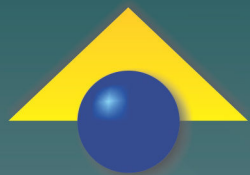


nazarenemissionaries.pro.br

the GATES



SERIES
GREAT
NAZARENE
MISSIONARIES
AND PIONEERS
IN BRAZIL
-short version-

3



LIFE AND PREACHING OF
Charles and Roma Gates

Para versão completa em português, por favor abra pela outra capa

s a n d r o
HAYAKAWA



Dr. Charles Gates and
Mrs. Roma Gates
April, 2010

ISBN: 978-85-906714-3-5

THE GATES:
life and preaching of
Charles and Roma Gates

series
great nazarene missionaries
and pioneers in Brazil
- short version -

volume 3

Sandro José Hayakawa Cunha

Brasília
BRAZIL
2 0 1 2

Dedication

For those, either in large missions or small
ones, who praise the Lord with smiles on
their faces.
(Is 41:16)

Main collaborators of this book

Rev. Charles Wise Gates
Mrs. Roma Joanne Gates
Rev. Gregory Lee Gates

Series presentation

*”One generation shall praise your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts”*
(Psalm 145:4)

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE confess the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior nowadays and congregate in the Church of the Nazarene in Brazil. This is the result of the evangelistic and discipleship work initiated by the Nazarene missionaries and pioneers 54 years ago.

Somehow this is the Lord’s answer to a prayer that Reverend Earl Mosteller made in his early works in Brazil, according to Brazil Diary.

“October 13 [1958]. Yesterday we had a service in the Stegemoller home and today a party in our home in celebration of the Golden Anniversary of our beloved church. Counting the children, we were just twelve; but with God, that is a majority! When the Church in Brazil celebrates her fiftieth anniversary, we hope that the progress gained will be comparable to that of our general church.”

The series Great Nazarene Missionaries and Pioneers in Brazil is a result of historical and biographical research about the first years of Nazarene missions in the country. The books of this collection record, in Portuguese-English editions, the work of the missionaries and pioneers in the chronological order they arrived in Brazil. [I

called them great godly men and women based on Jesus' words in Matthew 5:19: "...whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."]

This series has the purpose of glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ in the following way:

1st- to honor the Nazarene missionary couples and pioneers and their children in an expression of gratitude; 2nd- to inspire the new generation of evangelists, pastors, preachers and Brazilian missionaries; and 3rd- to cooperate with church archives recording the Nazarene missionary work in Brazil.

The missionary couples and the pioneer couples, and their respective children, were the main contributors for the research. Other missionaries, pastors and brothers who followed their ministry were also great contributors of this work. Books and published comments about Church of the Nazarene's history and its mission were consulted, and also personal and church papers, beside other sources¹.

The web site complements this book series. By using this tool, people who are interested could consult or download the books for free. They could also research bibliographies, read articles of the honored ones, visit the photo galleries or listen to the content of the books by playing the audiobooks. We have also a Spanish short version (versión corta). Visit us at:

www.nazarenemissionaries.pro.br

In Brazil, Mrs. Roma Joanne Gates adopted the name Joana that is our local version for her second given name, Joanne. That's why I named her Joana Gates in the Portuguese full version. Check out the Portuguese cover. Joana is also a common name in Brazil.

¹ The sources of the research are available at: www.nazarenemissionaries.pro.br.

Summary

Dedication and main collaborators of this book	clxxx
Series presentation	clxxxi
Life and ministry summary	clxxxiv
Poetic tribute	clxxxvi
1. From childhood to graduation	187
2. The pastoral ministry in Lawson, MO. Theology	189
3. The pastoral ministry in Avon Lake, OH	190
4. The early years of missions in Brazil	191
5. The first ministry in Belo Horizonte, Brazil	193
6. The ministry in Campinas, Brazil	195
7. The ministry at SIBIN, Brazil. Master's degree	197
8. The second ministry in Belo Horizonte, Brazil	199
9. The ministry in Brasilia, Brazil. Doctorate	201
10. The ministry of Aunt Mill	203
11. The ministry at World Mission Division	205
12. The ministry at Casa Robles. Retirement	207
Main bibliographic references (Portuguese only)	176
1 st Part – Portuguese full version	15

Life and ministry summary

Name: Charles Wise Gates
birthday: August 8, 1929.
birth place: Canton, OH.

Wife: Roma Joanne Perry Gates
birthday: November 27, 1930.
birth place: Wooster, OH.

Son: Gregory Lee Gates
grandchildren: Alexander Thomas Gates
Mason Evan Gates
Andrew Charles Gates

Home Church: Newcomerstown Church of the Nazarene

Arrival in Brazil: September 20, 1958.

