

dos Reis, Darcy

(1938–2022)

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 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.

Darcy dos Reis was a pastor and pioneer of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brazil who served the denomination for 43 years, holding various pastoral and administrative roles in different states across the country.



Darcy dos Reis

Photo courtesy of Brazilian White Center-UNASP.

Early Life

Darcy dos Reis, the third child of Rodolfo dos Reis and Izabel Gomes dos Reis, was born on November 15, 1938, on a farm in the municipality of Carazinho, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. He had two older brothers-- Homero Luiz dos Reis and Valdomiro dos Reis, both of whom also dedicated their lives to Adventist pastoral ministry.¹

Darcy was born into a Seventh-day Adventist home and, from childhood, was raised in biblical Christian values. For many years, his family's house served as a church and meeting place for the Adventists in the region; most of the members were part of the Reis family. Every Friday afternoon, young Darcy was responsible for preparing the room and setting up the benches and pulpit for the Sabbath service the following day.² In every house where Darcy's family lived, there was always a guest room to welcome pastors, missionaries, and literature evangelists who passed through the area.³

Darcy's father, Rodolfo dos Reis, carried out pioneering work in the development of Adventism in the region, leading the first group of Adventists and guiding them in organizing and building the first local church. In addition, he donated the land for the construction of a school and provided resources for the building of a pastoral residence so that the region could receive a district pastor.⁴

Darcy, during his childhood and youth, participated actively in the programs of the Youth Society (at the time called the Missionary Volunteers). Encouraged by his father, he often recited stories and poems from the *Brazilian Adventist Review* during Sabbath worship services.⁵ He was baptized at 12 years of age by Pastor José Carlos Ebling in a river in his hometown.⁶

Education and Calling

Darcy began his studies at a local Catholic school called Lassalista. At that institution, a weekly mass was held, during which all students were expected to bow before the images of the saints displayed there. However, Darcy and his brother Valdomiro respectfully remained standing during that moment because they were Seventh-day Adventists—an attitude that inspired other evangelical students to do the same. When questioned by the school administration, they explained that they did not take part in the practice for reasons of faith, and they were subsequently excused from attending the masses.⁷

Darcy completed his secondary education at the former Adventist Taquara Academy (now Cruzeiro do Sul Adventist Academy) in Taquara, Rio Grande do Sul. He then enrolled at the Brazil Adventist College⁸ (now UNASP–São Paulo), where he finished the preparatory course—equivalent to today's high school—under the scientific track.

Since childhood, Darcy had been encouraged by his family to pursue a career in medicine, while his two older brothers—who had survived meningitis as children—were dedicated and encouraged to become pastors. Thus, when he began the preparatory course, Darcy continued to nurture the desire to become a physician, in keeping with his parents' expectations, which led him to choose the scientific track. However, during a Week of Prayer at the Brazil Adventist College, led by a missionary nurse from the *Luminar II* boat, he was deeply moved by the message about Christ's return and decided to dedicate his life to the pastoral ministry.⁹ Darcy completed the scientific course in 1958.¹⁰

In 1963, Darcy graduated with a degree in Theology from the Brazil Adventist College, joining the 42nd graduating class of Theology in Brazil, whose motto was: "At Your word we will cast the net."¹¹ Among his classmates were individuals who would later become prominent within Adventism, such as José Maria Barbosa, Paulo Sarli, Paulo Barbosa, and José Ottoni Sobrinho, among others.¹² Years later, already serving in pastoral and administrative roles, he was requested to pursue a degree in Business and did it at the Ibirapuera College in São Paulo, graduating between 1978 and 1979.¹³

Marriage and Family

During one of his canvassing campaigns, while still a student, Darcy met the young Leda Silveira¹⁴, whom he married on February 14, 1962,¹⁵ in the city of Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul. The ceremony was officiated by Pastor

Oscar Luiz dos Reis, then president of the Rio Grande do Sul Conference. After the wedding, Leda's name became Leda Silveira dos Reis.¹⁶ The couple had three kids: Rubem Silveira dos Reis, Rogério Silveira dos Reis, and Rosemeri dos Reis Silva.¹⁷

