

the MOSTELLERS



LIFE AND PREACHING OF
Earl and Gladys Mosteller


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

2

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

s a n d r o
HAYAKAWA



Rev. Earl Elwood Mosteller Jr. and
Mrs. Gladys Marie Parker Mosteller
April, 2009

ISBN: 978-85-906714-2-8

THE MOSTELLERS:
life and preaching of
Earl and Gladys Mosteller

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

volume 2

Sandro José Hayakawa Cunha

Brasília
BRAZIL
2 0 1 0

Dedication

For those who had the courage to see the fields
ready for harvest and went to harvest.

(John 4:30)

Main collaborators of this book

Rev. Earl Elwood Mosteller Jr.
Mrs. Gladys Marie Parker Mosteller
Mrs. Kathleen Joy Mosteller Loeber
Mrs. Virginia Gay Mosteller York
Mrs. Elizabeth Mary Mosteller Ott

Special thanks

Special thanks to all the brothers of
Aurora Church of the Nazarene, Seattle
and also to the Mosteller Misisonary Chapter
for your love, affection, help and care towards
the Mostellers. God bless you.

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 evangelical and the discipleship work initiated by the Nazarene missionaries and pioneers 52 years ago.

Somehow this is the Lord’s answer to a prayer that Rev. 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.

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, besides other sources¹. For this volume, we counted especially on the kind collaboration of some brothers, pastors and missionaries from the Azores, Brazil, Cape Verde, Malawi and Portugal.

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. Visit us at:

w w w . n a z a r e n e m i s s i o n a r i e s . p r o . b r

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

Summary

Dedication and main collaborators of this book	cxcvi
Series presentation	cxcvii
Life and ministry summary	cc
1. From Oregon to the Cape Verde Islands	202
2. The ministry in Cape Verde	204
3. The arrival in Brazil and the first church in Campinas, SP	207
4. The Stegemoller family	210
5. The Nazarene missionary investment in Brazil	212
6. The ministry in Brazil	215
7. The missionary family	218
8. The ministry in Portugal	220
9. The ministry in the Azores	223
Main bibliographic references (Portuguese only)	191
1 st Part – Portuguese full version	15

Life and ministry summary

Name: Earl Elwood Mosteller Jr.

birthday: June 25, 1918

Hometown: Pierre, SD.

Wife: Gladys Marie Parker Mosteller

birthday: April 1, 1917

Hometown: Oregon City, OR.

Daughters: Kathleen Joy Mosteller Loeber

sons in law: Lawrence Ervin Loeber

grandchildren: Lincoln E Loeber
Krystal Joy Loeber

Virginia Gay Mosteller York

James Arthur York

Elizabeth Mary Mosteller Ott

Dwight Stephen Ott

Peter E Ott

Stephanie Jo Ott

Seth Ethan Ott

Home Church: Hemlock Church of the Nazarene, OR.

Arrival in Brazil: July 31, 1958

Main ministry positions: Pastor, District Superintendent, Mission Field Director.

National ministry churches and periods: Hemlock Church of the Nazarene, OR.
From December 1941 to 1944.
Wareham Church of the Nazarene, MA.
From 1945 to May 1946.

International ministry countries and periods: Church of the Nazarene in Cape Verde.
From May 1946 to July 1958.
Church of the Nazarene in Brazil.
From August 1958 to August 1973.
Church of the Nazarene in Portugal.
From September 1973 to 1982.
Church of the Nazarene in the Azores.
From 1983 to April 1990.

Retirement: May 1990.

Current church: Aurora Church of the Nazarene, Seattle, WA.
(membership)
Current position: Visiting pastor.

TO BE A MISSIONARY demands the disposition and resolute character to go the distance. It was how the Mostellers left Hemlock (a small village near to Tillamook, OR). They crossed the United States by train, flew over the Atlantic by plane and sailed to some small African islands, near the Equator.

Rev. Earl Mosteller was born on June 25, 1918 in Pierre, SD. Despite the work on his family's farm, his parents were also demanding with the studies. At school, for many months, his teacher invited the students' families to congregate in the local church.

