

Octaviano, Sergio

(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 Stencil, 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.

Sergio Octaviano was a Brazilian Seventh-day Adventist pastor and administrator. He served in ministry for 47 years, distinguishing himself in the administrative and financial areas.



Sergio Octaviano (right) with father, Nicolas.

Photo courtesy of Brazilian White Center-UNASP.

Early Life and Conversion

Sergio Octaviano, son of Nicola Octaviano and Antonia C. Octaviano,¹ was born on June 3rd, 1936,² in São Paulo, capital of the state of São Paulo, Brazil. He grew up with his siblings Stéfano, Maria, Odete, Norma, and João Octaviano.³

Raised in a non-practicing Catholic family, Sergio was first introduced to the Adventist message through José Nardim, a friend of his brother, Stéfano. Nardim invited the family to attend a series of evangelistic meetings in São Paulo led by Professor Walter Schubert. After some time in contact with the Adventist Church, Sergio, along with his mother, sisters, and brothers, was baptized.⁴ His father, Nicola Octaviano, initially struggled to accept the family's decision, which caused some conflict at home. However, about 20 years later, he too embraced the Adventist message, received Bible studies, and was baptized.⁵

Calling and Education

While taking the science track of courses in high school, young Sergio received a visit from Pastor [Roberto Rodrigues Azevedo](#), who at the time was responsible for the Belém Adventist Church in São Paulo. During their conversation, Sergio shared his academic and professional ambitions, but he was deeply moved by the pastor's

advice, which encouraged him to study Theology and become a minister of the Lord.⁶

In 1955, Sergio enrolled at the Brazil Adventist College (CAB), now [Brazil Adventist University São Paulo campus](#) (UNASP-SP). He studied Theology⁷ and graduated in 1958 as part of their 37th graduating class, under the motto *Lives for Lives*.⁸ While serving in pastoral ministry, he also earned a degree in accounting.⁹

Ministry and Personal Life

Sergio began his ministry in 1959, serving as a Bible worker in several regions of what was then known as the São Paulo Conference, which at that time encompassed the entire state of São Paulo. He conducted evangelistic campaigns in the cities of Tupã, Sorocaba, Americana, and Barretos, all located in the interior of the state, as well as in the capital, in the Penha neighborhood. After this initial experience, he was called to serve as an associate in the district of Fernandópolis, then under the leadership of Pastor Assad Bechara. Soon after, he became the district pastor himself, overseeing a large territory with four churches, five groups, and more than 40 isolated Adventist families.¹⁰ In this district, Sergio organized many initiatives to strengthen and expand the ministries of the Church, placing great emphasis on evangelism, as well as supporting Adventist Education, which at the time had four schools in the district.¹¹ Around this same time, Sergio married teacher Helgard Ostermayer Octaviano (1940-2025) in September 1960, with whom he had two daughters: Elisabeth and Miriam. Helgard was a very active partner in the ministry. In addition to assisting musically, she oversaw children's and youth Sabbath classes, pastoral visits, and the Dorcas ministry.¹²

In 1964, Sergio was transferred to the Araçatuba District and, that same year, was ordained to the ministry, enabling him to fully perform all Church rites.¹³ Under his leadership, the following year the city hosted the Lay Instructors Course for Volunteer Evangelism, which brought together representatives from seven districts in the region. The event featured lectures, classes, and the development of new missionary strategies.¹⁴ In 1966, Sergio helped organize and promote the program *How to Stop Smoking*, led by the Health Ministries Department of the São Paulo Conference and held at a Convent school in Araçatuba. The initiative attracted around 400 participants each day, all deeply impacted by the health message.¹⁵ After completing his ministry in the region, Sergio was transferred to São Paulo, where he pastored the Água Rasa District on the east side of the city. There, he dedicated himself to the construction of the Carrão Church and the renovation of the Vila Formosa Church.¹⁶

Sergio later returned to the interior of the state, where he took charge of the Americana District, which at that time also encompassed the cities of Nova Odessa, Sumaré, and Hortolândia. In Americana, he ministered to the Stina family, which included Nemuel Stina, who would later become an Adventist pastor.¹⁷ During his ministry in the city, the São Paulo Conference organized a large exhibition highlighting the work of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). The event drew more than 8,000 visitors and featured displays on Brazil's indigenous cultures, as well as the medical missionary work carried out through Adventist mission boats.

