

# Stoehr, Conrad F.

## (1900–1990)

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### THE BRAZILIAN WHITE CENTER – UNASP

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Conrad Stoehr

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Conrad F. Stoehr was born in 1900 in Germany.<sup>1</sup> Through his years of service, he was a pastor, teacher and principal, and evangelist for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. There are few historical records about his life. However, the names of at least three of his siblings, who, just like Conrad, made a significant contribution to the denomination, are known: Martha Staub Stoehr, Waldemar Stoehr, and Henrique G. Stoehr.<sup>2</sup>

Conrad was baptized in his home country in 1918. Soon after, he decided to dedicate himself to preaching the Gospel as a missionary in a foreign country, moving to Brazil around 1920. In Brazil, he joined the denominational service as a teacher at the Adventist school in Teófilo Otoni, Minas Gerais.<sup>3</sup> Conrad Stoehr was then a school principal and a teacher at the Adventist school in Serra Pelada, Espírito Santo.<sup>4</sup> Later, he went back

to Teófilo Otoni, where he taught at the local Adventist school and was a church pastor in the district of São Jacinto.<sup>5</sup> Conrad married Elizabeth Stoehr,<sup>6</sup> who also made significant contributions to the church in the area of education.<sup>7</sup> They had two children, Brunhilde and Henrique.<sup>8</sup>

In December 1928, the East Brazil Union Conference appointed Stoehr evangelist of the Minas Gerais Mission, concentrating his activities in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais.<sup>9</sup> In 1930, he was transferred to the Rio-Espírito Santo Conference to work as a teacher on one of the school campuses.<sup>10</sup> In 1932, he began to serve as pastor of the Entrada Church in Bom Retiro, Santa Catarina.<sup>11</sup> He also worked as a teacher and school principal in the local Adventist school,<sup>12</sup> where the students were taught in German.<sup>13</sup> Stoehr remained as the pastor of this congregation until 1933.<sup>14</sup>

He continued working as the principal and teacher at the local Adventist school for another two years. In 1935, he was transferred to teach at the local school in Benedito Novo, Santa Catarina.<sup>15</sup> Through Stoehr's work, the number of students in that school increased from 25 to 62 in three years, making it the largest school of the South Brazil Union Conference at that time.<sup>16</sup> Through his ministry as an educator, he sought to awaken the desire for missionary work in the hearts of his students, which resulted in the first canvassing program involving students in 1937.<sup>17</sup> Stoehr was also involved in the construction of the city's local temple.<sup>18</sup>

Later, Stoehr worked in the church of Ribeirão Fresco in Blumenau, Santa Catarina, from 1949-1951.<sup>19</sup> During his 50 years of service to the Adventist Church in Brazil,<sup>20</sup> he worked as a pastor in the church of Brilhante district, in Itajaí, Santa Catarina,<sup>21</sup> and as a speaker for the program, *Voz da Esperança* (Voice of Prophecy),<sup>22</sup> in the city of São Paulo. This program was designed for the German audience of Brazil. It reached several states of the nation, such as Santa Catarina, Paraná, and Rio Grande do Sul, and extended to areas of Paraguay and Argentina.<sup>23</sup> Stoehr retired as a pastor for the German community at the São Paulo Central Church.<sup>24</sup>

After his retirement, Conrad Stoehr dedicated his final years to visiting institutions and performing Weeks of Prayer, among other activities. He died at age 90 on June 15, 1990, in Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil. Stoehr greatly contributed to the advancement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brazil as one of the first missionaries sent to proclaim the Gospel to its German community.<sup>25</sup>

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