One day, his father said, "We should accept her invitation to church before she goes broke on postcards and postage." The young Mosteller was converted in May 1932 in that church. His first prayer was, "Lord, make me a preacher!" In 1936 he went to prepare himself at Northwest Nazarene College (now University), in Nampa, ID. In 1941, Rev. Mosteller graduated in Theology, Philosophy and Biblical Literature. In the same year, Mrs. Gladys

graduated in Sociology. They got married soon after their graduation.

Mrs. Gladys Mosteller was born on April 1, 1917 in Oregon City, OR. When she was 18 years old, she attended a holiness revival. She had grown up in a Methodist home, but at the revival she finally received personal salvation and entire sanctification. On that day, she also felt a strong calling to missionary service.

We should mention that in 1964, Northwest Nazarene University conferred upon Rev. Mosteller an honorary Doctor of Law degree. In 1969 his alma mater also named him *Alumnus* of the Year in recognition of his work in creating goodwill between his church and the governments in Cape Verde and Brazil.

His first ministry as senior pastor was in the Hemlock Church of the Nazarene in Oregon, beginning in December 1941. One day, after reading the article, “We need Missionaries!” in *The Other Sheep* (World Mission’s magazine), he was touched by the Holy Spirit. Rev. Mosteller asked “Shall I make another entry in my missionary diary?” Mrs. Gladys answered, “If you write anything, I think you better write to Kansas City² and offer yourself for missionary service.” So he did.

At the following General Assembly, in 1944, the Mostellers were assigned to Cape Verde, but all the trips between the United States and Europe were interrupted due to World War II. So they were put in charge of the Church of the Nazarene in Wareham, MA (near New Bedford), where they learned the Portuguese language from the Cape Verdian people in that church.

Resolute, determined. This is the best way to describe the first years (preparatory stages in America) of the Mostellers’ ministry.

² In 2008, the Church of the Nazarene’s headquarters was moved to the Global Ministry Center, in Lenexa, KS. Mention of Kansas City, MI, the former headquarter city, must be understood from the historical point of view.

The ministry in Cape Verde

from May 1946 to July 1958

BOLD, FEARLESS. These are the main characteristics of the Mostellers regarding the years of ministry in Cape Verde. This archipelago, which is in the middle of the maritime route between Europe and Africa and South America, was both a supply port for ships and also a meeting point for travelers.

Some people asked themselves in Creole³: “Why did these people leave the wealth of America to live in these desolate islands?” They did not know, however, that “above all, it does not matter where you live, if you know you are in the center of God’s will”, as Rev. Mosteller used to answer to whoever asked him directly.

The religious environment found by them in 1946 had shown more intolerance of Protestants in previous decades. Pioneers such as Rev. João Dias in 1901, for example, faced many challenges and hostilities during the early years. Even renting load animals was denied them.

³ The official idiom of Cape Verde is the Portuguese, but the population use frequently the Creole, which is a mixed language created upon the interaction of Portuguese people and the inhabitants of continental African origin.

The Mostellers, with little Kathleen, arrived in Cape Verde in May 1946. Soon they tasted new food such as *tapioca*, *cuscuz*, fried banana and *cachupa*, a typical dish of the country that is made with corn, beans, condiments and fish or pork. During the first missionary term the family was blessed with two more daughters, Virginia and Elizabeth.

The Mostellers pastored on the island of Santiago and afterward on the island of São Vicente, where Mindelo, the commercial center of the islands, is located. Rev. Mosteller took direction of the Mission in 1952 (and continued until 1958), because the Howards needed to go back to United States in order to provide specialized medical assistance to Mrs. Garnet, Rev. Everette Howard's wife. (Rev. Howard was the District Superintendent.)

During twelve years in Cape Verde (1946 to 1958), the Mostellers coordinated several evangelistic strategies, including the use of two sail ships. However, according to Rev. Mosteller, two priorities had to be attended to as soon as he assumed the mission: the creation of a seminary and a Nazarene printshop. The seminary, founded in 1953 and led by Rev. Elton and Mrs. Margaret Wood, supplied the formal preparation for the national pastors. This strategic action also brought great results later to the mission work in Brazil, because in the 70's, some of the Cape Verdian pastors were sent to help lead churches in Brazil.

The Nazarene printshop contributed very much to holiness literature in Portuguese-speaking countries, including the translation of almost the whole hymnal "Grace and Devotion" by brother Humberto Pires Ferreira, who was also the printshop director. The portfolio reported many monthly publications, some booklets about holiness, and also evangelical tracts.

