

the OLIVEIRAS



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



THE LIFE AND PREACHING OF
**José Zito Oliveira and
Zilta Rocha de Carvalho Oliveira**



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sandro
HAYAKAWA

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



Revd. José Zito Oliveira and
Mrs. Zilta Rocha de Carvalho Oliveira
May 2002

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Papers Offset 75g/m2 and 250 g/m2 (cover)	

CUNHA, Sandro José Hayakawa.

The Oliveiras: The life and preaching of José Zito Oliveira and Zilta Rocha de Carvalho Oliveira / Sandro José Hayakawa Cunha. Brasília: [s.n.], 2007. -- (Great Nazarene Missionaries and Pioneers in Brazil; v. 1); 160 p.; il.; 15x21cm.

This volume has two parts. The first one is written in Portuguese and it closes at the page 112. The second one, which begins at the last cover, is this short version in English of the first part.

Portuguese title: Os Oliveiras: vida e pregação de José Zito Oliveira e Zilta Rocha de Carvalho Oliveira.

Portuguese title of the series: Grandes Missionários e Pioneiros Nazarenos no Brasil.

ISBN: 978 - 85 - 906714 - 0 - 4

1. Biography- Practical Theology. 2. Biography- Pastorship Theology.

3. Ecclesiastic History. I. Cunha, Sandro José Hayakawa.

CDU 929:24:25:28:27

CDD 922

THE OLIVEIRAS
The life and preaching of
José Zito Oliveira and
Zilta Rocha de Carvalho Oliveira

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

volume 1

Sandro José Hayakawa Cunha

Brasília
BRAZIL
2 0 0 7

Dedication

To those who had the courage to answer:
Here am I! Send me.

Main collaborators of this book

Revd. José Zito Oliveira
Mrs. Zilta Rocha de Carvalho Oliveira
Revd. Luiz Carlos Rocha Oliveira
Revd. Humberto de Carvalho Oliveira
Ruth Orminda de Carvalho Oliveira Kreniski
Revd. Eduardo de Carvalho Oliveira
José Carlos Oliveira

The Series presentation

*“One generation shall praise Your works to another,
and shall declare Your mighty acts”*
(Psalm 145.4)

THOUSAND OF PEOPLE now confess the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and gather in the temples of the Church of the Nazarene in Brazil. It is the result of the Nazarene missionaries and pioneers work that started fifty years ago.

In a certain way, it is also God’s answer to the prayer that Revd. Earl Elwood Mosteller did, as registered on his Brazil Diary:

“October 13, 1958. Yesterday we had a service in the Stegemoeller 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 the result of historical and biographical researches about the beginning years of the Nazarene missions on the country. The Series of books are an edition of English-Portuguese, showing the work of the first missionaries and pioneers, in the same chronological order that they arrived at Brazil’s field. The first part of the Series, which is about those whom arrived in Brazil on the fifties, will be published until 2008, the year in which we shall celebrate the Centenary of the Church of the Nazarene and its fifty years in Brazil.

This Series has the purpose of glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ in these ways: 1st) to register the Nazarene missionary work in Brazil; 2nd) to pay tribute to the missionaries and pioneers, their wives and children; and 3rd) to inspire the new generation of preachers, pastors and missionaries to answer yes to the Lord’s call.

The missionaries, who are still alive, their wives, their children, other missionaries and pastors that knew their ministry, were the main collaborators to help the reasearches. The *Centro de Formação Missionária da Igreja do Nazareno no Brasil – Campinas* (The Missionary Training Center of the Church of the Nazarene in Brazil - Campinas) and the Nazarene World Mission Department (Kansas City) collaborated with data and guidance. At last, the research used books and guidebooks published about the history of the Church of the Nazarene and its missions.

The web site provides other data that complete this Series. The readers should reach statistics data, essays and some outline of sermons, check the photo galleries, and print the books (download) or listen to them through the audio books. Visit us today at:

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Finally, at the same time we reached those three purposes of the Series, we also collaborated in maintaining and spreading core values and essential purposes of the Church of the Nazarene.

The books about the Nazarene missionaries and pioneers in Brazil on the 1950s are:

- 1 – The Oliveiras – The life and preaching of José Zito Oliveira & Zilta Rocha de Carvalho Oliveira
- 2 – The Mostellers – The life and preaching of Earl Elwood Mosteller & Gladys Marie Parker Mosteller
- 3 – The Gates – The life and preaching of Charles Wise Gates & Roma Joanne Gates
- 4 – The Dentons – The life and preaching of William Ronald Denton & Sarah Ellen Byrd Denton

After a great victory,
“Then the LORD said to Moses,
‘Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it
in the hearing of Joshua’”
(Exodus 17.14a)

Preface

TEACHERS, PASTORS AND THEOLOGIANS often preach and teach about gentleness, perseverance and balance. It is easy to talk about this subject but when we are challenged to live on that way, we fail and we find an enormous difference between theory and practice.

Knowing Revd. José Zito and Mrs. Zilta, we have true examples of dedicated lives to God, family and society. It is not about theory, abstraction, subjectiveness, but in practical life we can see their large qualities. They faced a lot of experiences, some good some bad, but they kept the same good attitude along the years.

Respect, admiration and friendship are some feelings we have towards them. Certainly, the reading of this book will help us to fix our personal values in ethic, good sense, balance that are so rare on the relationship of human beings in our modern society.