Main ministry positions: Pastor, Rector and Professor at SIBIN,
Treasurer of the Mission in Brazil,
Coordinator of Division Ministries of the
World Mission Division and Executive
Director of Casa Robles.

National ministry churches and periods: Canaan Hill Church of the Nazarene, MO
September 1954 to March 1956.
Avon Lake Church of the Nazarene, OH
April 1956 to July 1958.
World Mission Division (Kansas City, MO)
July 1982 to February 1992.
Casa Robles (Temple City, CA),
March 1992 to December 1999.

Brazil ministry and periods: Igreja do Nazareno em Barroca
(Barroca Church of the Nazarene in Belo Horizonte)
April 1960 to June 1964; and
July 1972 to August 1975.
Igreja do Nazareno Central de Campinas
(Central Church of the Nazarene in Campinas)
June 1965 to June 1967.
Seminário e Instituto Bíblico Nazareno-SIBIN
(Nazarene Seminary and Biblical Institute in Campinas)
July 1967 to June 1970.
Igreja do Nazareno em Asa Norte, Brasília
(Asa Norte Church of the Nazarene²)
August 1977 to May 1981.

Retirement: January 1, 2000.

Membership church: Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene, CA.

² From September 1975 to May 1976 the Gates were assigned to work with the Asa Sul (south wing) Church in Brasília. Following this, they furloughed.

Poetic Tribute

THE NAME CHARLES GATES is synonymous with love, joy, and laughter. He is a man who embodies the true meaning of joy and believes in putting ...

- J Jesus first
- O Others second
- Y Yourself last.

One could never ask for a kinder, more loving, or more joyous uncle than Charles Gates. When I think of him I am reminded that he is...

- C Christ centered
- H Humble
- A Always puts God first
- R Radiates God's love
- L Loves God with all his heart
- E Exalts God above all else
- S Seeks to do God's will

- G Giver of Good News
- A A man of prayer
- T Teacher
- E Encourager
- S Servant of mankind

Cindy G. Welch

REVEREND CHARLES W. GATES was the third of four children born to John and Beatrice Gates. He was born on August 8, 1929 in Canton, OH. His mother was saved in 1950 and his father, in 1954.

As a child, when visiting his maternal grandparents, Joseph and Cora Potts, in Cambridge, OH, it was common to have a family devotional time just after breakfast. The grandparents were members of the Free Methodist Church. It was with these grandparents that Rev. Gates first heard the Word of God and was introduced to prayer.

The Gates family had to move to other towns a few times, and, for some time, Mrs. Beatrice and the two youngest boys lived in California. But the family was reunited in Newcomerstown, OH. It was at the Church of the Nazarene, in that town, that Rev. Gates was saved and helped, for the first time, in the construction of a new church. In February 1948, in midwinter, there was the warmth of revival in the church at Newcomerstown. In a campaign, Rev. Gates received his call to preach the Word of God. In September 1948, he was accepted at Olivet Nazarene College for a bachelors degree. He was a dedicated student. In the Spring Revival of 1949, he was sanctified.

As for Mrs. Roma, who was born on November 27, 1930, she was raised in a Christian home. Her grandfather and her father were both pastors in the Methodist Church before joining the Church of the Nazarene. From an early age, her parents, Rev. Clarence and

Mrs. Beulah Perry, instilled in her the need of reserving the first place in her heart to the Lord. Thus, while as a child, she understood the message of the Bible, and accepted the Savior. Mrs. Beulah Perry was member of a missionary board in her district. She didn't know however, that while she was praying to the Lord to send missionaries abroad, she was discipling one.

Mrs. Roma's musical education started at age 5 with piano lessons at the Cincinnati Music Conservatory. At age 9, she could already play some church hymns. At age 12, she could replace, with confidence, the church pianist, and was capable of reading and playing any hymn or song. At an early age she got involved with the music ministry in the church, with choirs and instrumental pieces.

Although a year younger than Rev. Gates, Mrs. Roma and he began their academic studies at the same time, since he had to postpone the start of his college for a year. On his first day at college, Rev. Charles Gates recognized that Mrs. Roma was "the one" when he met her at the administration building. Wasting no time, he introduced himself: "Hello, I'm Chuck Gates from Newcomerstown, Ohio and I have a dog named Sandy!"

Despite dating, neither the academic nor the devotional life could be neglected. In a night of prayer, Mrs. Roma heard the call to missions.

Rev. Charles Gates and Mrs. Roma got married on August 19, 1950, two years before college graduation, because they dreamed of celebrating their golden wedding anniversary in the year 2000.

They graduated on May 22, 1952. Rev. Charles Gates received his bachelors degree of Arts (History and Philosophy), and Mrs. Roma Gates, her bachelors degree of Science in Education.