Just like all the other missionary families, all the Mostellers were involved on the work. The children were evangelizing other

children, Rev. Mosteller was pastoring and leading the work on the archipelago and Mrs. Gladys, along with all her other activities supporting her husband's ministry, teaching Vila Nova's congregation. Many people were saved, set free, and enlightened.

All the islands' inhabitants used to suffer because of tropical diseases, including malaria, as well as malnutrition. But God proved he was taking care of the healthy development of the missionary children. In a time of difficulties, there was no powdered milk in the food shops. The Lord led the Mostellers to a man who had received six cans of powdered milk from United States, but had not used them, because by the time these cans arrived, his youngest son was already grown.

It is so important to say that the missionaries' work with the Cape Verdians brothers resulted in positive recognition by the authorities. God changed the relationship between the church and the Cape Verdian community. Some official Cape Verdian postage stamps commemorating Nazarene churches became famous.

At a farewell tribute during the 9th Cape Verde District Assembly (May 1958), the members put the Mostellers in a small boat on the church's platform. Speeches, thanks and music were part of the homage that ended with a rain of confetti and people bursting into tears. Some flashbacks came to their minds of some of the main events in Cape Verde, such as the organization of churches, the construction of churches, chapels and parsonages for pastors, the seminary and the Nazarene printshop.

On the day of the Mostellers' departure to Brazil, there was a great commotion among the brothers. At the wharf they pointed up at a hill where a prison was located. In all the windows, prisoners were waving towels and white t-shirts. These inmates, many of whom had been born again, were also paying tribute to the beloved missionaries.

The arrival in Brazil and the first church in Campinas, SP

from August 1958 to August 1959

THEY WERE UNDERTAKERS. This is the main characteristic by which we can describe the Mosteller family's work concerning the planting of the Nazarene denomination in Brazil.

The first field research by the Mostellers towards establishing the work in Brazil was done on board ship among the Brazilian passengers, demonstrating their undertaking vision. They discovered that the majority of the population in Brazil lived in the main cities by the sea. The interior areas (North and Middle-west) weren't very populated.

They had been to Recife, Salvador and Rio before arriving in Santos. They saw the strong economic and social contrast between the Northeast (which was suffering the result of the migration of an enormous number of people who were unemployed and homeless) and the Southeast, with its poverty and wealth, religion and worldliness. They also witnessed the warm reception of Brazilian people to foreigners. Always mindful, the missionary eyes saw many opportunities to preach.

They were coming from a colony of Portugal which was under a dictatorship. Therefore, they were thrilled to know that Brazil was a democratic country, with free elections and constitutional guarantee of the free exercise of religion. “This place must be a paradise for evangelism!” they thought.

On July 31, 1958 the Mostellers were received in Santos (sea-coast city with a harbor that serves São Paulo), by the Stegemollers and by a Cape Verdian disciple, José Zito Oliveira, who, since 1956 was expecting the arrival of the Nazarene missionaries.

Along with São Paulo, which was the strongest economic pole, many other cities were visited. But, even though the involvement of the Stegemoller family had been (humanly) decisive, the missionaries chose to settle in Campinas, that then had 200.000 inhabitants, for the following reasons: the city was clean and well illuminated (that meant organization and safety), and there were universities (good academic and cultural level of the population, from where the first Nazarenes would come and the first national pastors, as well). The city of Campinas was a growing industrial city (it was actually the location of the tractor factory where Mr. Stegemoller worked). There would be a great opportunity to evangelize professionals with good wages. Thus, the membership of the churches would be able to be self-supporting and also could sponsor new congregations. Besides, it would be easier for the Church of the Nazarene to be well known in a smaller city than in a metropolis (as São Paulo or Rio).

It was difficult to find an appropriate place for the church to meet. So, after the Gateses' arrival, the church's services started in the living room of the Stegemoller home. Mrs. Marjorie Stegemoller recorded the inaugural meeting: “[Campinas, Sunday October 12, 1958]. The Golden Anniversary service [of the Church of the Nazarene] was held in Brazil in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Stegemoller. There were twelve present, those being two missionary

families, Rev. and Mrs. Earl Mosteller with their three children, Kathleen, Virginia and Elizabeth, and Rev. and Mrs. Charles Gates; and one lay family, Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Stegemoller with their three children, Ronald, Janis and Carol [...]. Rev. Mosteller [...] brought a challenging talk on the possibilities and his plans for evangelizing Brazil [...] looking forward, he showed us the possibility of having 1,000 Nazarene churches in Brazil in 30 years.”