Nowadays in the Christian world, where the faith business and modern indulgences seem invade and govern the churches, we see Revd. José Zito and his family as the kind of people who have deep commitment to the Gospel. They never trade the Word of God, they were always ready to obey the Jesus' Command “Go!”, they never asked “how much is the salary?”, they know what is “living by faith”.

We can not remove the old marks! When someone, as the author of this book, works to refresh our memories about the current faith heroes, we can go easily making sure that the God's work will go on and the Biblical values will be preserved.

I feel honored to talk about The Oliveira's life, and I am surely convinced that this book will help the readers to fix their ethical and Christian values deeply in their hearts.

Revd. *Pedro Paulo Ferreira de Matos*
South Brazil – Area Director. Church of the Nazarene

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Life and ministry summary

Name:	José Zito Oliveira
(birthday)	(December 16 th , 1922)
Hometown:	Ribeira Grande, Isle of Saint Antão, Cape Verde
Son, daughter in law:	José Carlos Oliveira and Filomena Oliveira (current daughter in law)
grandsons:	Christopher and Janice (children of José Carlos and Ana)
great grandsons:	Jovan and Jasmine (children of Janice)
Home church:	Church of the Nazarene in Saint Antão, Cape Verde
Arrived in Brazil at:	July 11 th , 1956
Wife:	Zilta Rocha de Carvalho Oliveira
(birthday)	(February 28 th , 1934).
Hometown:	Simonésia, Barra de São Simão, Minas Gerais, Brazil
Children, daughters and son-in-law, grandsons	Luiz Carlos Rocha Oliveira and Josiane Rúbia Crecci Oliveira Kariany and Filipe Liberato Humberto de Carvalho Oliveira and Suzelena de Fátima Serrano Henrique and Leonardo Ruth Orminda de Carvalho Oliveira Kreniski and Júlio César Kreniski Victor and Júlio Eduardo de Carvalho Oliveira and Ana Paula Tauber de Andrade Emily

Churches and dates: Church of the Nazarene in Barroca (*Associate*)
 From October to December, 1959
 Church of the Nazarene in Alto dos Pinheiros
 From 1960 to March, 1962
 Church of the Nazarene in Sobradinho
 From April 1st, 1962 to 1966
 Church of the Nazarene in Sagrada Família
 From 1966 to 1968
 Church of the Nazarene in Asa Sul
 From March, 1968 to August, 1983
 Church of the Nazarene in Jardim Leonor
 From August, 1983 to Sept. 7th, 1992

Retirement: September 7th, 1992 in Campinas, São Paulo,
 Brazil

Celebration of his fifty
 years in Brazil: July 11th, 2006

Nowadays work: Pastors' Chaplain of the Centro-Oeste
 District, sub region Brasil Central.

Nowadays church: Church of the Nazarene in Asa Sul.
 (membership)

REVD. JOSÉ ZITO OLIVEIRA was born in December 16th 1922, in the Isle of Saint Antão, Cape Verde, that was one of the Portugal's colonies, at that time. His parents were Mr. Manuel Bartolomeu Oliveira and Mrs. Maria Piedade Pires Oliveira. The family had four kids: Antônio Manoel Oliveira, Idalina Maria Oliveira Rodrigues, João Nito Oliveira and José Zito Oliveira. They also had a Brazilian half-brother called Lauro Jorge Oliveira who was born when his father lived there.

The Oliveira family lived on a catholic community, known by their idolatry, but the family used not to worship images. That is why Revd. José Zito's little friends used to call him "believer". It was interesting because at that time there were not any evangelical church in the Isle of Saint Antão. In addition, his parents also used to read the Bible daily to their children. Therefore, he was led to know the God's Word since he was a child.

The Island of Saint Antão is a Vulcan island and it is very mountainous and the higher point is over 1900 meters. A French person said

“in this island, the uphill is like going to heaven and the downhill is like going to hell”. The main economic activity was the plantation of fruits, crops and sugar cane that were exported to Europe.

The work on the family property was so hard, but Revd. José Zito always had good shape and that is why he has such a good health so far. At that time, he loved the parties and the ballroom feasts, which were his great amusement.

The contact between the islands was a hard stuff. Before the use of motor boats, sailing was an adventure, especially because the channel between the islands had strong streams. It took hours to cross just nine miles. Today it is done in one and a half hour. Besides that, to reach his hometown city, they had to cross the island passing through the mountains. It was done by mules, because only the very rich people had cars.

By 1949, a relative of his, who was a Nazarene woman, told him: "boy, as I see you there at the door, I see you like a pastor. You should repent and convert to Jesus and become a pastor!". However, his heart was still very hard and he answered: "That is something will never happen because I love this cigarette I have in my hand".

At that time, he did not have any idea of what God could do to him. A few months later, he went to the Church of the Nazarene in his isle and surrendered his life to Jesus. That seed, sowed by his parents, was waiting for a good occasion to become a new life. He was converted in January 1951, at 29 years old.

He had some trouble with keeping his decision because of old friends that tried everything to remove that decision out of him. In fact, they were losing a good party mate. In his own words, he resumes that: “- Thanks God, I became firm, I did not give up”.

At the early days of a newborn man, he was put in charge of the church library. As he became steady, he received more responsibilities. That is how he became a Sunday school teacher. He also had the chance of practising the preachings when the pastor was out traveling around. He usually says: “- I had a pastor, who was

Revd. Ferreira, and I had a Superintendent, who was Rev. Mosteller, American missionary”.

