárez, Renato Stencel, and Carlos Flávio Teixeira. The following are the team members: Melissa Querido Batista, Priscila Carvalho dos Santos, Allan Sleyter Soares de Atayde, Jonatan Ferreira Nascimento, and Leo Eduardo Menegusso Valenzi.

Paulo Ferreira Lima was a Brazilian Adventist pastor, educator, missionary, and philanthropist who served the Seventh-day Adventist organization for about 40 years, standing out for his work in many areas of Adventist education and working for over 25 years at the Brazil Adventist College, now [Brazil Adventist University, São Paulo campus](#).

Early Life and Family

Paulo Ferreira Lima, son of Antônio Gonçalves de Lima (July 10, 1899) and Amélia Barreto Conceição (1904–1969),¹ was born on August 2nd, 1936, in the municipality of Carandaí, state of Minas Gerais, Brazil.² Paulo's siblings were: Adão and Sebastiana (who died in infancy), Eva Gonçalves da Silva, Abel Ferreira Lima, Ester Ferreira da Costa, Silas Ferreira Lima, Pedro Ferreira Lima and Daniel Ferreira Lima.³

He was married to Loyde Ferreira de Lima (1936–2015), with whom he had two sons: Paulo Roberto Lima, born on December 29, 1971, and Elton Ferreira Lima, born on February 26, 1975.⁴ His eldest son, Paulo Roberto, married Luciane G. F. Lima, with whom he had a son and a daughter: Erick and Laís. His youngest son, Elton, married Michelle S. C. Lima, and had two children: Lucas and Clarissa. In total, Paulo had four grandchildren.⁵



Paulo Ferreira Lima

Photo courtesy of Brazilian White Center-UNASP.

The Faith Experience of Paulo Lima's Family

Paulo Lima was born into a Seventh-day Adventist family. His parents became familiar with the Adventist message prior to his birth, through [Saturnino Mendes de Oliveira](#),⁶ a prominent Brazilian canvasser-evangelist.

In 1922, Saturnino de Oliveira, during his travels through the state of Minas Gerais, arrived in the village of Hermilo Alves, part of the municipality of Carandaí, a farming community about 36 kilometers from Barbacena. Since it was late in the evening, he was tired and searched for a shelter, knocking on the door of Antônio Lima's farm, who welcomed him. Saturnino's first action was to invite the family to pray. The Lima couple immediately offered him a basin with water to bathe in, and food: fresh fruit from the farm and traditional regional biscuits. Before resting, Saturnino invited the couple to study the Bible. Mr. and Mrs. Lima were illiterate, but they listened attentively as brother Saturnino de Oliveira told them Bible stories. The story that most impacted the couple was about the prophet Daniel: his refusal to eat the food from King Nebuchadnezzar's table and the strange writing on the wall during King Belshazzar's drunkenness. The study continued until late at night, and the Bible stories led the Lima couple to abandon their pig farming and use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages. The next day, Saturnino asked Antônio to lend him a horse, and so he proceeded on visiting the other farms in the region. After getting lost along the way, Saturnino returned to the Limas' house at night. The following day, Antônio took Saturnino to the train station, where the canvasser departed on a train, promising to return within three months to visit the couple.⁷

Despite being illiterate, the Limas acquired three books from the canvasser: *The Conflict of the Ages* (currently titled *The Great Controversy*), *Testimonies for the Church*, both by Ellen White, and the book *O Sábado (The Sabbath)* by Guilherme Stein Jr. Antônio promptly looked for a teacher and received basic literacy instruction so he could read the books he had acquired from Saturnino. Soon after, he also acquired a Bible and started studying it diligently.⁸

Three months later, Saturnino de Oliveira returned to the region and found about three families gathered on Saturdays studying the Bible at the Limas' home. A group of Adventists was formed in that region, supervised by the nearest church, Barbacena (at the time part of Juiz de Fora pastoral district).⁹