In April 1959 the third missionary family arrived in Brazil: Rev. Ronald and Mrs. Sarah Denton, and their four children. Rev. Ronald Denton was the one who planted the Nazarene work in Uruguay from 1949 to 1959. His fluency in Spanish, a language similar to Portuguese, made his immersion easier on the field.

On August 11, 1959 the Church of the Nazarene dedicated its first church in Brazil. (It was a building almost ready for use on one of the main avenues of Campinas. Rev. Mosteller convinced the owner to tear down the walls that divided the twin stores and rent the whole building to the church). The mayor and many other civil and military authorities were present at the dedication service. Most of them had never been in an evangelical church. There were about two hundred people who took part in the service. On that occasion, Nazarene evangelist C.T. Corbett preached God’s message. This dedication was preceded by many marketing strategies: advertisements in newspapers and on the radio, special invitations to the authorities, leaflets left in mail boxes, banners across the streets, invitations to friends and leaflets scattered by airplane (it was permitted back then).

Two months later, a second base was established. The work in Belo Horizonte, a state capital, led by the Dentons among some local families, officially started with the dedication service in a rented hall on one of the main streets of the city. Dr. G.B. Williamson, GS, was the guest speaker for that service (October 30, 1959).

THEY WERE LOYAL COLLABORATORS. This is the main characteristic of the Stegemoller family, true lay missionaries who contributed decisively to the planting of the Nazarene denomination in Brazil. Their example is a strong inspiration to the volunteers who work for the Kingdom of God. The Lord had something already prepared concerning the Nazarene ministry in Brazil, but for that to happen, He looked for people with experience and Christian maturity.

The Stegemollers were very active in the Indianapolis West Side Church of the Nazarene. Mrs. Marjorie was NWMS (now NMI) President. She also dreamed of becoming a missionary, but Mr. Ervin, her husband, an industrial executive, was more interested in church teaching ministry. Suddenly something happened. When she received the news that Ervin would work at the company's branch in Brazil, the missionary flame was lit again in her heart. However, would it be possible to be a missionary and a businessman's wife? Why not?

They came to Brazil in 1956 because of a professional opportunity for Mr. Stegemoller. When they arrived, they were astonished by Brazil's dimensions and also curious about the Latin culture, so different from the American. After settling down in Campinas, they offered their own home to receive missionaries, since there were no Nazarene churches in Brazil. In 1957, General Superintendent, Dr. G. B. Williamson and Dr. H. T. Reza visited Brazil on a fact-finding mission. With his expertise, brother Stegemoller emphasized Campinas' potential and also the nearby cities. Having a businessman on the team was a great advantage.

When the work began in Brazil, Mrs. Marjorie was a Sunday School teacher and church pianist, while Mr. Ervin was the treasurer. She recorded all the services and all the statistics, while she worked as the Mission Board's Secretary. Mrs. Marjorie also taught English to Brazilians. She used a room in the church's building in order to get the new denomination well-known in the city. In 1960, the Stegemollers sponsored a campaign providing Christian holiness literature (translation and printing) in order to prepare candidates for the ministry, as well as for the edification of the Portuguese-language Nazarenes.

The Stegemoller family could not imagine the dimension of their help to establish the mission, besides the use of their house for the first services, the volunteer work in the church, and, of course, supplying part of the financial support with their faithful tithes. During all the nine years that they lived in Brazil, the Stegemollers were responsible for a very important part of the mission's success. Besides being companions and collaborators for the mission, they became close friends. The Stegemollers deserve our recognition and gratitude for their lay missionary work in Brazil. While some have unwittingly entertained angels (Hebrews 13:2), others – our missionaries – unwittingly were entertained by angels.

THEY WERE MOTIVATING AND WELCOMING. These are two characteristics by which we can describe the Mostellers as missionary team leaders.

To face the challenge to open 1,000 churches in 30 years, it was necessary to have a good team. The very first missionary nucleus was formed by three missionary families, a lay family and a Cape Verdian pioneer. They were the Mostellers (1958), the Gateses (1958), and the Dentons (1959); the Stegemollers (1956) and José Zito Oliveira (1956).