The calling of the Lord echoed in their hearts. In order to prepare for the ministry, they decided to move to Kansas City, MO for Rev. Gates to register at the Nazarene Theological Seminary.

WHILE REV. GATES began his studies at the Nazarene Theological Seminary in September 1952, Mrs. Roma began her professional career teaching children at public schools in Kansas City. Soon she was invited to teach High School too, but in Lawson.

The pastoral ministry of Rev. Gates began in September 1954, at age 25 and Mrs. Roma at age 24, when he was assigned to shepherd the Canaan Hill Church of the Nazarene at Lawson, MO. This was a typical rural church, which counted on some families, among them brother James T. Adkins' family, for its establishment and support. Very hospitable, the Adkins family hosted the seminarians who ministered in the church. In their home, they had a room called "the prophet's room" for their guest seminarians, because the church built the parsonage only after Rev. Gates assumed the leadership.

Rev. Charles Gates completed his theological training on May 17, 1955 and received the degree of Bachelor of Divinity, with honors magna cum laude.

The Gates were pastoring the Canaan Hill Church of the Nazarene, a mature and well organized church, when, in January 1956, they were surprised by an invitation to lead a church which was being organized in Avon Lake, OH. The pastorate in Lawson provided them with the experience of caring for a big job, living away from the District and with few resources. But that, in some way, was a preparation for the work the Gates would do in Brazil.

3

The pastoral ministry in Avon Lake, OH

April 1956 to July 1958

THE PASTORATE at Avon Lake, OH allowed the Gates to return to their original District, Central Ohio. On April 15, 1956 the Avon Lake church was organized, the church was dedicated to the Lord and Rev. Gates was installed as pastor. On July 19 of that year, he received his ordination at the Assembly of the Central Ohio District.

That was a new home mission church, where the skills and experiences of the local brothers and pastor were put to use from its start. Besides the pastoral couple, three other families formed the beginning group of this church: Elmer and Mary Cox, Douglas and Rachel Fisk, and James and Eleanor Case. The four families, with their talents, formed a cohesive team dedicated to the Lord's work, which was critical to the success of that church in its first years.

In order to make the church known in the community, they launched a vacation Bible school. The first visitors brought their friends, relatives and neighbors. Other strategies included evangelistic campaigns. With the hard work of these four families, and the others, the attendance of the church reached one hundred people in two years. In Avon Lake, the Gates had the experience of planting a new congregation, which was a preparation for their work in Brazil.

Since the Nazarene Theological Seminary days, they felt the Lord wanted them on the mission field. Soon after his ordination, rev. Gates had a clear calling to Brazil. It was confirmed in the Fall of 1957. They were appointed to sunny Brazil in January 1958.

4

The early years of missions in Brazil

September 1958 to March 1960

AT MIDNIGHT on August 29, 1958 the Gates sailed out of New York aboard the Mormacdove freighter, along with ten other passengers, for a 22 day trip to Brazil.

Sailing along the Brazilian coast, on a stopover in Salvador, they marveled at the city views. They learned that there were many religious practices of African origin in Brazil, and that there was a catholic church in Salvador for each day of the year! Rev. Gates says that his first mistake in Brazil was to drink coffee without sugar. The other stopover was in Rio de Janeiro, where they were greeted with the magnificent views of the Christ the Redeemer and the city's lights.

The babble of Portuguese in the crowded piers of the port of Santos only increased their expectation. So, it was a joy to be received by Rev. Earl and Mrs. Gladys Mosteller, the senior missionaries, and brothers Ervin and Marjorie Stegmoller, a Nazarene business family living in Campinas. It was in their living room that the Church of the Nazarene conducted its first service in Brazil³. When the Gates disembarked on September 20, 1958 they were 29 and 28 years old.

In Campinas, where the Brazilian headquarters of the Church of the Nazarene was located, the Gates soon started language study and

³ Read about the Stegemollers and the beginning of the Church of the Nazarene in Brazil in this series volume 2: The Mostellers – life and preaching of Earl and Gladys Mosteller.

local customs training in a specialized Presbyterian school for foreign missionaries. It was also sponsored by the Methodist and the Baptist Churches. So, there were members of various denominations cooperating in the work. But, while other churches sent many missionary families, the Church of the Nazarene had sent only two, the Mostellers and the Gates. They also counted on the Stegemollers and on a pioneer Cape Verdean named Jose Zito Oliveira. The Dentons would only arrive in 1959. The whole Church of the Nazarene in Brazil could ride together in a Volkswagen van. Rev. Gates says “We were few, but that was enough to have a good start!”