Three months later, Saturnino came to visit the family again. From afar, Mrs. Lima saw three men coming towards her land. To her surprise, only two men arrived at the farm: Saturnino de Oliveira and Pastor John Henry Boehm, who had accompanied him to baptize those Bible students. The family believed that the third person seen was an angel, accompanying the missionary pair. A festive Saturday followed, when in addition to the couple, six more people from the region were baptized by Pastor John Boehm, at the time president of the former Rio-Minas Conference (which covered the states of Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, and Espírito Santo). Boehm, along with John Lipke, was one of the founders of the Brazil Adventist College (now Brazil Adventist University, São Paulo campus) and, taking advantage of his trip to the state of Minas Gerais, he aimed to reach the Capim Roxo region, in the municipality of Caparaó, where he planned to buy a farm in order to build a new

Adventist College, modeled after Brazil Adventist College.¹⁰

After the Lima couple's conversion, the family faced many difficulties. In addition to the rejection and mockery from neighbors, friends and family, the couple lost their first two children: Adão and Sebastiana, who died suddenly, months after each other, while they were still children. Despite the difficulties, the couple's faith only increased, and they became leaders of the newly formed church in that region. Antônio built a hall attached to his house, where the Adventist group's meetings took place for many years.¹¹

Influenced by their parents' faith, each of the Limas' children soon made their decision to follow Christ. Paulo, along with his brothers, Silas and Pedro, were baptized into the Seventh-Day Adventist Church on July 31, 1948, by Pastor [José Baracat](#). After his conversion, a missionary call started to burn in young Paulo's heart.¹²

Education

Paulo started his studies in his hometown, Carandaí, up to the third grade. Later, as an adult, he had the opportunity to go to São Paulo to study at the Brazil Adventist College (CAB), now Brazil Adventist University, São Paulo campus. At CAB he completed primary and secondary school in 1962.¹³ In 1968, he graduated in Theology, also at CAB, as part of the 47th graduating class in Theology, which carried the motto "In service of God and humanity."¹⁴ During his time studying at CAB, he worked hard as a scholarship holder, and during vacations as a canvasser-student.¹⁵

In addition to Theology, Paulo also studied mathematics, around the 1970s, at Organização Santamarense de Educação e Cultura (Santamarense Organization of Education and Culture), now Santo Amaro University, in São Paulo. In the late 1980s, he completed his Master's degree in mathematics at the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais (Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais), in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais.¹⁶

Marriage

Paulo met his wife, Loyde, in his school break period, when he was working as a canvasser in Rio de Janeiro. He first saw her at the Silvestre Hospital, where she worked. After other contacts they made during their canvassing campaigns in Rio de Janeiro, and Loyde's trips to São Paulo, they started a relationship that lasted 55 years, with five years of courtship and engagement, and about 50 years of marriage. Paulo and Loyde were married in February 1965 at Brazil Adventist College, officiated by Pastor and Professor Pedro Apolinário.¹⁷

Loyde studied at Petrópolis Adventist Academy in Petrópolis, Rio de Janeiro, and graduated from the former São Paulo Adventist Academy, now [Brazil Adventist University, Hortolândia campus](#). She worked in the Human Resources Department at the Silvestre Adventist Hospital in Rio de Janeiro, and at Brazil Adventist University, where she worked until her retirement. Her last function was being secretary for the first and second grades. She served the Brazil Adventist University Church as director of the female diaconate and the Dorcas Ministry!¹⁸

Ministry

After graduating in Theology, Paulo was invited to teach at the Brazil Adventist College's Adventist Academy, where he taught mathematics. During this time, he also taught at Luzwell University and the Ellen G. White Adventist College (Capão Redondo). From the 1980s onwards, he worked exclusively at the Brazil Adventist College, where he taught elementary school students from fifth to eighth grade, and high school students in the three classes of the Scientific Course (high school). Later, he was also called to teach at the Adventist Faculty of Education (Faculdade Adventista de Educação). As a professor, he stood out for his strong spiritual and missionary personality, conducting impactful meditations at the beginning of classes and leading many students to give their lives to Jesus. Pastor Paulo was also a great philanthropist, who on several occasions helped scholarship students with the collection and donation of clothing, medicine, personal hygiene items, and mattresses. In addition to often opening his home to host theology students in difficult situations.¹⁹