During the 50's and the 60's, a significant change was taking place in Brazil in demographic, social, political and cultural terms. These social phenomena were impelled by the fast Brazilian urbanization and industrialization.

The Brazilian urban rate was only 44% in 1960, but almost two thirds of Brazilians were living in the big cities by the sea. This urban rate, however, increased by the rural exodus and by other population movements towards the Southeast (today the urban rate is 81%). This brought an uncontrolled growth of the cities

where immigrants became more secularized than religious, as they were looking for education, culture and wealth. Women entered the work force, but two incomes changed the traditional family roles.

During the 60's, the main national economic center moved from Rio to São Paulo, as this city reinvested most of the profit from the coffee business into industrial activities. At the same time, the political center moved from Rio to Brasília, as this city became the new federal capital. In 1964 Brazil was taken over by a military dictatorship (that lasted until 1988). The American support of this dictatorship resulted in a strong political anti-Americanism, which culminated in the kidnapping of the American Ambassador in 1969 by some students in Rio.

This tense atmosphere did not affect our missionary work because the Church of the Nazarene was still concentrated in Campinas, far from the great cities and from the main political centers.

The religious perspective was characterized by the major presence of Catholicism that represented 95% of Brazilians, while Protestants comprised only 2.6% in 1950.

While the national pastors were enrolled in Bible Institute (known as SIBIN), the mission received new missionary families. By the 60's, the missionary team was reinforced by new families: Rev. Joaquim and Mrs. Guilhermina Lima (Cape Verdian pioneers who served first in Argentina), Rev. James and Mrs. Carol Kratz; Rev. Robert and Mrs. Frances Collins. In 1964 the Dentons moved back to Uruguay. One year later, the Stegemollers went back to Indianapolis, IN. Then Rev. Roger and Mrs. Mary Ann Maze and Rev. Larry and Mrs. Delores Darlene Clark arrived in Brazil. So, the 60's closed with eight missionary and pioneer families in Brazil.

During the 70's, the Brazilian mission field received new Cape Verdian pioneers: Rev. Eudo and Mrs. Arlinda Tavares de Almeida, Rev. Antônio and Mrs. Corsínia Nobre Leite, Rev. Fernando and

Mrs. Maria Tereza de Sá Nogueira. The mission board also sent Rev. Jim and Mrs. Sara Bond and Rev. Don and Mrs. Linda Stamps⁴.

1973 marked the close of the first period of Nazarene missions in Brazil, as the Mostellers were sent to establish the church in Portugal. Rev. Collins was put in charge of the Brazilian field.

In the 70's Rev. Stephen and Mrs. Brenda Heap, Rev. Rex and Mrs. Edith Ludwig, Rev. Elton and Mrs. Margaret Wood, Rev. Carl and Mrs. Shirley Romey, and Rev. Gary and Mrs. Harriet Bunch also came to Brazil. Some of the missionary and pioneer families returned or moved to America. So, the 70's ended with eleven missionary and pioneer families in Brazil.

During the 80's, Brazil's field received four more missionary couples, but two others went back to America. We received Rev. Eldon and Mrs. Lela Kratz (He is Rev. James Kratz's son), Rev. Brian and Mrs. Beryl Adams, Rev. Steven and Mrs. Deborah Hofferbert, and Rev. Terry and Mrs. Donna Read. This decade ended with thirteen missionary and pioneer families in Brazil.

The 90's brought only two new missionary couples: Rev. Jim and Mrs. Betty Cooper and Rev. Alfredo and Mrs. Rute Mulieri (from Argentina). But nine families returned or moved to America. So the 90's closed with six missionary and pioneer families.

During the 2000's Nazarene missions sent one missionary couple: Rev. Will and Mrs. Cathy Haworth. The mission board also sent the Hofferberts back to Brazil, this time to start the Brazilian Nazarene College. But a surprise was the assignment of the first Brazilian global missionary couple, Rev. Manuel and Mrs. Lídia Lima, who were sent to the Brazilian Amazon. (He is Rev. Joaquim Lima's son.) Today we have only five missionary and pioneer families in Brazil.

⁴ The Stamps came back as Assembly of God missionaries from 1980 to 1989. During this period, he wrote the comments of NIV Life in the Spirit Study Bible (Zondervan).

