

Tavares, Davi Pereira (1953–2021)

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.



Davi Pereira Tavares

Photo courtesy of Brazilian White Center-UNASP.

Davi Pereira Tavares was a Brazilian pastor and missionary in addition to serving in various roles in the Adventist work.

Early Years and Education

Davi was born on October 25, 1953, in Coronel Goulart, in the state of São Paulo, Brazil. Davi was the son of José Pereira Tavares and Neusa Pereira Tavares.¹ He grew up in the countryside of São Paulo, part of a humble family where his father was a farmer and his mother a housemaid. The couple had 12 children, with Davi being the third. After his first four years of life, he and his family moved to the countryside of the state of Pernambuco, where he stayed until the age of 15. During that time, his daily routine with his family consisted of farm work.²

Davi's early education took place at home, with lessons given by a private tutor. Later, he attended a rural school, where he completed the second and third grades. In the following years, he studied up to the sixth grade at the Bodocó State Middle School (Ginásio Estadual de Bodocó) and his seventh grade at a school in the city of Ouricuri, in Pernambuco.³

In 1968, Davi's family moved once again, this time to Itaguajé in the state of Paraná. There, he completed one school year and finished elementary school at José Pereira de Queiroz Academy (Colégio Estadual José Pereira de Queiroz), in Santo Amaro, São Paulo.⁴

Still in the state of São Paulo, Davi attended high school at Danton Vampret School (Escola Danton Vampret). After completing his basic studies, he worked in different fields, including as a taxi driver, salesman, gas station

attendant, tire repairman, and construction helper.⁵

Conversion

Before Davi was born, the whole family was Catholic, with his grandmother being the first to convert to Adventism, which led the rest of the family to become Adventists as well. Until he was nine years old, Davi had never seen an Adventist pastor, as he lived 800 km from the nearest church.⁶

On December 17, 1963, Davi saw an Adventist pastor for the first time, Pastor José Bessa Filho, who had traveled there to baptize his siblings. Davi also wanted to be baptized, but his parents did not allow it, considering him too disobedient. However, from that day on, he began to desire to become a pastor, and finally, at the age of 15, on September 22, 1968, he was baptized by Pastor Nézon Pereira dos Santos in Bodocó, Pernambuco.⁷

Aiming to fulfill his dream of becoming a pastor, after finishing his studies, Davi took the entrance exam for the former Brazil Adventist College (now [Brazil Adventist University UNASP-SP](#)) and studied Theology. He supported himself through literature evangelism, becoming the third highest selling student in Brazil. He eventually graduated in 1986. Even after graduation, Davi continued his studies, earning a Master's in Theology at UNASP-SP in 1995⁸ and a Doctorate in Leadership at Andrews University in 2009.⁹

Literary Work

In the academic field, Pastor Davi had three publications: *Igreja evangélica de confissão luterana no Brasil* (*Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brazil*);¹⁰ *Planificação dos departamentos de secretaria, ministerial e comunicação* (*Planning of Secretarial, Ministerial and Communication Departments*)¹¹ and *Um estudo sobre o estado depressivo das esposas de pastores* (*A Study on the Depressive State of Pastors' Wives*).¹²

Beyond his academic work, Davi also wrote books on mission, evangelism and leadership, including *Relational Evangelism*,¹³ *Missionários do século XXI* (*Missionaries of the 21st Century*), *África: missão possível* (*Africa: Possible Mission*), *Liderança eficaz na igreja local* (*Effective Leadership in the Local Church*), *Evangelismo na igreja local* (*Evangelism in the Local Church*), *Vitórias sem limites* (*Limitless Victories*), and *Aventura Missionária* (*Missionary Adventure*), that last one co-authored with his wife.¹⁴

In this context, Davi was also active in the musical field, working as a singer and composer. He even recorded two musical projects with his eldest daughter, Lauren, in the 1980s.¹⁵

Ministry

Davi married Ângela Pereira Luna on July 10, 1973, at the Jardim Maringá Adventist Church in the state of São Paulo, with Pastor Rodolfo Hader officiating the ceremony. Davi and Ângela met when they were very young, when Davi was 13 years old, and became good friends. Over time, they grew closer and began dating, with

Ângela being Davi's first and only girlfriend. From this union, three children were born: Lauren, in 1975; James, in 1976; and Evelyn, in 1983.¹⁶

At the time of his graduation, Davi had promised God that he would accept the first call he received. He was then called to serve as a local pastor in Porto Velho, in the state of Rondônia, where he worked from 1987 to 1989. During that period, he cared for a district with more than a thousand members and founded four groups that later became churches.¹⁷ Next, Davi was called to work at the Marco's Church in Belém, Pará, which had more than a thousand members, in addition to five other churches and groups within the district. In 1991, he was elected secretary of the Lower Amazon Mission, later serving in that field as the director of Stewardship, ADRA, Communication, and Pastoral Ministry.¹⁸ At the end of 1994, Davi was called to serve for ten months at [Brazil Adventist University UNASP-EC](#) as the district pastor. In 1995, he was appointed evangelist for four Rádio Novo Tempo stations, while also serving as executive secretary of the Espírito Santo Conference.¹⁹

