

# Menezes, Élbio

## (1958–2021)

### 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.



Élbio Menezes

Photo courtesy of Brazilian White Center-UNASP.

Élbio Menezes was a Brazilian pastor who dedicated nearly four decades to ministry, serving in various roles, including district pastor, departmental leader, and administrator.<sup>1</sup>

## Conversion

Élbio Menezes was born in Miraguaí, a town in the interior of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, on May 8, 1958. He was the first son of Silas and Aurora, who had seven children. He grew up in a simple, mostly agrarian environment, helping with milking cows, planting, and tending the fields. Despite the small size of his town, Adventism was very strong there. Élbio was already the third generation of Adventists, growing up in a Christian home. His father served as an elder and a musician in the local church. Élbio also attended an Adventist school during his early years, which was closely connected to the Church.<sup>2</sup>

Élbio was baptized during a congress in Ijuí, Rio Grande do Sul, in his early adolescence. It was at that same event that he felt God's call to become a pastor, a calling he chose to follow, eventually becoming a prominent leader in the Adventist Church.<sup>3</sup>

## Ministry

Élbio attended high school at Cruzeiro do Sul Adventist Academy (IACS), where he also completed a teaching program, believing that education was closely connected to pastoral ministry. In 1980, he graduated with a degree in Theology from the Brazil Adventist College (IAE), now known as the Brazil Adventist University

(UNASP), where he later also earned his master's degree in Theology.<sup>4</sup>

Élbio began his pastoral ministry in his home state, serving his first district in São Gabriel in 1981. In 1982, he moved to Viamão, where he continued his pastoral work and was ordained during that period. In 1986, he was invited to serve as a ministerial evangelist in the Rio Grande do Sul Conference, a role he held for three years.<sup>5</sup>

After leaving his home state, but still in southern Brazil, Pastor Élbio began serving as the director of Sabbath School and Communication ministries in the [North Paraná Conference](#) in 1990. From 1991 to 1993, he served in the Santa Catarina Conference as executive secretary and evangelism director.<sup>6</sup>

He continued serving in that field for another 11 years, this time as president, until 2004, when he was called to return to the North Paraná Conference, once again as president. He served there for five years, after which he was invited to join the South Bahia Mission, where he worked as director of Stewardship, Health, and Family Ministries.<sup>7</sup>

Toward the end of his ministry, in 2012, he pastored the Guarujá District in the [Southeast São Paulo Conference](#). In 2016, he moved to the Vila São Jorge District, where he served until his retirement at the end of 2017.<sup>8</sup>

## Literary Work

In addition to serving as a pastor in different ministry areas, Élbio also dedicated part of his ministry to writing theological works, especially on biblical prophecy. His books include *O Futuro Sem Medo: Um estudo simples e prático das profecias de Daniel* (*The Future Without Fear: A Simple and Practical Study of the Prophecies of Daniel*)<sup>9</sup> and *Apocalipse: Medo ou Esperança? Um estudo simples e prático das profecias do Apocalipse* (*Revelation: Fear or Hope? A Simple and Practical Study of the Prophecies of Revelation*).<sup>10</sup> Both were published while he was serving as conference president in Paraná.<sup>11</sup>

## Personal Life, Retirement, and Final Years

Élbio met his wife early in his ministry while serving as a pastor in Viamão, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. During an evangelistic series at a church in the Morro Grande district, he noticed a young woman walk in as he was preaching. Curious, he asked the Bible worker who accompanied him who she was. He replied that her name was Marta and that her parents were former Adventists. Without hesitation, Élbio said that he would study the Bible with her, that Marta would be baptized, and that they would marry. And so it happened--not only Marta, but also her parents chose to be baptized. On May 8, 1983, Élbio and Marta were married in the same church where they first met.<sup>12</sup>

Élbio and Marta had two children. Caroline, who is married to Pastor Joni Roger, and currently serves as a missionary in the Philippines; and Wesley, who works at the [South American Division](#) headquarters in Brasília, Federal District.<sup>13</sup>

Marta served in various Church Conferences, with her ministry in AFAM (Brazilian Shepherdess Ministry) being especially noteworthy. However, her greatest legacy was raising and caring for their children. She only began working outside the home after they grew up, and she consistently taught them to love the Church by her example, living with dedication and a spirit of gratitude, never complaining.<sup>14</sup>

Even after retiring, Élbio remained active in God's work. He continued preaching regularly, especially through live broadcasts during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also carried on a ministry of short spiritual reflections on audio platforms, where he shared a total of 193 devotionals.<sup>15</sup>

## Legacy

Among Élbio's lasting contributions was the remarkable growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Santa Catarina during his leadership, along with the meaningful support he provided to [TV Novo Tempo](#) (Hope Channel Brazil) in its early stages. He was widely admired for his deep love and dedication to God and to the Church, faithfully keeping his morning devotional time and serving as a deacon and treasurer in his local congregation. Élbio passed away on October 21, 2021, due to complications from a severe infection.<sup>16</sup>

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## SOURCES

"Memória." *Revista Adventista*, 116, no. 1375 (November 2021).

Menezes, Élbio. *Apocalipse, medo ou esperança?: um estudo simples e prático das profecias do apocalipse*. 1st edition. Maringá, PR: [s.n.], 2006.

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Trindade, Pollyana. "Nota de falecimento Pastor Élbio Menezes." *Notícias Adventistas*. Available at <https://noticias.adventistas.org/pt/nota-de-falecimento-pastor-elbio-menezes/>. Accessed on October 2, 2024.

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## NOTES

1. "Memória." *Revista Adventista*, 116, no. 1375 (November 2021): 46.

2. Caroline Menezes, interviewed by Melissa Querido, Centro de Pesquisas Ellen G. White: UNASP campus Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, 2024.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

5. Trindade, Pollyana. "Nota de falecimento – Pastor Élbio Menezes." *Notícias Adventistas*. Available at <https://noticias.adventistas.org/pt/nota-de-falecimento-pastor-elbio-menezes/>. Accessed on October 2, 2024.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Caroline Menezes, interviewed by Melissa Querido, Centro de Pesquisas Ellen G. White: UNASP campus Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, 2024.
9. Élbio Menezes. *O futuro sem medo: Um estudo simples e prático das profecias de Daniel*. 2nd edition. Maringá, PR: Gráfica Pioneiro, 2005.
10. Élbio Menezes. *Apocalipse, medo ou esperança?: um estudo simples e prático das profecias do apocalipse*. 1st edition. Maringá, PR: 2006.
11. "Memória." *Revista Adventista*, 116, no. 1375 (November 2021): 46.
12. Caroline Menezes, interviewed by Melissa Querido, Centro de Pesquisas Ellen G. White: UNASP campus Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, 2024.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.

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