Revd. Earl Elwood Mosteller, and his wife, Mrs. Gladys Marie Parker Mosteller, were in charge of preparing the new Nazarene pastors in Cape Verde. They suggested him to go to the Seminar. It was a problem to Revd. José Zito because the Seminar did not receive any single student, all of them should be married. Revd. Mosteller tried to give him some lessons sending books and homeworks, but it was not what Revd. José Zito really wanted. He wished to be enrolled in a seminar so that he could dedicate his entire life to God’s work.

At that time, he was working as a lighthousekeeper in the Saint Antão isle lighthouse. “What an interesting thing: a lighthousekeeper and a pastor! As a lighthousekeeper, he showed the way to the travelers and as a pastor, he rescues those who are deep in sin and lead them to the God’s light”, Mrs. Zilta said.

So he decided to go to Argentina, where the Nazarene Biblical Institute would receive him as a single man. Revd. Joaquim Antônio Lima, another Nazarene from Cape Verde, who had studied there, helped him with the documents etc. He and his wife Mrs. Guilhermina Lima were also one of the pioneers that came to Brazil in 1960, on the beginning of the missions.

2

The travel to Argentina

AFTER FIVE YEARS being a newborn Christian, he was still in passion for the ministry. Rev. José Zito Oliveira wished to be better prepared for the leadership. Therefore, it was inevitable his departure from Cape Verde. In March 1956, he took a ship to Lisbon, where he would find another one to go to South America. He was on his way to Argentina, where he intended to study at the Nazarene Biblical Institute that accepted the single students.

After weeks traveling, the ship finally docked in Buenos Aires. Far away on the sea, Revd. José Zito saw the port and some buildings. It was a dream that was coming true. However, Argentina was never reached, so as that seminar.

After decades, he now remembers it with good mood. He stayed arrested on board ship under personal guards. For five long days, he wondered: Why? What is going on? Shall I land or not?

Before arriving in Argentina, the ship made a brief stop at Uruguay. Just after leaving Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, the port au

thorities started to check passports and other documents. So, Revd. José Zito said to Mrs. Lima, who was traveling in the same ship. “I will try to be one of the first, so that I will get rid of the bureaucracy as soon as possible”.

What irony! All the others passengers passed by while he had to wait all the line to go. Only he and a Spanish woman had to wait. After that, she was released to leave the ship because her daughter was living in Buenos Aires and was waiting for her. He, on the other hand, had to stay on board.

From six a.m. to six p.m. a soldier stayed beside him, and from six p.m. to six a.m. there was someone watching the cabin door. The authorities said he had some kind of eyes disease because somebody with dark skin could not have blue eyes. He tried to explain that his mother was European whilst his father was African but they did not accept that explanation. So, he had to travel back to Portugal.

Some relatives that lived in Argentina came on board to visit and comfort him. They tried to help, but it was impossible to him to stay in Argentina

Someone helped him to contact his half-brother Lauro Jorge Oliveira in Brazil, who arranged all the documents to Revd. José Zito to get out of the ship in Brazil, on the way back to Lisbon. However, the captain did not allow this because if he did, the captain should pay US\$ 1,000.00 fee when arrived in Lisbon.

On the next stop in Rio de Janeiro, some Portuguese people who knew the history went up on board to try to help him and they came with a Hollywood plan. They would put a boat beside the ship and Revd. José Zito would go down by the window using a rope. The only problem would be to hide him during a few days, because after three days the Police Department in Rio de Janeiro would stop searching him because something more important would keep them busy, they said.

Of course, Revd. José Zito kept his mind healthy and kept the holy testimony. He did not accept that crazy plan. However, he had

to wait for the arrival in Lisbon to be free of the guards. He put that entire situation on the hands of the Lord Jesus, the real Captain of his life, Who was teaching him how to sail on the God's hands.

In Lisbon, he contacted his oldest brother who was also living in Brazil, Antônio Manuel Oliveira, who arranged all the things to his legal migration to Brazil and paid him for the tickets. That was the best solution to be next to the Argentinean seminar, which remained as a personal goal to be reached.

Actually, the problem is that his visa to Argentina was done at the end of the President Juan Domingo Peron's days. In addition, his Cape Verde documents was signed while the General Salazar was ruling Portugal as a dictator. Therefore, the problem was not about health, but about politics.

3

The arrival in Brasil

FINALLY, on July 11th 1956, Revd. José Zito Oliveira arrived on the Santos' port. He intended to go to Argentina but God closed that door. He was now arriving in Brazil but there was no temple of the Church of the Nazarene. What disappointment, his ministry dreams seemed to be dying! Many Nazarenes passed through Brazil but none of them thought of staying and starting the denomination. Revd. José Zito waited patiently the church to come.

Whilst waiting for the missionaries, he faced many difficulties. He missed the communion, the services and the worship. To help him, his sister-in-law introduced him to a neighbour that invited him to one of the local churches.

What an amazing service! He felt so happy. At the end of it, all the brothers came to cheer him. "Oh, how lovely are the Brazilians brothers!" he thought. But there was a surprise for him! Trying to be a very strict biblical congregation, the brothers of that church used to cheer one another with a holy kiss. "-They came kissing me. That stuff scared me!" he said, remembering that and laughing a lot.

One of the Brazilian's characteristics is the kindness of receiving foreigners. Revd. José Zito noted it, especially because the Brazilians love the foreigners but do not like when they talk about going back to their homelands.