¹⁸ In Hortolândia, he organized efforts for the construction of what is now the Hortolândia Central Adventist Church. At the time, many families were living in the area because their children studied at the São Paulo Adventist Academy (IASP), now [Brazil Adventist University Hortolândia campus](#) (UNASP-HT), which created the need for a church to serve the local Adventist community.¹⁹

Sergio was again transferred to the city of São Paulo to pastor the Brooklin District, which included the Brooklin Church (one of the oldest Adventist churches in the city), Itaim Bibi, Vila Olímpia, and the groups of Monções and Real Parque. He also helped organize the purchase of land and the construction of the Brooklin Adventist School,²⁰ which until then had been operating inside the Church building. In 1976, the school and Church acquired a house located at 534 Princesa Isabel Street, near the original church site. There, construction of the school began, and it continues to operate at that location to this day.²¹

After serving for several years as a district pastor, Sergio was appointed by the organization to pursue a degree in Accounting and invited to work in the Church's administrative area as an assistant treasurer. In this role, he served as auditor for local churches, assistant treasurer of the Education Department, and director of Personal Ministries for the São Paulo Conference.²² During this time, he also contributed to important projects, including the construction of the Cotia Adventist Academy.²³

In 1977, the São Paulo Conference was reorganized into two new fields: the [East São Paulo Conference](#), which retained the old headquarters in Brooklin, and the [West São Paulo Conference](#), headquartered in the city of Campinas.²⁴ With the beginning of activities in the new fields, Sergio was appointed to serve as secretary-treasurer of the West São Paulo Conference (now the [Central São Paulo Conference](#)). At that time, he was also involved in the construction of the first administrative building of the Conference in that city,²⁵ as well as the inauguration of the Ceramics Factory at the former IASP.²⁶ In August 1978, he took part in the first Missionary Volunteers (MV) Leadership Course of the West São Paulo Conference, held in the city of São Carlos. As the Conference's financial representative, he delivered 12 vouchers worth 2,000 cruzeiros each as an incentive for the youth evangelistic program *A Voz da Juventude* (*The Voice of the Youth*).²⁷ As Conference treasurer, he was involved in the construction and renovation of Adventist Education facilities in the interior of São Paulo, such as the new building of the Votuporanga Adventist Academy in 1979,²⁸ and the construction of the Hortolândia Educational Center, currently known as the Hortolândia Adventist Academy (CAHo).²⁹ After these experiences, Sergio returned to district pastoral work, serving in the city of Jundiaí and in the Capão Redondo neighborhood in São Paulo. During that period, he also served for about a year as chaplain in the Amico-Golden Cross Health Network.³⁰

In 1992, Sergio joined the Auditing Department of the [South São Paulo Conference](#). Six years later, in 1998, he became the Conference treasurer, and in 2003 he was appointed to serve as secretary and Health Ministries director of the same field.³¹

Final Years

In 2005, after 47 years of service in both pastoral and administrative roles, Pastor Sergio Octaviano retired.³² Even in retirement, he remained active in the Church, volunteering his time to preach, give Bible studies, and visit members until his passing.³³ He died on December 10, 2022, at the age of 82.³⁴

SOURCES

Campolongo, Alcides. "Freiras Assistem ao Curso "Como Deixar de Fumar." *Revista Adventista*, 61, no. 9 (September 1966).

"Cerâmica IASP: Nova Oportunidade de Trabalho Para Estudantes." *Revista Adventista*, 73, no. 10 (October 1978).

"Cotia (Lajeado) Terá Centro Educacional." *Revista Adventista*, 70, no. 9 (September 1975).

"Curso de Liderança MV — Paulista Oeste." *Revista Adventista*, 74, no. 1, (January 1979).

"História da Associação Paulistana." Associação Paulistana. Available at:

<https://ap.adventistas.org/conhecendo/historia/#:~:text=Em%202014%20a%20Associa%C3%A7%C3%A3o%20Paulistana%20>. Accessed on March 28, 2022.

"HISTÓRIA." Escola Adventista do Brooklin. Available at <https://brooklin.educacaoadventista.org.br/about>. Accessed on March 28, 2022.

"Inauguração em Votuporanga." *Revista Adventista*, 74, no. 8 (August 1979).

"MEMÓRIA." *Revista Adventista*, 118, no. 1390 (February 2023).

"Notícias da Paulista Oeste". *Revista Adventista*, 75, no. 3 (February 1980).

Octaviano, Sergio. "Deus Estêve Conosco." *Revista Adventista*, 59, no. 4 (April 1964).

Octaviano, Sergio. "Feliz Oportunidade." *Revista Adventista*, 60, no. 11 (November 1965).

Octaviano, Sergio. "Uma Experiência Diferente." *Revista Adventista*, (66, no. 11) (November 1971).

