



Bruno William Steinweg and his wife in Virginia.

Photo courtesy of Brazilian White Center - UNASP.

Steinweg, Bruno William (1910–1998)

THE BRAZILIAN WHITE CENTER – UNASP

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Bruno William Steinweg was an evangelist, pastor, administrator, and professor.

Family and Marriage

Bruno William Steinweg was born on January 23, 1910, in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, U.S.A.¹ He was the son of Albert Adolf Steinweg and Lydia Madalena Meyer Steinweg, and his siblings were Henry, Alma Rolfsmeyer, Conrad, Carl, Ruth Kreuger/Droes, Lydia Bernhart, Dorothy Peper, and Louise Lange.²

Bruno married Virginia Duffie (1913-2003), who was recognized by Andrews University as one of the 100 women of the century that had worked at the university. She served by her husband's side as a missionary in South America from 1936-1953 and then from 1958-1984. She obtained a master's degree in Foreign Languages at Michigan University and gained proficiency to teach French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Greek. In 1979, she published a biography of M. L. Andreasen titled "Without Fear." Bruno and Virginia had three children, Phillip, Donald, and Ann Decicco.³

Denominational Missionary Work and Ordination

Steinweg served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America in 1933 as a licensed minister in the Wisconsin Conference in the United States of America (USA).⁴ In 1935, he was invited by the denomination to work in South America.⁵ Steinweg arrived in Brazil on January 30, 1936, with his family and established residence in Belém, Pará.⁶

His denominational work began on January 1936 as a licensed minister in the Baixo-Amazonas Mission⁷ and Bible instructor in Belém, Pará.⁸ He was ordained as a local elder in 1937⁹ and was called to be the director of evangelism¹⁰ and a district pastor.¹¹ In 1939, he was ordained to the pastoral ministry by the Baixo-Amazonas Mission.¹²

Steinweg was appointed secretary and treasurer of the North Brazil Union, where he worked until 1947.¹³ That same year, he represented the North Brazil Union in the 44th Session of the General Conference in San Francisco, California, USA.¹⁴ From 1948-1952, he was the president of Perú's Lake Titicaca Mission.¹⁵ In this

period, he also served in several Adventist institutions in South America as a member of the administrative committee of the Juliaca Clinic,¹⁶ an administrator of the Titicaca Adventist School and Union College,¹⁷ a member of the executive committee of the South America Division,¹⁸ and a member of the South American Spanish Publishing House in Argentina.¹⁹

From 1953-1957, Steinweg returned to the USA to work as a pastor at the Michigan Conference and as a Bible and history teacher at Cedar Lake Academy.²⁰ In 1958, he went back to South America to work in Ecuador, where he served from 1958-1961 as secretary and treasurer in the Ecuador Mission²¹ and, in 1960, director of its radio, health, and youth departments.²² From 1962-1968, Steinweg presided over the administrative committee of Union College (now Peruvian Union University), where he also worked as a Bible teacher.²³

Teaching and Retirement

From 1969-1971, Steinweg moved to Chile to work as a professor at the Chile College Seminary.²⁴ He went back to the USA from 1972-1974.²⁵ He and his wife were professors at the Theology Seminary of Northeast Brazil Academy from 1974-1975.²⁶ In 1977, Steinweg went to work at Central American Adventist University.²⁷ From 1978-1983, he was a Bible, English, and pastoral practice teacher at the Adventist Center for Higher Education.²⁸ The Adventist Center for Higher Education published three of Steinweg's books: *Justificación por la Fe* in 1968,²⁹ *El Gran Plan de la Redención em su relación al largo conflicto entre la verdade y el error* in 1977,³⁰ and *El santuario y sus grandes lecciones: Un estudio en los escritos de Elena G. de White* in 1979.³¹

After his retirement in 1982 in Costa Rica, Steinweg kept teaching at the Adventist Center for Higher Education as an Adventist seminary professor until 1984.³² He dedicated his life to a very active ministry, having a huge impact on the growth of the Adventist message in seven countries of North and South America. After 49 years of ministry, the Steinwegs returned to their homeland, where they spent their last years. Pastor Bruno William Steinweg died on November 20, 1998, at Central Lake, Michigan, USA.³³

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