After two years, he received the news that the church was sending some missionaries to start the job in Brazil. It happened because brother Ervin Stegemoeller and his wife, Mrs. Marjorie, sent a letter to America asking for missionaries to Brazil. He was a Nazarene businessman working at an American factory in Campinas, a countryside city in São Paulo State.

When Revd. José Zito heard that the missionaries would be Revd. Earl Elwood Mosteller and his wife Mrs. Gladys and daughters, he became very happy because he already knew them from Cape Verde. Revd. Mosteller could not imagine that he would be received with a warm welcome in Brazil by the one that he sent from Cape Verde to study in Argentina.

In 1958, the Mosteller family arrived. To receive them in Santos, a city by the sea, Revd. José Zito asked for permission to his boss in Santo André, his hometown. It was his first absence at the work but for an amazing purpose. The family that would start the work in Brazil was arriving! Revd. Mosteller was his Superintendent, teacher, friend and brother. Revd. José Zito was waiting for giving him a warm welcome hug.

Greetings and happiness on that day. Many stories, plans and expectation about what the Lord would do in Brazil by the Nazarene preaching for holiness. As requested on the telegram, Rev. Mosteller asked one more time for Revd. José Zito to engage on the holy duty to plant the Church of the Nazarene in Brazil. He answered with a large smile declaring he was sure about the God's call for him on the pastorship. On that day, he was introduced to Mr. Ervin Stegemoeller and his family, who led the missionaries to Campinas, the countryside city where they lived. They treated them with great love, providing a lot of things and helping the missionaries settlement.

Then he met the Gates family: Revd. Charles Wise Gates and his wife, Mrs. Roma Joanne Gates, who arrived few weeks later. In 1959, Rev. José Zito moved to Campinas to restart the theological studies with Rev. Mosteller. It was a blessing that the food company he worked for had a branch in Campinas and accepted his transfer. He went to work for a lower salary but God's call was more valuable.

In his diary, Revd. Mosteller wrote on February 9th 1959: "José Zito Oliveira arrived in Campinas today to begin studying. Who would have thought that our first preacher prospect in Brazil would be a Cape Verdian?" In addition, he testified: "He has proved himself by staying true to God during these three years that he has been alone without an opportunity to attend his church".

We have to note a important thing about his fidelity. During that period, he used to send his tithes to his Nazarene home church in Cape Verde.

Revd. José Zito worked on the Church of the Nazarene started in Campinas. By the way, it started on Stegemoeller living room. They had a big house, almost as large as the Stegemoeller family's heart. They were very kind.

Some months later, Revd. Mosteller and the other brothers rented a building on a commercial street. The church was registered and it was allowed to work. At the beginning was very hard, but they did not give up. As the days went by they started planning on how to built the church's own building.

Let us move to the present for a blink. Some years ago, that church bought an old factory building and adapted it to be a temple. In 2005, the Central Church of the Nazarene in the central area of Campinas was the top one in the denomination records. They had the largest membership and worship attendance all around the Nazarene's world (Top 100 Churches in 2005 Worship). It is great to Revd. José Zito to know that from a small beginning now they are thousand and thousand!

The missionary team formed by the Revd. Mosteller's family and Rev. Gates' family was reinforced in 1959 by the arrival of Revd. William Ronald Denton and Mrs. Sarah Ellen Byrd Denton, and children. They were sent to a large and nice city called Belo Horizonte, the capital of the State of Minas Gerais, which is in the heart of Brazil, 500 miles far from Campinas.

On the sixties, that team received two more missionary couples: In 1960 arrived the Limas (Revd. Joaquim Antônio and Mrs. Guilhermina Lima), that came from the Church of the Nazarene in Argentina, and the Kratzes (Revd. James Eldon and Mrs. Carol Jeanne Kratz). In 1962 arrived the Collins (Revd. Robert Thomas and Mrs. Frances Darlene Collins). In 1964 arrived the Mazes (Revd. Roger Michael and Mrs. Mary Ann Maze). In 1968 arrived the Clarks (Revd. Larry Coleman and Mrs. Dolores Darlene Clark).

The First Church of the Nazarene in Brazil was opened on a rented building by Revd. Earl Elwood Mosteller in Campinas, São Paulo (it is called Central Church of the Nazarene nowadays in Campinas); the second one was opened in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, by Revd. William Ronald Denton (Church of the Nazarene in Barroca), also in a rented building; and the third one was the Church of the Nazarene in Sobradinho, Federal District, also opened by Revd. Denton. Actually, the temple of this church was the very first one built in Brazil by the Nazarenes.

REVD. JOSÉ ZITO OLIVEIRA worked for two periods in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais State. The first period when he was single. On October 1959, he moved to there, after the request of the Superintendent that named him Associate Pastor of missionary Revd. William Ronald Denton, who was organizing the Church.

Revd. José Zito was the first licensed pastor in Brazil. Even far from the Campinas seminary, he kept studying with the missionaries at the advanced campus in Belo Horizonte, where his second work period took place few years later.

He shepherded the Church of the Nazarene in Sobradinho, Federal District, and after that he went back to Belo Horizonte to finish the seminary. Whilst doing that, he helped the congregation in Sagrada Família, a neighbourhood in Belo Horizonte. (See chapter 8).