Leda was a devoted companion and faithful counselor, actively contributing to her husband's ministry. In addition to working as a history and geography teacher, she served the Seventh-day Adventist Church with dedication in the Music, Dorcas Society, Children's Ministries, and other departments, always demonstrating diligence and a spirit of Christian service.¹⁸

Ministry

After completing his studies, Darcy dos Reis received a call from his home field, the Rio Grande do Sul Conference, and in December 1963, he began his ministry as a canvassing assistant, a role he served in for about one year. He later served for another year as a Bible worker in the city of Bagé, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul.¹⁹

During his time in the [Rio Grande do Sul Conference](#), Pastor Darcy served in various pastoral and administrative roles. He worked as a district pastor in the districts of Rosário do Sul, Santa Maria, Floresta (in Porto Alegre), and Novo Hamburgo. In addition, he served as the Conference Publishing Director, Treasurer of the Cruzeiro do Sul Adventist Academy, and pastor of the Central Church of Porto Alegre, leaving a significant impact in each of these areas of service.²⁰

After his period of service in Rio Grande do Sul, Pastor Darcy dos Reis was transferred to the neighboring state of Santa Catarina, where he began serving in the former Santa Catarina Mission (now the South Santa Catarina Conference). In this region, he held the roles of Director of the Adventist Youth Department (JA), Education, Sabbath School, Communication, and Social Assistance,²¹ contributing significantly to the strengthening of the Church's educational and missionary activities.

Later, he was transferred to the state of São Paulo, where he assumed the role of Director of the Education Department and also served as pastor of the Capão Redondo Church, located in the southern zone of the city of São Paulo.²² His work was marked by his dedication to Christian education and his commitment to promoting the spiritual and organizational growth of the congregations he led.

Pastor Darcy dos Reis was later transferred to the state of Minas Gerais, where he served in the Central Minas Mission (now Central Minas Conference) as the Adventist Youth Director for a few months and then as president of the field for approximately nine years.²³ His work was marked by dynamic leadership and by the strengthening of the region's missionary and educational activities.

After this period, he received a call to serve as director of the *Brazilian Voice of Prophecy* ministry,²⁴ headquartered in Rio de Janeiro, where he worked for five years (1991–1996),²⁵ in the facilities of the former

Adventist Communication System,²⁶ which is now known as the Rede Novo Tempo de Comunicação (in English, it continued to be called Adventist Media Center-Brazil), headquartered in Jacareí, São Paulo.

Still in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Pastor Darcy served in the Rio de Janeiro Conference, working as pastor of the Teresópolis Church and as Education and Ministerial Department director—positions he carried out with dedication until his retirement, concluding a career marked by faithful and committed service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.²⁷

Work at Voice of Prophecy

As director of the *Brazilian Voice of Prophecy* ministry, Pastor Darcy dos Reis coordinated a team of about 30 staff members, playing a key role in the expansion and strengthening of Adventist communication in Brazil. During this period, he worked alongside the renowned Brazilian King's Heralds quartet²⁸ and prominent Adventist leaders, communicators, and speakers, such as Pastor Hélio Carnassale (speaker from 1990–1992) and Pastor Ronaldo de Oliveira (1993–1995),²⁹ as well as Professor Aurea Soares and Professor Valdecir Simões Lima.³⁰

Under his leadership, in 1991, the Voice of Prophecy ministry reached approximately 400 radio and television stations throughout Brazil, establishing itself as one of the largest and most influential religious programs in the country.³¹

Under Pastor Darcy dos Reis's administration, a historic milestone was reached in Adventist communication in Brazil: on November 3, 1991, the program *Está Escrito* (*Brazilian It Is Written*) premiered on Brazilian television, broadcast by Rede Bandeirantes.³² The debut represented a major advancement for the presence of the Adventist message in the media, reaching approximately 70 stations and 50 retransmitters throughout the country.³³

The program was presented by the American speaker Pastor *George Vandeman*, founder of the *It Is Written* telecast, and translated by a Brazilian team.³⁴ The launch of the program was marked by strong idealism and significant financial support from the Adventist Businessmen's Federation of Brazil, led by businessman Luiz Santana. Working in partnership with the leadership of the Voice of Prophecy—composed of Pastor Darcy dos Reis (director) and Pastor Erlon Braun (treasurer)—and with the collaboration of Adventist businessmen Dr. Milton Afonso and Dr. Sérgio Azevedo, strategic meetings were held with the leadership of Bandeirantes Network.³⁵

Thanks to this joint effort, the program *Está Escrito* began to be broadcast nationwide, expanding the reach of the biblical message and strengthening the presence of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brazilian media.