The first hall for Nazarene services in Brazil was dedicated to the Lord on August 11, 1959. Soon the Gates began to gather the young people on Saturday evenings at their home. They found that table tennis had the power to magnetize the young Brazilians, who were enthusiastic. Mrs. Roma used modern songs edited by Youth for Christ ministry. Rev. Gates reported that Brazil was highly receptive to evangelism. English classes promoted by sister Marjorie Stegemoller, in which she, Mrs. Roma and Mrs. Gladys Mosteller gave lessons, were another initiative that attracted young and adult people.

Since the first months, the Central Ohio District gave support praying, sending letters and, in 1961, provided a Volkswagen van.

The popular festivals, such as Carnival, June festivals and Christmas were all opportunities for the Gates to assimilate into the Brazilian culture. They also experienced with the local cuisine until they got used to “feijoada and Brazilian barbecue”. Besides the typical Brazilian snack, coffee and cheesebread, there was the guarana flavored soda. They also found in the Brazilians a passion for soccer.

The Dentons had a good start in Belo Horizonte. But soon they decided to start the work in Brasilia, the new Brazilian Capital that was still under construction and, for this, offered much opportunity for evangelism. Thus, the Gates were transferred to Belo Horizonte.

The first ministry in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Master's degree

April 1960 to June 1964

BELO HORIZONTE, inaugurated in 1897, was the first planned city in Brazil. Located near the center of the country, it was the third largest city in Brazil and was living a full cultural and economic development, in the decade of 1960s.

A Nazarene family, Phillip and Ruth Schwab, who worked in the city through a USAID program, was visited by Rev. Mosteller in October 1958. But the church work only began in April 1959 after the arrival of the missionary family Rev. Ronald and Mrs. Sarah Denton. In a few months, the Dentons evangelized some people, organized a small congregation and then dedicated to the Lord the first Nazarene hall for services in the city on October 30, 1959.

The Gates arrived in Belo Horizonte on Easter 1960. They were 31 and 30 years old. Three families stood out in the small congregation: the Schwabs, the Phillips and the Palhares. The Schwabs didn't stay for long, for they were transferred to another Brazilian region. In turn, the other families had more opportunities to help.

Mrs. Claire Phillips, daughter of a German Rabbi, married to an Englishman, who had migrated to Brazil a few years earlier. She heard the good news of the gospel from the missionaries and recognized the love of the Lord shown by them. Soon she put her life and her possessions at the service of the Lord.

Mrs. Geni Palhares also helped the same way. She was anxious for the salvation of her five children and for her adopted ones. So,

she asked the Lord for a church in her neighborhood. The arrival of the Nazarene missionaries was an answer to her prayers. Under the pastorate of the Gates, she opened her home for a Bible Club. Many children and young adults were saved. Later, one of her sons, Rev. Dilo Palhares, became a Nazarene pastor and was the first Brazilian born district superintendent. Other young adults also received their pastoral calling in the Belo Horizonte church and learned their first ministerial lessons and training from the Gates.

The young people were also attracted by the table tennis games in the church and were evangelized after the games. Campaigns were organized, and evangelistic movies were shown in the streets and squares. People were also won through social assistance ministries, mainly in needy communities. The pastoral visits included gifts, and there were always some surprises. Sometimes, there were fifteen people in a house, waiting to hear the gospel.

As the Gates consolidated the church in the Barroca neighborhood, they began a congregation in Vila Oeste. This demanded great effort, like carrying all the church equipment and supplies on a city bus each service. They counted on a Cape Verdean seminarian.

With hard work, the attendance increased in the Barroca church. With an offering from the students of Eastern Nazarene College, a portable chapel was built on a church plot of land. After a couple of years, with alabaster funds, the Gates and members built a permanent church with modern architecture that was dedicated to the Lord on April 15, 1964. The chapel was dismantled and reassembled to serve the congregation in Vila Oeste. In a few weeks, the Gates returned home for furlough.

While rev. Gates was engaged in deputation work, preaching, witnessing and promoting missionary campaigns, Mrs. Roma received her masters in Education, with emphasis in School Administration, at the University of Southern California.

6

The ministry in Campinas, Brazil

June 1965 to June 1967

IN JUNE 1965, the Gates were back in Brazil and assumed the pastorate of the church in Campinas, the Brazilian Nazarene mother church. They were 36 and 35 years old by then. But now they were not just a couple, for a baby was part of their pastoral family.

The Lord demonstrated His protection for them. At their arrival in Rio de Janeiro, their ship was hit by another ship on the side of the family's cabin. Fortunately they were on the upper deck enjoying the view. Another time, Mrs. Roma was in the kitchen and her baby was in a metal highchair. Lightning struck through the kitchen and hit the highchair just moments after she left the kitchen with her baby. These experiences were added to the deliverance from an accident while on a streetcar during a storm in Campinas, in their first days. Two other divine protections would happen later during their second ministry in Belo Horizonte, and at least one more in Campinas, to Greg, when he was three years old.