The work with Revd. Denton left many good memories, because it was a great time of ministry learning. Revd. Denton was a great missionary who loved Brazil. He dedicated himself to God's service, living so simple and

providing a warm friendship to everyone. All the brothers who knew him loved him a lot. He died in 1991 in America.

The Dentons' kids had a teacher on the Methodist school, Mrs. Zilta, who became a friend of the family after teaching extra lessons to Ms. Marsha, who had a strong Spanish accent, because the Dentons were missionaries in Uruguay before coming to Brazil.

After knowing that she was not married, Revd. Denton, trying to hide the smile, quickly as a prophet, said to her: “- I see you married with a pastor. He is preaching and you are playing the piano. I know a young man that I will introduce to you”. She said no immediately because she did not like the sound of his name mixed with an American and Spanish accent, pronounced by Revd. Denton.

The young man to be introduced was Revd. José Zito, who was on his way to Belo Horizonte. After knowing him, she noticed that his qualities were very important in a God's man: character, integrity, ready to the pastorship work, and, above all, with a life of holiness. Prophecy or not, that word became true. They got married in 1962.

The beautiful biblical explanations and preaching of holiness made Mrs. Zilta, who was a Methodist, very interested by the Nazarene doctrine. In addition, the Holy Spirit used the life example of the missionaries to make the flame burn again in her heart. Even when there were just the Denton's family, her and Mrs. Clair, a newborn sister at the service, she felt the holy presence of God.

As Revd. Denton moved to Brasília, the new Capital of Brazil, in charge of the beginning of the work, Revd. José Zito led the church in Barroca until the Gates family moved to Belo Horizonte. Because Revd. Gates was not yet comfortable to preach in Portuguese, they used to share the pulpit. In Brazil, we have two services on Sundays. In the morning, it is more inspirational and at night, it is more evangelistic, in general.

After some time, Revd. José Zito was invited to lead the pioneer work in Alto dos Pinheiros, which became the second Nazarene

church in Belo Horizonte. The basic evangelism strategy was projecting films on the streets. To do this they had to ask people to share electricity. As the strategy worked fine, they rented a garage to fix the new congregation of newborn brothers.

His preaching style seems to be the same, since those first days, because it is so personal that is difficult to change, but he recognizes his great evolution on the preparation of the sermons and on the speech techniques. At the beginning, the outlines, for example, were not as well prepared as it is today. At that time, the preaching was spontaneous, but not made on the spur of the moment. Well focused on the evangelism, Revd. José Zito was in charge of leading every listener to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Deep in his heart, was the words of Father Antônio Vieira, a well-known priest, which he endorses with his own experience: “A good message is the one that let the people feel uncomfortable. The message that is praised and applauded by everyone, generally, is not a good message, because it means that people kept comfortable in their sin life”.

At that time, he was impressed by the life and work of Stanley Jones, who was a famous Methodist Missionary and had a blessed ministry in India. He went to Belo Horizonte to preach. It was a blessing for him to be there just when that brother went to his city.

5

The family

REVD. JOSÉ ZITO OLIVEIRA met Mrs. Zilta Rocha de Carvalho Oliveira in Belo Horizonte. She was converted since a child and grew up in the Methodist Church. In her youth, she attended the services at the Assembly of God before becoming a Nazarene. Attentive watcher, she observed that the missionaries behaviour was well aligned with their preachings.

She is the sixth child, among eleven, from Mr. José Coelho de Carvalho and Mrs. Ormindia Rocha. She was born in February 28th 1934, and spent her childhood in the country family property, in Minas Gerais. This period was marked by a serious health problem, which put her in bed for a long time. Therefore, it was so difficult to her to understand the adult speech: “good life is a child life”.

She could not play with other children in the background, so she developed her learning and reading skill alone. At the age of eight, she used to teach on a Sunday school class on the farm and was recognized by her pastor, who knew there was someone with a leader spirit, even though a child.

Her father was her best friend and supporter. He used to tell her in a lovely and encouraging way: “- My darling, everything you want to do, you will do”. As her health got better, she started doing things in the farm like milking the cows. Her grandfather, Paulo Rocha, organized the Methodist Church in his hometown, Manhuaçu.

Her mother was an example of educator who worked hard to change the social conditions of the students and their families. She ran a community school at the farm for many years teaching children. She believed that knowledge could overcome social barriers.

Mrs. Zilta moved to Belo Horizonte to study at the university, where she gained two degrees, but all the philosophic studies and discussions made her lose the first love for Jesus. At this time, God used the Denton’s family to bring her back to the true faith, not just to be a church attender.

When the Dentons moved to Sobradinho, a close city to Brasília, the new capital of Brazil, she moved along with them. She spent a year there starting a Nazarene school, the first evangelical school in that city. She did it because, after a short visit to the new capital, with Mrs. Joanne Gates, she understood that it would be a great future to Brasilia, and it was so important to start a school at the same time they started the church. It was in 1961. During this period she and Revd. José Zito dated by letters. She says: “It was a platonic love!”.

They got married in March 19th 1962 in Belo Horizonte, and after a short honeymoon, they moved to assume the Church of the Nazarene in Sobradinho, on April 1st 1962. Their children, Revd. Luiz Carlos Rocha Oliveira, Revd. Humberto de Carvalho Oliveira and Ruth Ormindia de Carvalho Oliveira Kreniski were born in Brasília. Revd. Eduardo de Carvalho Oliveira, was born in Belo Horizonte. All of them and his families are Lord’s servers.