Still under Pastor Darcy's administration, in 1993, the *Brazilian Voice of Prophecy* celebrated 50 years of existence in Brazil. At that time, 345 stations across the country were broadcasting its programs, and it was

estimated that approximately 200,000 people had joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church through the influence of the Voice of Prophecy Ministry.³⁶ Today, the work carried out by the Rede Novo Tempo in Brazil and throughout South America is the result of the pioneering dedication of men such as Pastor Darcy dos Reis.

Contribution

Darcy distinguished himself as a student literature evangelist, helping to spread Adventist literature in various regions of Brazil, even reaching prominent sectors of society. He was a friend of former governor of Rio Grande do Sul, Leonel Brizola, whom he had met during childhood, as their families were neighbors. Brizola supported the literature ministry by opening doors and referring individuals and institutions so that Darcy and his brother could visit and sell Adventist literature to help fund their studies.³⁷

Darcy supported several Church initiatives, such as camps, courses, lectures, and congresses. Among the most notable were: the interstate Missionary Volunteers Congress of Paraná and Santa Catarina, held in September 1977, which brought together about 1,000 young people and at which he was a speaker;³⁸ the camp for students of the Bible courses from the Voice of Prophecy Radio School, held from November 11 to 15, 1977, in Itapema, Santa Catarina, which he organized;³⁹ and the First Congress of University Students of the Central Minas Mission, held from June 10 to 12, 1983, in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais;⁴⁰ among others.

At the Capão Redondo Church, as pastor, Darcy organized—together with the youth leadership—the Youth Meeting held on March 14, 1981, which featured a special program in honor of the 101st anniversary of the São Paulo State Fire Department. The event was attended by about six members of the corps, led by Lieutenant Paulo Rogério Bueno. The Adventist youth paid tribute to the firefighters and listened to their stories, and at the end, Pastor Darcy and the Church's youth leadership gifted the corps with a silver plaque bearing the message: "Love for one's neighbor — a flame that must remain burning in your heart."⁴¹

As president of the Central Minas Mission, in 1984, Darcy, accompanied by a delegation of pastors, administrators, and departmental leaders from the Mission, visited the then-governor of the State of Minas Gerais, Dr. Tancredo Neves. On that occasion, a report was presented detailing the social activities carried out by the Church in the state. In addition to receiving Adventist literature, the governor was invited to visit the Luminar II mission boat and the Belo Horizonte Adventist Hospital.⁴²

Final Years and Legacy

Pastor Darcy, like his family, had a clear admiration for Adventist Education and, throughout his ministry, contributed to the establishment of several Adventist schools, such as the Partenon Adventist Academy in Porto Alegre,⁴³ and the Adventist Educational Center of Ipatinga (now the Ipatinga Adventist Academy), where he laid the foundation stone.⁴⁴

Darcy's life was marked by his dedication to both family and Church, and he was recognized as an organized professional responsible for significant growth in the places where he served.⁴⁵ After 43 years of service, from December 1963 to March 2007⁴⁶, he retired. During retirement, he lived in the cities of Teresópolis, in Rio de Janeiro—where he had served as a pastor a few years earlier—and Jacareí, in São Paulo;⁴⁷ home of the Rede Novo Tempo. In these cities, he continued supporting local churches with sermons and counsel whenever requested. He also organized the Men's Ministry at the Jacareí Central Church.⁴⁸ Darcy dos Reis passed away on April 18, 2022, due to heart-related complications, in the city of Jacareí.⁴⁹

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