Sarli, Tercio. MINHA VIDA DE PASTOR II: Setenta Pastores Jubilados Falam de Sua Vida e de Seu Ministério. Campinas, São Paulo: Certeza Editorial, 2009.

Stencel, Renato; William Eduardo Timm. "Histórico da Faculdade Adventista de Teologia no Brasil." Centro Nacional da Memória Adventista, Engenheiro Coelho, 2015.

NOTES

1. Sarli, Tercio. MINHA VIDA DE PASTOR II: Setenta Pastores Jubilados Falam de Sua Vida e de Seu Ministério. Campinas, São Paulo: Certeza Editorial, 2009. 648.
2. Ibid.; "MEMÓRIA." *Revista Adventista*, 118, no. 1390 (February 2023): 42.
3. Sarli, Tercio. MINHA VIDA DE PASTOR II: Setenta Pastores Jubilados Falam de Sua Vida e de Seu Ministério. Campinas, São Paulo: Certeza Editorial, 2009. 648.
4. Ibid., 648.
5. Ibid., 653.
6. Ibid., 648.
7. Ibid.
8. Stencil, Renato; William Eduardo Timm. "Histórico da Faculdade Adventista de Teologia no Brasil." Centro Nacional da Memória Adventista, Engenheiro Coelho, 2015. 37-38.
9. Sarli, Tercio. MINHA VIDA DE PASTOR II: Setenta Pastores Jubilados Falam de Sua Vida e de Seu Ministério. Campinas, São Paulo: Certeza Editorial, 2009. 651.
10. Ibid., 648-649.
11. Octaviano, Sergio. "Deus Estêve Conosco." *Revista Adventista*, 59, no. 4 (April 1964): 24-25.
12. Sarli, Tercio. MINHA VIDA DE PASTOR II: Setenta Pastores Jubilados Falam de Sua Vida e de Seu Ministério. Campinas, São Paulo: Certeza Editorial, 2009. 652.
13. Ibid., 649.
14. Octaviano, Sergio. "Feliz Oportunidade." *Revista Adventista*, 60, no. 11 (November 1965): 21.
15. Campolongo, Alcides. "Freiras Assistem ao Curso "Como Deixar de Fumar." *Revista Adventista*, 61, no. 9 (September 1966): 26-27.
16. Sarli, Tercio. MINHA VIDA DE PASTOR II: Setenta Pastores Jubilados Falam de Sua Vida e de Seu Ministério. Campinas, São Paulo: Certeza Editorial, 2009. 650.
17. Ibid.

18. Octaviano, Sergio. "Uma Experiência Diferente." *Revista Adventista*, 66, no. 11 (November 1971): 22.
19. Sarli, Tercio. MINHA VIDA DE PASTOR II: Setenta Pastores Jubilados Falam de Sua Vida e de Seu Ministério. Campinas, São Paulo: Certeza Editorial, 2009. 650.
20. Ibid.
21. "HISTÓRIA." Escola Adventista do Brooklin.
22. "História da Associação Paulistana." Associação Paulistana.
23. Sarli, Tercio. MINHA VIDA DE PASTOR II: Setenta Pastores Jubilados Falam de Sua Vida e de Seu Ministério. Campinas, São Paulo: Certeza Editorial, 2009. 651.
24. "COTIA (LAJEADO) TERÁ CENTRO EDUCACIONAL." *Revista Adventista*, 70, no. 9 (September 1975): 15-16.
25. Sarli, Tercio. MINHA VIDA DE PASTOR II: Setenta Pastores Jubilados Falam de Sua Vida e de Seu Ministério. Campinas, São Paulo: Certeza Editorial, 2009. 651.
26. "Cerâmica IASP: Nova Oportunidade de Trabalho Para Estudantes." *Revista Adventista*, 73, no. 10 (October 1978): 32.
27. "Curso de Liderança MV — Paulista Oeste." *Revista Adventista*, 74, no. 1 (January 1979): 29.
28. "Inauguração em Votuporanga." *Revista Adventista*, 74, no. 8 (August 1979): 30.
29. "Notícias da Paulista Oeste." *Revista Adventista*, 75, no. 3 (February 1980): 37.
30. Sarli, Tercio. MINHA VIDA DE PASTOR II: Setenta Pastores Jubilados Falam de Sua Vida e de Seu Ministério. Campinas, São Paulo: Certeza Editorial, 2009. 651.
31. Ibid.
32. Ibid.
33. Ibid., 656.
34. "MEMÓRIA." *Revista Adventista*, 118, no. 1390 (February 2023): 42.

