



Edmir de Oliveira

Photo courtesy of Brazilian White Center - UNASP.

## Oliveira, Edmir de (1936–2020)

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### THE BRAZILIAN WHITE CENTER – UNASP

The Brazilian White Center – UNASP 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. Bruno Sales Gomes

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Edmir de Oliveira, teacher and administrator, was born on November 18, 1936, in the city of Nova Aliança, state of São Paulo, Brazil. Son of Cristina Maria Meula and Edgard de Oliveira, a skilled tailor, they had eight siblings: Edval, Edvanei, Edna, Ednice, Edmeia, Edgar, Ednilson and Francis. He was baptized into the Adventist faith when he was 12 years old, on November 13, 1948, in the city of Valparaíso, state of São Paulo.<sup>1</sup>

Still in Valparaíso he began his secondary studies in 1948, completing them at Brazil College (now UNASP-SP), city of São Paulo, in 1954. Afterwards, in 1958 he entered the History undergraduate program of the University of São Paulo (USP), obtaining his diploma in 1962.<sup>2</sup>

Edmir began his professional career as a history teacher at Brazil College in 1963.<sup>3</sup> In 1964 he married to Noemi Souza de Oliveira, with whom he had four children: Hélio, Marcelo, Priscila and Alfredo.<sup>4</sup> He served as a history and social sciences teacher for the higher education and the Theology school until 1973. During this period, he was also pedagogical advisor in 1971,<sup>5</sup> and Vice-President for Student Affairs from 1972 to 1973.<sup>6</sup>

In 1973, the government took by eminent domain the Paraná Adventist Academy (IAP) lands, located in the city of Curitiba. A new place for its establishment was chosen – the Santa Maria farm, in the city of Ivatuba, northern Paraná, having an extension of 171 acres.<sup>7</sup> Teacher Edmir de Oliveira, alongside his wife, stood out as pioneers for closely leading the construction project of the boarding school, which had its first day of class on March 2, 1975.<sup>8</sup> Edmir was the first Ivatuba Paraná Adventist Academy principal – a position he occupied from 1974 to 1977.<sup>9</sup>

Afterwards, he went to Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, US, where he completed his master's degree in 1981 and, shortly after, returned to Brazil.<sup>10</sup> Still in 1981 he worked as Librarian at Brazil College, a position he occupied until the beginning of 1984.<sup>11</sup> However, since 1983 Edmir actively took part in the founding of the new campus of Brazil College (now UNASP-EC), in the Lagoa Bonita farm, city of Artur Nogueira, São Paulo countryside (that later became part of the city of Engenheiro Coelho). Alongside Pastor Walter Boger, general director, he was the Vice-Director of the new campus in 1984, greatly contributing to the institution's construction masterplan. He also administered the beginnings and plans of the first buildings at the site!<sup>12</sup>

In 1985 Dr. Milton Soldani Afonso, a prosperous Adventist lawyer, became owner of the *Organização Santamarense de Educação e Cultura* (OSEC), the first institute of higher education of the Santo Amato district, nearby UNASP campus São Paulo. Edmir served there as educational director and was responsible for leading the project which changed its status from college into a university in 1994 and, which passed to be called Santo Amaro University (UNISA).<sup>13</sup>

Edmir Oliveira died on January 26, 2020, at the age of 83, leaving four children and five grandchildren. He left a legacy of more than 30 years of service to the SDA education in Brazil, by his teaching and administrative skills. A diligent Bible reader, he liked talking with people about God's love, giving Bible studies and preaching about Jesus' life. He stood out as a teacher who made his students reflect about the presented subjects and encouraged them on constantly researching.<sup>14</sup>

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## NOTES

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