“A true blessing!”. That is what Revd. José Zito says about the fact that his three boys are pastors. However, it happened not because of him, but because of God’s purpose for each one of them. Revd. Luiz Carlos, the oldest son, is the senior pastor on the Central

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The ministry on the Church of the Nazarene in Sobradinho

From April 1962 to 1966

Church of the Nazarene in Brasília since 1988. Revd. Humberto, the second son, is the senior pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in Jardim Leonor, the second church in Campinas, since 1992. Revd. Eduardo, the youngest boy, is the senior pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in Asa Sul, Brasília, since 1990.

All of them studied at the *Seminário e Instituto Bíblico da Igreja do Nazareno – SIBIN* (Nazarene Biblical Institute and Seminar) in Campinas. However, Mrs. Zilta always insisted with them to go to a university too. Therefore, each one of them has one or more degrees.

Revd. José Zito's first son, actually, was born in Cape Verde. His name is José Carlos Oliveira. He was born in 1951, before Revd. José Zito's conversion. He is a dear child. José Carlos keeps in his heart the day when he and his father went to his job at the lighthouse in Janela, Isle of Saint Antão. That single day was an amazing adventure to that little boy. When still a little boy, José Carlos used to attend the Sunday school on the Church of the Nazarene in Saint Antão island. Revd. José Zito went to the missionary field when José Carlos was only five. They kept in touch by letters. After serving the Portugal army, in 1975, José Carlos moved to America, as his mother did before, where he lives until now. He has two children and two grand-children. He is well known by the Brazilians brothers and receives their visits in America and he also comes to visit them in Brazil.

He admires his father a lot. He says one of the main qualities of Revd. José Zito is that he lived a whole life dedicated to the gospel. He recognizes the importance of his father's job because it is about leading people to God. It is also a good influence on other people's life, he says, specially for those who want to follow his steps.

Revd. José Zito has three sons (Luiz Carlos, Humberto and Eduardo) and a daughter (Ruth) and seven grandchildren in Brazil (Kariany, Filipe, Henrique, Leonardo, Victor, Emily and Júlio). In America, he has one son (José Carlos), two grandchildren (Christopher and Janice) and two great grandchildren (Jovan and Jasmine).

REVD. WILLIAM RONALD DENTON started the church work in Sobradinho. This is one among many others at the satellite-cities around Brasília. They are called like that because they are closer and only exist because of the Capital. Revd. Denton stayed in Sobradinho just to build a simple temple and the pastor's house. Both were inaugurated in 1960. On the following year, he started the Nazarene School.

Revd. Denton made a hard effort to earn, or to buy for a symbolic price, some properties to the Church of the Nazarene in the new Brazilian Capital and its satellite-cities.

On those days, everything was improvised. There was no radio broadcast in Sobradinho, so, the mass communication system was made by speakers linked around the main streets and squares. Revd. Denton used that system to preach the gospel and make the church widely known.

That was the first evangelical church settled in Sobradinho. That is why it became quickly full of brothers (Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Assemblies), but as the other

denominations settled their temples, that people went away. The Nazarenes were only a few of newborn brothers.

In April 1st 1962, Revd. José Zito Oliveira received the pastorship of that church. When Rev. José Zito and his wife, Mrs. Zilta, got on the pastor's house, he found it completely empty. There was just a broken refrigerator moved by kerosene. The problem is that their furniture was left in Belo Horizonte. They had nothing to put inside the house.

By the way, at that time every place, houses, shops, churches, was lighted by kerosene lamp. The electricity just arrived in 1964. Hard days, a lot of prayers! During the messages, Revd José Zito often had to stop the speech until the brothers filled the lamp with kerosene again.

During his pastorship there, his preaching style became a little more technical. He started writing every sermon. Mrs. Zilta observed that all the sermons were, and still are, well based on the Holy Scripture. The doctrines were well exposed, with solid biblical arguments, in an easy way for the people to understand the message.

They had a good group of young people there. As remembered this, Revd. José Zito talked about the importance of the young people to the church. He said: they always demand movement, more action, contemporary music, etc. but these are things that make them involved to the church mission and bringing more young people with them. These young people will form the future church's families.

As the principal of the school, Mrs. Zilta signed a contract with the local Government and it became an official school. The students enrollment rose up to 400. The church provided the classes and the Government the teachers to the school. They also had classes to teach adults how to read and write, at night, because there was a lot of poor workers who did not know how to do it.

Somehow, the school became a model to the Government schools as Mrs. Zilta introduced a toy craft studio where the children built their wooden toys themselves.

In addition, she introduced a farm club that was in charge of the garden and the orchard of the church. The students used to sow and pick up vegetables to the school restaurant and also to their families.

At the social field, they made a contract with a kind of NGO to share clothes and food for the poorest families, which were sixty.

The evangelism had its own difficulties. In one occasion, in 1962, when the brothers were preaching in public at the central plaza, some people threw out stones at the pastors. One of them hit Revd. José Zito's head. He fell down and had to be carried to the hospital because of the bleeding.

The church was doing very well, but he had to go back to Belo Horizonte to conclude the seminar. After his departure, the church faced trouble with the new pastors. One of them stayed just for two months, another closed the school saying he was not a school doorkeeper. He also destroyed the beautiful garden and orchard that Revd. José Zito had sowed with the farm club, saying that: "I am not a gardener!".