6

The ministry in Brazil

from August 1958 to August, 1973

THE MOSTELLERS WERE VISIONARIES. This is the main characteristic by which we can describe a forty-year old couple, with three daughters, who came to Brazil at the end of the 50's and beginning of the 60's in order to establish a Protestant denomination in Brazil, a country of strong Catholic background.

The fact that the first missionary nucleus had a great pastoral experience contributed a lot to the success of the denomination's establishment and also their great cultural and academic level. Actually, Brazilian people had the perception that the ecclesiastic Nazarene lifestyle was modern and real, engaged in a daily life of holiness. The missionary wives complemented the pastoral work, leading music, organizing evangelistic and social events, teaching at the seminary and at the churches, etc., always with great competence.

When the first church was dedicated, the missionaries started publishing Nazarene advertisements and theological articles in the main newspapers in Campinas. They did it because

one of the premises for Rev. Mosteller was that the church should be known to the public. But, it so happened that, after they left America, Campinas was the only city where they lived that had at least one daily newspaper! For that reason, Rev. Mosteller would often emphasize the origin of this strategy: “This idea came from God!” After the church was completely ready for use, they also began daily prayer meetings, which became one of the strongest pillars upon which Campinas Central Church gained maturity and drew thousand of lives to the Lord.

At the dedication service, Nazarenes were challenged with the vision of 1,000 churches in thirty years. With his undertaking and visionary impetus, Rev. Mosteller defined the immediate three strategic goals: self-government, self-support and self-propagation for the national churches.

Self-government would be reached with the formal organization of local churches. This, however, would depend on maturity and engagement of laity (there was much work to be done: legal organization, preaching, and evangelistic activities, among many other tasks). Along with this, self-government would release the missionaries to begin new congregations. Moreover, self-governed and self-supported churches would not be shepherded by the missionaries.

Self-support would depend on the faithfulness of the brothers regarding tithes and offerings that would support the church work and also the seminary, in order to have well-prepared workers.

With his great vision, Rev. Mosteller started the Nazarene Seminary and Bible Institute (SIBIN) in 1961, as part of the self-propagation strategy. The priority would be to provide theological education for people called to the ministry. The missionaries taught the subjects at SIBIN and also in some congregations (by means of intensive courses). Along with this, SIBIN also offered biblical courses by mail to those pastors who could not be absent from their

respective congregations in farway cities. SIBIN graduated the first Brazilian Nazarene pastors in 1965.

Always with the 1,000 churches in view, the church's real properties would be bought on good avenues and in places with great visibility to the public. But the first idea for expansion strategy was based on portable chapels that would be made in a standard form and with easily reusable material. The publishing of the *Herald of Holiness*, in a Portuguese version, would complement this strategy of spreading the church. However, neither one was integrally established during the Mostellers' ministry in Brazil.

During the first years, after Campinas (1958), two more nuclei were opened for the multiplication of the Church of the Nazarene: Belo Horizonte (1959) and Rio de Janeiro (1966). The main success strategies included church location, the installation of SIBIN within the first years and the constant presence of new missionaries.

The modern city of Belo Horizonte offered many opportunities because it was an important economic center in the region. (The newest capital of Brazil, Brasilia, was closer to Belo Horizonte than to Campinas. Brasilia would open the missionary field in Brazil's interior). Likewise, the dynamic and well-inhabited region of Baixada Fluminense in Rio vicinity would provide the conditions for the growth and multiplication of local congregations.

With the desire of fulfilling their mission, the Mostellers made a great effort to take advantage of all the opportunities for expansion of the Church of the Nazarene, including evangelizing Japanese immigrants (in São Paulo), police agents, beggars, students, lawyers, journalists, etc. Besides that, the mission also sponsored many evangelistic campaigns in many cities of Brazil, including one with the well-known Nazarene Ambassadors group, always with great results and the salvation of many Brazilians.

SYNERGY AND CONFIDENCE. These are the main characteristics by which we can describe the Mosteller family with all their effort and cohesive purposes in their mission ministry.

“The most intelligent thing that Earl did was to marry Gladys”, said Dr. Russell V. DeLong, President of NNC and author of many books including *The Unique Galilean* and *Illnesses of the Modern Soul*. He did not know that his words would anticipate many decades of marital success that were to come.

