
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, Coelhoo, 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, Alan Gracioto Alexandre, Allen Jair Urcia Santa Cruz, Camila Chede Amaral
Adolpho Bergold, administrator, was born May 10, 1899, in the city of Itajaí, state of Santa Catarina, Brazil. He was the son of Ernest Bergold (1864-1934) and Ida Fenning Bergold (1870-1955), both German immigrants. The Adventist message reached his family through his father, a devout Lutheran, who, after attending an Adventist meeting in the district of Gaspar Alto, state of Santa Catarina, expressed an interest in knowing more about Adventist beliefs. He met a group of Adventists in his city and, after studying the Bible with them, he was baptized. Later he decided that his children would be instructed in Christian principles and he would not allow them to study in public schools. In 1913 Ernest moved to Taquara, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, where he founded a natural treatment clinic. In 1928 this clinic was sold to Pastor Abraham Classen Harder and it became the Colégio Cruzeiro do Sul (now Cruzeiro do Sul Adventist Academy).

In 1918 Adolpho went to the Adventist Seminary at Brazil College where he began his theology studies. The following year he began dating an American girl who would eventually become his life companion, Alma Meyer Bergold was born September 29, 1902, in Salisbury, Missouri, U.S.A. Her parents were German immigrants. Her father was Pastor Henry J. Meyer (1874-1972), who, in response to an appeal made at an Adventist conference in Philadelphia where he served as a pastor, moved with his family to Brazil in 1911 to assist with evangelism. Around 1914, when Adolpho and Alma were still teenagers, they met when the Meyer family moved to the city of Taquara. At Brazil College they began dating and they graduated together in the first graduating class of 1922. Adolpho and Alma began their ministry in 1923 when they accepted an invitation from the college to serve the institution as employees—he as manager of the farm and she as math teacher. They married on December 10, 1923, and were the parents of Ida, Orlando, and Lindolfo.

Adolpho worked as manager of the Brazil College farm for 26 years (1923-1948). He was also dean for three years (1931 to 1933) and teacher of the agriculture classes. He and his wife devoted themselves to music, supporting choirs of students who performed regularly in worship services and on special occasions. During his ministry at Brazil College the farm “made splendid and unprecedented progress.” In 1935 Adolpho had the idea of expanding the production of the small grape juice factory that operated in the basement of one of the college houses and which had previously provided juice only for campus consumption. The initiative was successful and the small factory entered the Brazilian food market and became the current Fábrica de Produtos Alimentícios Superbom (Brazil Food Factory).

While Adolpho was farm manager he made the Dutch cattle on the farm well-known for bovine reproduction. Alma also made an important contribution to the development of Colégio Adventista Brasileiro, working as a teacher for 26 years. She taught mathematics, piano, calligraphy, typing, English, and art. Besides her teaching responsibilities, she also served as a pianist for church worship services and campus chapels.

At the end of 1948, Adolpho, Alma and their two sons moved to the United States where the couple’s daughter lived at the time. They continued to dedicate themselves to serving God as employees of the Sandia View Academy in Sandoval County, New Mexico. Alma taught subjects such as accounting and financial management, calligraphy and typing, until 1960. Adolpho managed the school’s farm for 13 years (1950-1963), and he was responsible for the dairy industry for seven years (1954-1960). Due to his dedicated work, the farm became well-known for its cattle, and the produce grown had the reputation of being the best in the region. It was reported that on Sundays the road leading to the farm was congested by those seeking the products the farm produced.

Following their retirement, the Bergolds moved to Pasadena, California, where Alma cared for her elderly parents and Adolpho served at the Glendale Adventist Hospital for another 21 years. He also took care of gardens of the church and of friends, and Alma served as church treasurer. In 1985 Alma became ill and began to have difficulty with household tasks. As a result, the couple moved to Loma Linda in order to live with their daughter. In 1989 Adolpho became a resident at the Linda Valley Care Center, a nursing home located in the town of Loma Linda. Adolpho visited her every day, and a year later he became a resident of the same institution, where they spent their last two months together. Adolpho died at age 93 on October 28, 1992. in Loma Linda, California, after a fruitful life of service to the Lord. Alma lived for two more years, and she died on October 28, 1994, in Loma Linda at the age of 92.

Alma and Adolpho Bergold made an important contribution to the Adventist Church as employees of two denominational institutions. Adolpho’s dedication to the agricultural sector contributed to the development of the Brazil College’s farm in its early days and to Sandia View Academy. At both institutions he achieved excellent results. Alma contributed significantly in the educational field to which she dedicated herself throughout her life.
Sources

“A Superbom.” Superbom (Online), 2016.


Notes

1. Adolpho and Alma Meyer Bergold Biographical Data (Collection of the National Center of Adventist History/Ellen G. White Research Center: UNASP-EC), 1?


3. “Bergold, Ernesto Alberto;” in Enciclopédia Adventista Brasileira: Verbetes já traduzidos (Engenheiro Coelho, SP: Centro de Pesquisas Ellen White, 1994), 150; and Edgar Bergold, interviewed by Maria Júlia A. P. dos Santos, Ellen G. White Research Center, Engenheiro Coelho, São


14. Ibid.

15. Meyer, 12.


27. Adolpho and Alma Meyer Bergold Biographical Data (Collection of the National Center of Adventist History/Ellen G. White Research Center: UNASP-EC), 1.