There was a problem with the temple and we have to note something about it. Because of the rush, Revd. Denton hired a bad builder for the temple because the good ones were employed in Brasília. The building had some holes on the walls and it was possible to look to the other side through them! It happened because the builder used a kind of brick on the building base that is used just on the walls. The weak base caused the wall cracks and holes.

An engineer taught Revd. José Zito how to repair this mistake. He had to hire a good builder to dig under the walls, every two meters, and build the base with stones and concrete. The builder did it all around the temple and it worked. The church still uses that temple today.

Brasília at the beginning days

THE LANDSCAPE AROUND the new Brazilian Capital, at the early sixties, was desolated and melancholic. Actually, it was just cerrado (a kind of environment with few and small bushes and scrawny trees, with hard skin, like a South American savannah). The sun was so hard, and there were no buildings to provide anybody a fresh shadow to be protected. Dust was all around, because the trucks were coming and going day and night. Everything was brown and, at the raining season, it became muddy.

Brasília, a planned city, was built to be the economic center of the region called Federal District, which is like a State. Around this centre, they would build some satellite cities, which were planned to provide houses to the Capital builders. One of those satellite cities was Sobradinho, 15 miles far from Brasilia, where the church settled its first temple nearby the new Capital. At the Plano Piloto, as Brasilia is known, would live the Government workers.

The builders used the public transport buses, but it was a mess. There were few buses, which were not sufficient to the population. The

private cars were bought just for the riches. To call a taxi was very expensive. So, every time the Oliveiras needed to go to Brasília, it was like an adventure that used to last all day long.

If it was so difficult to go around the new Capital, can you imagine how was the travel from any Brazilian main city to Brasília? When Rev. Denton came to the newest Capital in the world with the purpose of obtaining a property to the Church of the Nazarene, he wrote in his diary: “what a surprise! The road has been cut out of the wilderness”. He had a bright flame within his heart towards Brasília. That is why he drove nineteen hours or more from Belo Horizonte to Brasilia. On that trip, he brought his oldest son, Ronnie, Revd. Mosteller and Mr. Philips, a British man whose family was one of the first church members in Barroca, Belo Horizonte.

The idea of building a new Capital in Brazil’s heartland was perfect, both politically and economically. History proved that. The country integration made thousand of people move from coast cities to Brasília.

Out of nothing, or better, out of the wilderness, after 45 years, the Federal District has over 2,1 million people today, as it says the official Government agency of statistics *Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística – IBGE*.

Today Brasilia is one of the most green city in Brazil. It’s standard of life is one of the best in Brazil. In 2003, Brasilia and the Federal District ranked the third richest state in Brazil.

Around Brasilia and Federal District there is a Geo-economic area that includes some cities of two bordering states, Goiás and Minas Gerais. In that area, there are twenty, or maybe thirty, percent of people who work in Brasilia.

Brasilia and its Geo-economic area have today a young population and around 70% did not confess Jesus Christ as their Saviour yet. What a field to preach the gospel!

The ministry on the Church of the Nazarene in Sagrada Família

From 1966 to 1968

TO EXPAND THE WORK on Brazil's big field, the Church of the Nazarene needed more pastors. At the beginning, the church had some missionaries, specially the Americans. Soon they were not enough to answer the demand. Therefore, Brazilian pastors were necessary in the church for the ministry. One of them was Revd. José Zito Oliveira, actually, a Cape Verdian.

Even before concluding his academic studies, he was named pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in Sobradinho. Therefore, he had to postpone his studies. In this period, something happened. While he shepherded, some of his disciples, that he led to Jesus in Belo Horizonte, went to the seminar and got their degrees. One of those disciples, when gave his life to Jesus, his heart was so moved that he went to the altar and tried to kneel down over the bar of the hand holder.

Revd. José Zito was doing well on pastorship, counseling, preaching and getting a full range of experience. However, he wished to be completely prepared to the mission.

Therefore, to complete his seminar studies was a personal priority. He went back to Belo Horizonte in 1966 and concluded the seminar in 1967. He had the entire requirement to be a church elder, but it only happened in 1972, when one of the General-Superintendents came to the Brazilian District Assembly.

While in Belo Horizonte, he was not just studying. He was named Associate Pastor of Revd. Roger Michael Maze (Mrs. Mary Ann's husband) in the Church of Nazarene in Barroca. They came to Brazil in 1964, and he was also the Dean of the Nazarene Seminar in Belo Horizonte.

That church had a congregation on the Sagrada Família neighbourhood, a poor District in Belo Horizonte, where Revd. José Zito was sent. He and Mrs. Zilta shepherded that congregation until it became a self-support church. They worked from 1966 to 1968, but they did not use any kind of social strategy for evangelism, based on food donation, as they did in Sobradinho. Mrs. Zilta said that the holiness preaching had a great impact on the community. "It was so beautiful what happened there, beautiful!", she says.

When they started working there, brothers used to gather in a house. Door to door, Revd. José Zito evangelized and approached the neighbours inviting them to the services. Soon the congregation moved to a rented hall. There were many people interested on the gospel. The congregation was growing up fast and became necessary to build their own temple.

People had a true life-changing after giving their lives to Jesus. Listening to the holiness preaching, they left the alcohol, smoking and gambling. They really understood the challenge of a life committed with God. After the spiritual changing, Revd. José Zito and Mrs. Zilta saw something special happening there. The brothers started to move socially, in their families, the way of wearing clothes, behaviour, studies, houses, everything came to a new meaning, because now they were God's Kingdom citizens, converted to Jesus, the Lord.