Rev. Mosteller declares that Mrs. Gladys has been a fabulous wife and partner. Her ministerial gifts, her perception, her capacity for teaching, her help, her work, her kind humor and her love have made her more than a missionary. Rev. Mosteller used to say: “A man without a wife is nothing!” After many years, the romance is still present in their life. In April, 2009, just before Easter, Rev. Mosteller took his beloved wife out for a special dinner in order to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the day they started dating!

The truth must be stated: their three daughters fully reflected the character, the resolve and the perseverance of their parents. Heirs of uncountable blessings, witnesses of many miracles, “cooperators” in remarkable deeds, they were always side by side with their parents, admiring and encouraging them. In fact, Kathleen, Virginia and Elizabeth had the missionary feeling so impregnated in their own lives that, from childhood on, they also presented themselves as missionaries. However, they were made aware at an early age to make their own choice. This free will resulted in a decision to be participants in, not merely observers of, their parents’ missionary work. They saw their vision and understood the purpose and the importance that their work had for the Kingdom of God. So, parents and daughters were a strong and engaged team. They did not look back, but kept on going havenwards towards the prize in Christ.

Enrollment in university brought the sadness of seeing their beloved daughters going far away. Following in their parents’ steps, one by one the three girls went to Northwest Nazarene University, in Nampa, where they graduated and prepared for the work force. But even as adults, they followed and helped their parents’ missionary work in Portugal and in the Azores. They took the opportunity to bring their families to participate on missionary activities with the grandparents.

A disciple that played with the missionary children in Cape Verde, and who years later was the wife of one of the Nazarene pioneer pastors in Portugal, full of gratitude for the Mosteller family, witness: “They all preached with theirs lives, not only with words”.

The ministry in Portugal

from September 1973 to 1982

THEY WERE STEADFAST. This is the main characteristic by which we can describe this new missionary period for the Mostellers. They were 55 years old and had been in the ministry for 32 years. The impetus, however, was young!

The fact that Portugal is a coast country contributed to exploration and commercial Portuguese expeditions. This transformed that little empire into a great naval and commercial power during the period of the great discoveries of the 15th and 16th centuries. In 1910 the Republic was established, but, in 1926, a dictatorship (called New State) took over the nation.

Besides the consequences of World War II (from 1939 to 1945), the New State's leaders dragged Portugal into a situation of deep underdevelopment, strict clericalism (more than 90% of the population was Catholic), press censorship and strong control by the secret police.

On April 25, 1974, the Cravo Revolution took political power. Soon it promulgated the new Constitution in 1976, which brought some religious freedom.

Since Portugal was the metropolis of its colonies, Lisbon, the national capital, received many immigrants from the colonies who were looking for a better living. Little by little, some of the Nazarene brothers came, too. They were called “Nazarene Ambassadors”, an itinerant community that had meetings in their houses. Under the leadership of Pr. João Filipe Gonçalves, from Cape Verde, this group requested some missionaries. In 1970, after being in Lisbon, the Mostellers also reported the urgent need of planting the church in Portugal. At that time, they were working in Brazil and could not imagine that they would be the ones chosen to go there!

To supply the pastoral care for these Nazarenes, the Mission Board decided to organize the work in Portugal. Back then, Nazarene missions aimed for the colonies, not the motherland, where the missionaries remained only long enough for linguistic learning.

The Mostellers arrived in September, 1973 to work among the Portuguese people, who are known for their kind heart and genuine faith. The first challenge was to provide a meeting place, and also to legalize the Church of the Nazarene in Portugal. But one thing depended on the other, because, prior to legal recognition, they couldn't evangelize in public squares, advertise their work in newspapers, or buy (or rent) any real property. However, to be recognized as a denomination they had to have a hundred followers.

How to reach that, if any kind of meeting with more than 25 people would be considered illegal? Rev. Mosteller heard from his wise wife: “Why don't you take your problem to Pr. José Ilídio Freire?” He was the presiding elder of the Plymouth Brethren, which was already officially known in Portugal. At the board meeting, one of the elders remembered that years ago Rev. Mosteller had preached in that church and, as a result, two young boys, among other people, had been born again. Afterwards, those boys became sons-in-law of this elder. So, the Brethren gladly helped the Nazarenes.