The Central Church of Campinas was growing well when the Gates arrived. Mrs. Roma gave special care to the music ministry. However, this demanded a lot of work, because the Brazilian religious culture until the 1960s was not well developed in this matter. Mrs. Roma's concern was to teach music to the new believers, and train some members so that the music ministry in the Nazarene churches would have continuity, without depending on her or any other missionaries.

The first graduation of the Seminário e Instituto Bíblico da Igreja do Nazareno – SIBIN (Nazarene Seminary and Biblical Institute) was celebrated in the Central Church on December, 1965 with SIBIN operating in the same building as the church. This graduation was reason for lots of joy for the whole Nazarene community in Brazil, and it was a major accomplishment for Rev. Mosteller, the District Superintendent for Brazil. He wanted to raise pastors and national leaders well prepared to accomplish the daring goal of establishing “1000 churches in 30 years”.

In 1966, several evangelical denominations in Campinas joined efforts for a great evangelistic campaign called Campinas for Christ, which counted on the Nazarene Ambassadors and Rev. Paul Martin and Rev. Paul Orjala for preaching. Another evangelistic campaign in the Central Church had the participation of Rev. Gilberto Évora, a Nazarene preacher from Cape Verde.

The evangelistic efforts and numeric growth of the church were going well, and the acquisition, by the mission, of the campground encouraged the youth. But the Central Church still faced the challenge to become self-supporting and free the District from its financial support. To complicate matters, in 1967, there was a fire on the third floor of the church building. There were no injuries but all the theological materials for the seminarians were destroyed.

To be self-supporting and financially independent, Rev. Gates regularly preached about the biblical practice of tithes and offerings. In seven months, it went from 17 to 75 tithers! By the Central Church becoming self-supporting, more resources could be directed by the mission to new fields in Brazil.

As a rule, a self-supported church should not have a missionary as its pastor. That’s why Rev. Joaquim Lima, one of the pioneers in Brazil, started his pastorate in the mother church while the Gates, due to their academic degrees, assumed the presidency of SIBIN.

WHEN THE SEMINARIO e Instituto Biblico da Igreja do Nazareno – SIBIN opened in March 1962 by Rev. Earl Mosteller, the District Superintendent for Brazil, it was operated out of a house. After the mother church building was completed in 1963, SIBIN was located on its third floor. Only in 1975, under the presidency of Rev. Floyd and Mrs. Libby Perkins, the first property for the seminary would be purchased. The seminary is still there to this day. In fact, due to the short stay of the Perkins, it was the couple Rev. Elton and Mrs. Margaret Wood who, starting in 1976, actually labored to build not only the buildings of SIBIN, but the lives of Nazarene pastors in Brazil.

SIBIN emerged from the need to prepare the national pastors, with the goal of self-propagation that was part of the original missionaries' strategy. Rev. Earl Mosteller was the President from March to August 1962. Rev. Ronald Denton succeeded him until August 1964. In that month, Rev. Joaquim Lima assumed the presidency. In December 1965, he awarded degrees to the first four Brazilian Nazarene graduates. Rev. Gates assumed the presidency of SIBIN in July 1967. He was 38 years old and Mrs. Roma was 37.

The seminary offered a bachelors of theology degree, basic Bible course, training for pastors and Sunday school teachers. SIBIN also offered a course which prepared the local and district preachers. During the Gates' presidency, SIBIN experienced the advancement of the extension classes in Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro and São

Paulo. However, this modality demanded a great effort by the missionary couples, who had to travel constantly to teach intensive courses (many classes in few days). The correspondence course, based on biblical and pastoral courses, was also another method through which many pastors received training. Because they lived in distant cities, it did not justify the travel of SIBIN's teaching staff.

Rev. Gates organized a trip for the seminarians to get to know the churches outside of Campinas. That was an initiative that connected SIBIN seminarians to the churches and allowed them to experience the challenges of different congregations.

At that time the teaching staff of SIBIN was formed by the missionaries Rev. Earl and Mrs. Gladys Mosteller, Rev. Charles and Mrs. Roma Gates, Rev. James and Mrs. Carol Kratz, Rev. Robert and Mrs. Frances Collins, Rev. Roger and Mrs. Mary Ann Maze, Rev. Larry and Mrs. Darlene Clark, and Rev. Joaquim Lima. The Dentons were assigned back to Uruguay in 1965. The two main lay teachers were Dr. Amphilóphio de Melo Filho and Dr. José Ulisses Peruch. Some seminarians also worked as assistant professors.

Under the presidency of Rev. Gates three students graduated in the class of 1967, six in the class of 1968, two in the class of 1969.