He was the director of Missionary Action at the Brazil Adventist College Church (now Brazil Adventist University). Under his leadership, several internal and external evangelistic campaigns were promoted. In 1987, the institution worked extensively on evangelistic campaigns in the neighborhood and surrounding areas, through the distribution of literature, courses, and Bible classes.²⁰ The Brazil Adventist College also sent missionaries to work abroad, in places such as Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Macau (an autonomous region of China, which was formerly a Portuguese colony).²¹ Pastor Paulo was responsible for the Evangelism Tent, erected on the former Brazil Adventist College's premises, which were expropriated by the São Paulo City Hall in 1983. And in 1984, the construction of a neighborhood for popular housing complexes began, which became known as Adventist Popular Housing Company (Companhia de Habitação Popular Adventista).²² As a result of the missionary teamwork, led by Pastor Paulo in the community, the Adventist Popular Housing Company Church was opened. The temple was inaugurated on April 28, 1990,²³ and on November 2, 1992, the group was officially organized as a church.²⁴ Pastor Paulo also mentored the Brazil Adventist College Theology Students from the 3^d and 4th years, until the last graduating class at São Paulo campus (1990). Paulo had the opportunity to mentor great Adventist leaders, for example Almir Marroni, Mauricio Lima, and Erton Köhler.²⁵

He was ordained to the sacred ministry on February 11, 1989, during a ceremony held at Brazil Adventist College in São Paulo. On that occasion, pastors Hélio Lehr, Rubem Aguilar, and Wilson Paroschi were also ordained.²⁶

From 1996 to 2000, he was the ADRA director in the South São Paulo Conference. During this period, he also taught some classes at Brazil Adventist College.²⁷ During his work at ADRA, he carried out many campaigns and collections to assist the Ribeira Valley Region (south of São Paulo state) needy communities, constantly affected by the strong floods in the region, distributing clothes, medicines, food and furniture to families, who often lost everything in the floods.²⁸ He also led the South São Paulo Conference Dorcas (Adventist Social Assistance) meeting, which took place from December 14 to 17, 1995, at the Itaipava farm, in Eldorado-São Paulo. The event

included several training lectures for more than 130 Dorcas directors, from the local churches in the South São Paulo Conference's territory. Pastors attended the meeting: Haroldo Morán, at the time, ADRA's director for the South American Division; Pastor Tercio Sarli, Central Brazil Union Conference's president; and the Shalom Quartet. Under Pastor Paulo's leadership, ADRA's outreach in the South São Paulo Conference tripled.²⁹ From 2001-2008, he was responsible for the Central Brazil Union Conference's ADRA Fundraising Point.³⁰

Contribution and Legacy

In December 1964, Pastor Paulo Ferreira de Lima founded the Luzeiros da Colina Pathfinder Club, at the Brazil Adventist College Church, which started its activities in 1965.³¹ With 60 years of history, the Pioneiros da Colina Pathfinder Club is recognized as the largest Pathfinder Club in the world, with more than 450 members (in July 2025).³²

Due to his social and missionary spirit, he was recognized by the community and decided to participate in the Civil Defense Course of the State of São Paulo. He received significant recognition, even being personally received by the São Paulo state governor, Geraldo Alckmin, at the state government palace.³³

He stood out for his "love for God, for the mission of bringing souls to the foot of the Christ Cross, and genuine love for his neighbor."³⁴ He stood out for the affection and spiritual support he always had for his students and their families.³⁵ Paulo Ferreira de Lima passed away on July 2, 2022, at the age of 85.³⁶

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NOTES

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2. "MEMÓRIA." *Revista Adventista*, 1384, no. 1384 (August 2022): 41; Elton Lima, interviewed by Jonatan Ferreira Nascimento, Centro de Pesquisas Ellen G. White: UNASP campus Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, 2025.
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encyclopedia.adventist.org is an official website of the [Seventh-day Adventist World Church](#)

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