

# Azevedo, Zilda Marlene de (1941–2000)

## 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 Ferreira provided technical support. The following names are of team members: Adriane Ferrari Silva, Álan Gracioto Alexandre, Allen Jair Urcia Santa Cruz, Camila Chede Amaral Lucena, Camilla Rodrigues Seixas, Daniel Fernandes Teodoro, Danillo Alfredo Rios Junior, Danilo Fauster de Souza, Débora Arana Mayer, Elvis Eli Martins Filho, Felipe Cardoso do Nascimento, Fernanda Nascimento Oliveira, Gabriel Pilon Galvani, Giovana de Castro Vaz, Guilherme Cardoso Ricardo Martins, Gustavo Costa Vieira Novaes, Ingrid Sthéfane Santos Andrade, Isabela Pimenta Gravina, Ivo Ribeiro de Carvalho, Jhoseyr Davison Voos dos Santos, João Lucas Moraes Pereira, Kalline Meira Rocha Santos, Larissa Menegazzo Nunes, Letícia Miola Figueiredo, Luan Alves Cota Mól, Lucas Almeida dos Santos, Lucas Arteaga Aquino, Lucas Dias de Melo, Matheus Brabo Peres, Mayla Magaieski Graepp, Milena Guimarães Silva, Natália Padilha Corrêa, Rafaela Lima Gouvêa, Rogel Maio Nogueira Tavares Filho, Ryan Matheus do Ouro Medeiros, Samara Souza Santos, Sergio Henrique Micael Santos, Suelen Alves de Almeida, Talita Paim Veloso de Castro, Thaís Cristina Benedetti, Thaís Caroline de Almeida Lima, Vanessa Stehling Belgd, Victor Alves Pereira, Vinícios Fernandes Alencar, Vinícios Pereira Nascimento, Vitória Regina Boita da Silva, William Edward Timm, Julio Cesar Ribeiro, Ellen Deó Bortolotte, Maria Júlia dos Santos Galvani, Giovana Souto Pereira, Victor Hugo Vaz Storch, and Dinely Luana Pereira.



Elias Reis de Azevedo and Zilda Marlene Azevedo

Photo courtesy of Brazilian White Center - UNASP.

Zilda Marlene de Azevedo, singer, teacher, and musical producer, was born February 2, 1941, in the city of Serrana, São Paulo state. Daughter of Celso Rodrigues and Elvira Franchesque Rodrigues, she had one brother, Adão Rodrigues.<sup>1</sup>

Zilda accepted the Adventist message through her mother and started to attend the Seventh-day Adventist church. In 1957, at 16 years of age, she was baptized into the Adventist church of the Ginásio Adventista Campineiro (now referred to as UNASP-HT), in the city of Hortolândia, São Paulo state.<sup>2</sup> In the same year Zilda

finished middle school. In 1958 she started the magisterial course at Brazil College. In 1960 she graduated as a qualified teacher.<sup>3</sup>

On February 14, 1961, Zilda married Elias Reis Azevedo, a second tenor in the *Quarteto Harmonia* (Harmony Quartet). The ceremony was performed by Pastor Siegfried Kumpel at the Santo André Seventh-day Adventist Church, in the city of Santo André.<sup>4</sup> Elias was a pioneer in music production in the Adventist church in Brazil. He created a record company called “Gravadora Boa Música” (GBM), which was designed to produce the first long plays of the “Arautos do Rei” (Brazilian version of the King’s Heralds Quartet) who performed on the Voice of Prophecy programs for 14 years, including the production of the radio programs.<sup>5</sup> Elias and Zilda composed, produced, and sang songs recorded by GBM.<sup>6</sup> From their union was born a son, Wilson Azevedo, on February 23, 1963.<sup>7</sup>

In 1958, while they were still single, Zilda and Elias started their musical ministry by singing duets at the Sabbath worship service in the Brazil College church.<sup>8</sup> She also had the gift of telling stories to children.<sup>9</sup> Still in 1958, she started to assist in the Children’s Ministry of this church. She did this for the rest of her life and served for more than 12 years as director of Children’s Ministry in her church.<sup>10</sup>

Together with her husband, Zilda participated in the production of many musical records for children. They recorded more than 300 songs for children and about 1,000 songs for all ages.<sup>11</sup> For many years she was involved in child evangelism in Brazil and in other countries.<sup>12</sup> Zilda Marlene de Azevedo died March 8, 2000, at 59 years of age, in São Paulo city, and was buried at Cemitério da Paz, in the same city. “Discreet and humble, [she] dedicated her voice to the service of sacred music.”<sup>13</sup> All of her years were dedicated to working at the GBM record company, participating in many musical works and assisting with children’s evangelism in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brazil.<sup>14</sup>

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## SOURCES

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## NOTES

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2. Elias Reis de Azevedo, interviewed by Vinícios Alencar, Centro de Pesquisas Ellen G. White, Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, December 10, 2017; Lísia Meliga dos Reis. "Aplicações das músicas cantadas por Zilda Azevedo no desenvolvimento musical social e afetivo da criança de 0 a 3 anos" Monografia, Centro Universitário Adventista de São Paulo – Campus Engenheiro Coelho, 2008), 6.
3. Elias Reis de Azevedo, interviewed by Vinícios Alencar, Centro de Pesquisas Ellen G. White, Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, December 10, 2017.
4. Azevedo and Torres, 32.
5. Ibid., 44.
6. Flávia, Souza, "Gravadora Boa Música – GBM," Rede Novo Tempo de Comunicação, August 22, 2016, accessed August 25, 2016, <http://novotempo.com/feemacao/videos/gravadora-boa-musica-gbm/>.
7. dos Reis, 3.
8. Azevedo and Torres, 29-30.
9. Elias Reis de Azevedo, interviewed by Vinícios Alencar, Centro de Pesquisas Ellen G. White, Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, December 10, 2017.
10. Ibid.; dos Reis, 3.
11. dos Reis, 4.
12. Elias Reis de Azevedo, interviewed by Vinícios Alencar, Centro de Pesquisas Ellen G. White, Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, December 10, 2017; dos Reis, 5.
13. Rubens S. Lessa, "Tributo," *Revista Adventista*, year 96, no. 4, April, 2000, 2.
14. Elias Reis de Azevedo, interviewed by Vinícios Alencar, Centro de Pesquisas Ellen G. White, Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, December 10, 2017.

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