In June 1970, the Gates returned home for their second furlough. Rev. Gates resumed his studies and received his Masters degree of Arts in Religion by the University of Southern California, with his dissertation: *The effect of industrialization on the growth of the protestant church in Brazil*. The study showed how the industrialization, which was part of the modernization process of Brazilian economics, was causing changes in the social standards of the families, with the population concentrating in the urban areas, and the creation of the middle class. Some churches were benefiting by evangelizing the people who migrated from the country to the cities and also those who moved from smaller cities to larger ones.

The second ministry in Belo Horizonte, Brazil

July 1972 to August 1975

ON RETURNING TO BRAZIL in 1972, the Gates were assigned to Belo Horizonte again. They had left behind, in 1964, just the church of Barroca and one congregation in Vila Oeste. Now, eight years later, they found five organized churches. This showed how committed and hard working were the first disciples and members alongside other missionaries who served in Belo Horizonte.

The main task of the Gates was to coordinate the pastoral work of the area churches. It included caring for and encouraging the theological education to the area Nazarene pastors. The 360 miles distance from Campinas didn't allow the superintendent to properly assist the pastoral families. By that time, the Gates were the only Nazarene missionaries in the large central region of Brazil.

Note that the wives of the missionaries always had an active role in the ministry of the denomination and the seminary in Brazil. They worked hard alongside their husbands until the national laborers were capable of leading the ministries of the church.

After the coordination task, the Gates received a second task that was to restore the ministry of a hurt church. Since 1964, some missionaries and pastors had assumed the church of Barroca, but in the early 1970s one of the national pastors caused the church to lose a good part of its membership and its creditability in the community. If the first phase for the Gates was of construction, then the second one would be of restoration. In July 1972, the Gates found only a

small part of the flock. So, they stretched themselves to care for this faithful remnant. Many emotional and spiritual wounds were healed. The adults were trained for the church's legal responsibilities and for the caring of the local community, regardless of the faults of any future pastoral leadership. The Gates also endeavored to restore the neighborhood's trust in the Church of the Nazarene.

The churches led by the Gates were known as singing churches. They were also known for their lay leadership and involvement, and for being contemporary. The Gates provided a relaxed and loving environment, but their message was always biblical. All this won over the young Brazilians. As soon as they were saved, the youth were trained for evangelism and to help with the campaigns. One of the main strategies was to show evangelistic movies in the public squares to attract the community. In his contacts with businessmen and executives of the city, Rev. Gates always opened the way for the professional development of young Nazarenes.

There was a third unknown reason for the return of the Gates to Belo Horizonte. Just like the first phase, the second one was in answer to the prayers of a mother concerned with her children. Sister Claire Phillips asked the Lord for the Gates to come back to Belo Horizonte to help her give a Christian upbringing to her children, because she was battling a very serious illness. Her help to the missionaries who worked in Belo Horizonte had been very significant. Even today, there is a feeling of gratitude for everything the Phillips and the Palhares did to help start the Church of the Nazarene in Belo Horizonte. Mrs. Roma couldn't imagine, however, that soon she would have to begin the final farewell of her dear friend and sister, who loved the hymn *He Lives!* After the passing of Mrs. Claire, the Gates helped in the raising of the couple's teenagers, the twins Paul and Roxana. Their adult sister was already married.

The ministry in Brasilia, Brazil. Doctorate

August 1977 to May 1981

THE WORK of the Church of the Nazarene in the new capital of Brazil was started in 1960 by the Dentons. But after 17 years, there was only one church in Brasília proper, in its Asa Sul (south wing) neighborhood. Another church was in Sobradinho, one of the satellite cities where the workmen raised their families in very difficult conditions, 15 miles out of Brasilia. The Gates returned to Brazil to plant a new congregation in one of the main avenues in Brasilia, in the Asa Norte (north wing) neighborhood. The city has an airplane shape.

Brasilia, created to be an administrative city, was settled in the middle of the Brazilian savannah. In those early years, it was lacking in comfort and warmth. Therefore, the two main groups of public workers, the military and the civilians, did not live very long in the new city. It had few trees and lots of red dust in the air. Furthermore, for six months a year there would be no rain.

At ages 48 and 47, however, the real challenge to the Gates was to build a congregation dedicated to the Lord. The evangelism work happened during daily tasks and contacts: some public workers, business employees and neighbors were converted. To create friendship in the community, Mrs. Roma taught piano lessons. When asked about why they were in Brasilia, they used to give their testimony and invite the students, friends and neighbors to the services, which were held in their own apartment. When families asked for help, Rev. Gates used to show God's love for people by

assisting the sick in hospitals, even when called in the hours before daybreak. There was always a spiritual struggle for souls in Brazil.

The first worship service for the new congregation in Asa Norte (north wing) happened on October 16, 1977 in celebration of the 69th year of the Church of the Nazarene.