For two years, those brothers shared their building with the Nazarenes. This partnership was a great blessing! During that time, the “Nazarene Ambassadors” got more than 500 supporting signatures from friends, relatives and brothers of other denominations to make formal the legalization request. On January 5, 1976, the Church of the Nazarene was officially recognized.

Once legalized, they dedicated the first church in Lisbon. The new church counted on the support of some American evangelistic groups that, after Lisbon, also worked in Coimbra and Porto (these are the three main cities in Portugal). There were brothers from Student Mission Corps, Discovery group, MidAmerica Nazarene University students, and NNC’s Northwesters singers. They were publicized on national TV and newspapers. One of these youth groups won a ‘sandwich’ as soon as they arrived. In reality, a sandwich board with evangelistic messages. On another occasion, they had a taxi rally with banners flying and police motorcycle escort. The Nazarene churches in Portugal also received some offerings and housed Work and Witness teams from Oregon-Pacific and Washington Districts.

The first pastoral nucleus was composed of missionary families: Mostellers, Scotts, Bunches, Sraders; some Cape Verdian pastors’ families: Revs. Eduardo Meixieira, Antonio Simões, Joaquim João Lima, Luis Pereira; and some lay families: Ligeiros, Santos, Idalina Ferreira and Julieta Santos. Among the pastors were the families of Rev. José Delgado and Rev. Gabriel Rosário. Both had been baptized by Rev. Mosteller in Cape Verde when they were just teenagers. They became, respectively, the first national pastor and the first National Superintendent of Portugal. The national ministry candidates were sent to European Nazarene College, in Switzerland.

After them all the mission was supported by many brave, holy, and anonymous workers who did their best, as they were conscious that they did it all for the glory of God.

The ministry in the Azores

from 1983 to April 1990

THEY WERE TIRELESS. The couple was 64 years old but they threw themselves into the task of opening a new missionary field. One of their daughters characterized their ministry this way: “For Dad it was full throttle ahead. That’s how he lived”. She added, “Knowing God’s plans for his life gave him confidence to press on.”

A Cape Verdian disciple moved to the Azores and got a job on a radio station. He had the opportunity to air *The Nazarene Hour*. Because of this program, some people subscribed to the *Herald of Holiness* and contacted the Mostellers while they were living in Lisbon.

The Azores archipelago was chosen as one of the five new missionary fields to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Church of the Nazarene. However, the evangelistic effort would not be easy, because Catholicism was the predominant religion in those islands.

The Azoreans were friendly, quiet and generous. However, many property owners did not rent, or sell, their real properties to Protestant churches, fearing negative reactions. So,

Rev. Mosteller had to persuade the neighbors to agree to the installation of a Nazarene church in one of the most traditional and narrow streets of Ponta Delgada's downtown, the Azorian archipelago's capital. Three centenarian houses were remodeled inside for church facilities. But authorities did not allow the street *façade* renovation.

The Azorean brothers remember that it was so easy for Rev. Mosteller to make friends among people from many different social classes. With his frank and sweet temper, from the first meeting on, he convinced people about the urgent need to give their lives to God.

Tirelessly, Rev. Mosteller himself engaged in evangelism, carrying sandwich boards with Bible verses and handing out leaflets in the city's main avenues. But evangelism really moved forward with Work and Witness teams, besides the MKs and university Nazarene athletes. They would show Christian films in public squares and sing to draw people's attention. Along with that, they also promoted sport events to approach the Azorean youth and evangelize them. As part of the practical training, Rev. Mosteller used to delegate some evangelistic tasks to the youth: "Today you preach; you tell your conversion testimony; the others are going to sing and play; those who cannot sing or play an instrument, go and hand some leaflets out." Everyone was involved. A kind testimony used to touch a lot of hearts: "- I was born again! Now I am happy because Jesus is in my heart". This was little Nélia's testimony. She was born again when she was a child (twelve years), but her words were powerful!

The church in Ponta Delgada honored the Mostellers with a beautiful pottery panel, but today living voices are more vibrant: "I thank God for all [...] but I owe it all to a man who stripped himself to be clothed in a glorious garment of compassion for souls [...] thank you, Rev. Mosteller, for stopping in the Azores Islands and sharing the Gospel with us." God bless you Rev. Mosteller and Mrs. Gladys.

The Mostellers retired in May, 1990 and moved to Seattle, WA.