At Christmas 1997, Davi and his wife went to Guinea-Bissau to carry out a summer volunteer project as evangelists. They worked there for a month, conducting seminars and providing medicine, Bibles, and other evangelistic materials to the local population, resulting in the baptism of 90 people during that period. In 2000, Davi and Ângela returned to Africa, this time to Cape Verde, bringing medicine and materials, and conducted two seminars.²⁰

In 2001, Davi, Ângela, and Evelyn returned to Guinea-Bissau, with Davi now serving as a full-time missionary. The following year, he took on the roles of President and director of Sabbath School, Personal Ministry, and Youth, in addition to serving as ADRA director for the Guinea-Bissau Mission, where he remained until 2004.²¹ During the same period, Ângela also worked at the Guinea-Bissau Mission, serving as the Director of Education and Children's Ministry.²² Still in Africa, Davi served as president of the Senegal/Mauritania Mission in 2005.²³ Later, back in Brazil, Davi became the first director of the Seminary at the [Amazon Adventist College Academy \(FAAMA\)](#), serving in this role from the seminary's inauguration in 2010 until 2012.²⁴ Later, in 2016, he became director of the Nigeria Mission and global mission assistant for the Sahel Mission, which encompassed five African countries, where he remained until 2018.²⁵

Final Days

Davi Pereira Tavares served the Church for over two decades, working in various areas and countries. Even after his retirement, he continued conducting public evangelism as well as giving lectures and training sessions in Brazil and the United States. Pastor Davi passed away on February 26, 2021, in Jaguariúna, São Paulo, due to a heart attack.²⁶

"História do SALT-FAAMA." *Seminário Adventista Latino-Americano de Teologia–Faculdade Adventista da Amazônia*. Available at <https://salt.faama.edu.br/>. Accessed on March 20, 2025.

"Memória." *Revista Adventista*, 116, no. 1369 (May 2021).

Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook. Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association. Various years. <https://www.adventistyearbook.org/>.

Silva, Denis Versiani da. "Uma Biografia do pastor Davi Pereira Tavares." *Monograph*, Instituto Adventista de Ensino, 2001.

Tavares, Davi Pereira. *Currículo Lattes*. Disponível em <https://lattes.cnpq.br/2512805771549628>. Acesso em 4 de março de 2026.

Tavares, Davi Pereira. "Igreja Evangélica de Confissão Luterana no Brasil." *Monograph*, Instituto Adventista de Ensino, 1986.

Tavares, Davi Pereira. "Planificação dos departamentos de secretaria, ministerial e comunicação." *Monograph*, Instituto Adventista de Ensino, 1993.

Tavares, Davi Pereira. *Relational Evangelism: one of the best ways to reach people for Jesus in this post-modern world*. 1st edition, Koln, Germany: Academic Publishing, 2009.

Tavares, Davi Pereira. "Um Estudo sobre o Estado Depressivo das Esposas de Pastores." *Monograph*, Instituto Adventista de Ensino, 1993.

NOTES

1. Denis Versiani da Silva. "Uma Biografia do pastor Davi Pereira Tavares." *Monograph*, Instituto Adventista de Ensino, 2001.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

5. Ibid.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

8. Ibid.
9. Davi Pereira Tavares, *Currículo Lattes*.
10. Davi Pereira Tavares, "Igreja Evangélica de Confissão Luterana no Brasil," *Monograph*, Instituto Adventista de Ensino, 1986.
11. Davi Pereira Tavares, "Planificação dos departamentos de secretaria, ministerial e comunicação." *Monografia*, Instituto Adventista de Ensino, 1993.
12. Davi Pereira Tavares. "Um Estudo sobre o Estado Depressivo das Esposas de Pastores," *Monograph*, Instituto Adventista de Ensino, 1993.
13. Davi Pereira Tavares. *Relational Evangelism: one of the best ways to reach people for Jesus in this post-modern world*, 1st edition (Koln, Germany: Academic Publishing, 2009).
14. "Memória." *Revista Adventista*, 116, no. 1369 (May 2021): 48.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (2001).
22. *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (2002).
23. *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (2005).
24. "História do SALT-FAAMA." *Seminário Adventista Latino-Americano de Teologia—Faculdade Adventista da Amazônia*.
25. *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*. Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2016; *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*. Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2018.
26. "Memória." *Revista Adventista*, 116, no. 1369 (May 2021): 48.

encyclopedia.adventist.org is an official website of the [Seventh-day Adventist World Church](#)

© 2020 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists 12501 Old Columbia Pike Silver Spring , MD 20904 USA 301-680-6000