Arthur and Jean Swope, Mrs. Roma's cousins, worked for a large company in the State of São Paulo. They made a donation for building a chapel, which could seat 100 people. This allowed the church to be organized and host evangelistic conferences. The members' testimonies were also effective and reached co-workers and friends. Foreigners were invited for English services.

Regional encounters organized by Rev. Gates helped in the developing a sense of community among the Nazarene youth in the Brasilia area. The church youth enjoyed playing table tennis a lot.

Since the congregation was growing, it was time to build a permanent two-story building for church and parsonage. However, constructions costs in Brasilia were too high. During this building phase, Mrs. Roma taught classes at the American School of Brasilia. She donated almost all her salary for the building. That made possible keeping some permanent construction workers. The young Nazarenes helped every weekend with voluntary work.

A couple from Ohio wanted to make a donation to missions, but they did not know the Gates needed a lot of money. The church youth prayed and the Lord blessed John and Sandy Williams' business, and they made a generous donation to finish the modern church building. It was dedicated to the Lord on January 21, 1981 by General Superintendent Dr. V. H. Lewis.

During the 1981/1982 furlough, Rev. Gates concluded his studies and obtained his Doctor of Missiology degree from Fuller Theological Seminary, School of World Mission. The theme of his thesis was: The Brazilian revival of 1952: Its antecedents and its effects.

THERE ARE MANY ANONYMOUS heroes who contributed to the Nazarene mission in Brazil. One of these heroes dedicated a good part of her energy, health and enthusiasm to promote and invest in the missionary work in Brazil alongside the Gates.

Mildred Elizabeth Durigg was born on May 29, 1897 in Armstrong Mills, OH. Despite a harsh country life, she excelled in school, since as a little girl she learned to study and enjoyed reading books. Her mother helped her and her brothers with the school work, but the most valuable help was to teach Christian principles to the children. Her father, besides providing for the material needs, always made sure to take the family to Sunday School. Aunt Mill was saved at age twelve, in a Methodist church, and was sanctified at age 20.

After High School, she decided to pursue a career in education. She graduated in 1924 from Asbury College in Kentucky. While studying there, she continued to nourish her spiritual life and gained a deep knowledge of the Bible. Always active in several ministries in the church, she stood out as a Sunday School teacher.

During her 42 years of dedicated public teaching, she taught from elementary to high school. She also taught long-term resident patients in a hospital school. She served as Dean of Women at Olivet Nazarene College. During her career, she received many honors, but what really motivated her were her students.

Aunt Mill retired in June 1967 but that did not stop her working

or travelling to incredible places in the Americas, Europe and Africa. She had hundreds of pictures and a collection of miniature elephants. She loved it!

People said she had a missionary calling, but her health may have hindered her plans to go to the field. With fragile health, but untiring faith, her passion for missions led her to preside over missionary societies at some churches and raise funds to promote missions and to organize prayer groups in giving spiritual support to the missionaries on the field.

She had visited the Gates two times while on vacation. After her retirement, she dedicated more time to Brazil. In 1967 and 1969, she taught at the Seminário e Instituto Bíblico da Igreja do Nazareno – SIBIN (Brazilian Nazarene Seminary), worked in its office and organized its library. In 1973 she came back to spend Christmas with the Gates and to see her Brazilian friends again. She left some tasty memories: walnut cookies, jelly cookies, and iced carrot cookies.

In Brazil, she donated dentures, bicycles and books to pastors. To the students of the Seminary, she made wool slippers and quilts for them to keep warm in the winter. She also donated hundreds of pine trees for the Serra Negra youth camp and she donated Campinas Central Church's first pulpit.

After 83 years of faithful service to the Lord, Aunt Mill was promoted to the church triumphant on July 26, 1979. Her birthday was the day before Memorial Day, which made us think of her as a hero who dedicated herself to the Lord and to missions. She preferred the honor of giving everything to the Lord, instead of keeping something for herself. She preferred to be always active in the Lord's work, instead of resting after the years of her working life.

She was a valiant Christian soldier of whom we can affirm for certain that she fought the good fight, finished her career, kept the faith (2 Tm 4:7) and greatly helped the Nazarene ministry in Brazil.

THE GATES didn't think about returning to reside in the United States, but Rev. Gates' vast missionary experience and solid academic training, made him the ideal candidate to be the Coordinator of Division Ministries of the World Mission Division. In coordinating the work of various ministries, a major part of his work was as pastor to the missionary families. But the office staff was small. There were only two people to help him for all the tasks.

For decades, he devoted himself to preaching and leading of churches, in providing spiritual comfort and help to people, to preside over a seminary, and to build chapels and churches in Brazil. By now, at age 53, the greatest challenge for Rev. Gates was to get used to working in an office. But it did not affect his good humour.

The Candidate Ministry took care of all the steps for the appointment of new missionaries, including their guidance and preparation for the final interviews.

The Work and Witness program sent volunteer teams from Districts and churches to build churches and other buildings on the mission fields around the world. This ministry had begun as Men in Missions in the 1970's and was always a lay-oriented program.

The Nazarene Compassionate Ministries needed to be revived, since despite causing some impact in the communities, it was too concentrated in the United States and acted in limited areas. For instance, some new actions included offerings for digging clean

water wells in regions of Africa without a supply of drinking water.

As the Coordinator of Division Ministries, Rev. Gates was part of the World Mission Education Committee – WOMEC, which oversaw all the Nazarene ministerial training institutions around the world. After the standardization of curriculum and other pastoral training programs, the main objective was to prepare these institutions for accreditation by the educational authorities of their countries.

In the Pastoral Ministry, Rev. Gates continued the missionary retreats for all the missionaries and their families who were home on furlough. But he also provided pastoral assistance to the MKs in college. Rev. Gates made a point of visiting them every year to advise and encourage them. He would schedule a dinner with the President of each university to introduce the MKs and bring them together.

Rev. Gates negotiated the agreement with the Bradenton Missionary Village in Florida, which has become a “Casa Robles” for missionaries in the Eastern part of the country who prefer to live near their families and churches of origin.

In turn, Mrs. Roma published books with special songs for the Portuguese Literature Department of the headquarters of the Church of the Nazarene. Some of these books were also published in Spanish. For eight years she taught ESL (English as a Second Language) to immigrants in the Olathe, KS school district. She also taught in Mid-America Nazarene University and served as adjunct professor of linguistics at the Nazarene Theological Seminary. In 1985 Mrs. Roma published the book *Brazil, here we come!* which was part of a series that sought to awaken in children a love for missions. In the book, she explains why she became a missionary to Brazil.

The Gates also helped the College Church of the Nazarene in Olathe, KS, where together they taught an adult Sunday School class. Following ten years of service in the World Mission Division, Rev. Gates was elected Executive Director of Casa Robles.

The ministry at Casa Robles. Retirement

March 1992 to December 1999

THE CASA ROBLES Nazarene Missionary Retirement Center is a group of residences for retired Nazarene missionaries. Casa Robles is maintained by church offerings (mission's funds), by donations by missionaries' relatives and by themselves, and by donations from members who recognize the important work the senior missionaries did for the Kingdom of God and for the Church of the Nazarene. Casa Robles also receives help from Work and Witness teams and from Nazarenes in Volunteer Service.

Casa Robles is a well-deserved home for those who have invested their lives in diverse and difficult missionary fields around the world. They were effective on the frontlines of the Great Commission. Indeed, the Woman's Missionary Society, that became NWMS and now NMI, since its origin has shown concern for the health and well being of retired missionaries. The investments for it started in 1932.

Some resident missionaries face health problems due to their age, but they all stay firm in faith, as living testimonies that it is worth "fighting the fight". At Casa Robles, they meet again great fellow ministers, and receive visits from churches and missionary societies. They are called upon to speak at missionary events in the Nazarene churches of California and other States.

This new role of Rev. Gates and Mrs. Roma, who were 62 and 61 years old respectively, required attending meetings with city officials, lead the weekly Casa Robles prayer meeting, organize

activities in the community and welcome visitors, in addition to overseeing the maintenance and upkeep of the houses and campus.

Mrs. Roma served as the Casa Robles' hostess, attended various committees and worked in the office and on accounting matters.

Each weekly service, anniversaries and special celebrations were held in the living room of the Sanner House, where the offices were located. More than 50 people attended some events. The need for a suitable building was evident, but the city had already rejected the requests from previous directors. Besides praying, Rev. Gates took advantage of the opportunity to explain the project to the city authorities. Thus he received permission and started the two building projects which would complete the Casa Robles facilities.

"The Whittier Trio" brothers took charge of the work. They had the help and donations of other members, couples and Work and Witness teams from many Districts. The Casa Robles Fellowship Center was dedicated on October 12, 1996 to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of Casa Robles. An artistic courtyard honoring the donors was also dedicated. Its surface was formed with a circle of bricks with the names of every District in the United States and Canada. In September of 1998, the Wellness Center was dedicated.

Rev. Gates, always helped by the untiring Mrs. Roma, was the Executive Director of Casa Robles from March 1992 until December 1999. The Gates retired January 1, 2000. In August of that year, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Upland First Church, where their son, Rev. Greg Gates, was the senior pastor. Nowadays, they are members at Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene.

The Gates have been honored by the Casa Robles Board of Trustees, by the World Mission Division and by the Board of General Superintendents. As a humble servant of the Lord, Rev. Gates always gave glory to God and proclaimed smiling: "It is worth it all to serve Christ!"