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The ministry on the Church of the Nazarene in Asa Sul

From March 1968 to August 1983

Those people were so warm and kind, that Revd. José Zito always remembers them with joy. They were so engaged on the God's work they were doing and it was great to preach to them. At that time, Revd. José Zito's preaching had a classic shepherd style. Sometimes evangelistic, sometimes devotional. Since a long time ago, all the evangelical churches in Brazil have two services on Sunday, with this two focus.

A special challenge to the pastor's family was going to the church every Sunday, because a blessed brother rented him a big house, for nothing, in a rich neighbourhood, distant from Sagrada Família. It was so big that they had not enough furniture to fill all the rooms. It was also a long way, that they had to take some buses, and walk very much to go to the church, because they had no car.

They worked there for almost two years. In this period, they built the temple using a very common kind of communitarian work known as mutirão, as people gather to work and bring money, tiles, bricks, concrete, wood, iron, etc. everything they need to build the temple. All that poor brothers put their efforts and money to build a temple to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. It was amazing!

Meanwhile, Mrs. Zilta studied at one of the most famous university in Belo Horizonte to gain a pos-graduation degree in School Administration. To do this, she had to ask for the work to leave her on the Government job she had in Brasilia. It was a God providence that gave both, Revd. José Zito and Mrs. Zilta, the opportunity to improve their skills in ministry and professional life. Moreover, God used it to prepare their retirement, on a far future.

BRASÍLIA IS A PLANNED CAPITAL. On its planning, the urban architect drew it like an airplane. Therefore, its main districts are South Wing, the first to be built and be inhabited, and North Wing. Each one of these wings is formed by quarters called Superblocks. At the central point, the wings are connected by the central bus station. Both wings are known by Plano Piloto.

Around this Plano Piloto, there are many satellite-cities. One of them is Sobradinho, 15 miles far from Brasilia, where the Church of the Nazarene settled its first temple in Brazil.

Actually, the church had not reached the new Capital of Brazil. It was just on its suburb. However, Revd. William Ronald Denton bought, for a symbolic price, also another property for the church, donated by the Federal District Government, in one of the new South Wing Superblocks, the 411.

The Government donated the properties with the quickly intention of providing the population with educational, religious and basic services.

Nobody knows why, but the Methodist Church was using that property. They built a wooden chapel there. In 1966, Revd. José Zito was preparing his family to move to Belo Horizonte, when a Methodist pastor went to Sobradinho to give back that property to the Church of the Nazarene. They talked and traded the wooden Methodist chapel. And it ended up closed from 1966 to 1968 because there were no pastor ready to assume that chapel and the Oliveiras were in Belo Horizonte studying and pastoring at the Sagrada Familia.

Mrs. Zilta went back to Brasilia to quit her public job, because Revd. Mosteller, the Superintendent, wanted them to go to Rio de Janeiro. On the bus travel, she had a vision with people gathering on the Asa Sul chapel. Therefore, she asked God for signals. As she arrived at the chapel, some people came and ask her if there would be a school. At night, a family came asking for the service. She led the service on the pastoral house, on the back of the chapel. Meanwhile, in Belo Horizonte, Revd. José Zito was convinced that they should move to Brasilia, not to Rio. Therefore, Mrs. Zilta did not quit the job, and they persuaded the Superintendent to start the work in the Federal Capital immediately. That job factor was so important, because God provided that for them in order to have a good retirement. Without her retirement pension from the Government, they could be in financial problems today.

When the Oliveiras came back to Brasília to start the work in the Capital, they found the chapel with all its windows broken. The electricity wires were stolen, the roof had holes and the floor was very irregular (seeming waves). Revd. José Zito spent two months and much money to fix everything before starting the services, in May 1968. The Superintendent suggested they kept the chapel closed until they had people enough to start the services, but Rev. José Zito said: “it is not possible. I just started the work. The chapel is open. With or without people, it is open”. Therefore, it was a way to show to the community that the church was there and working on, open to all those who needs the True Light of the world.

The preaching, of course, was very evangelistic, because they did not have brothers yet. Actually, the main group was the children, because the Oliveiras’ children invited their schoolmates and friends to the church. In addition, they invited some homeless children, a terrible social problem in Brasilia, which lasts untill now. Someday, during a service, the police cars rounded the chapel seeking for those children. They ran immediately to the altar, asking for God’s mercy. Soon they learnt that the gospel includes personal responsibility. Another day, one of them tried to fire the chapel just for fun.

During the years, the congregation was growing but sometimes a group of brothers caused problems. In one occasion, they left the church and the tithes went down. Therefore, God showed that he was on the control. First, the loyal brothers received salary bonus, and the self-employers had more services and wages. However, suddenly, a woman visited the church. Revd. José Zito and Mrs. Zilta took care of her and her child that had neurological problems. They moved to Goiania, the Goiás State’s capital, 120 miles far from Brasilia, and she became a widow. After a couple of years, she still remembered the basic teachings, including the tithe. Therefore, she traveled to Brasilia carrying the entire heritage money in a single bag! She knocked at the door and explained: “I came to give my tithe back to the Lord”.

As a Government employee, Mrs. Zilta had many chances to show her faith and holiness and preach to the people that will never be in a temple to hear the gospel. After some years, she was nominated to a high position in which she managed much public money. She passed through all the pressure and work stress as a serious and competent professional, keeping also the testimony of a pastor’s wife. She got a scholarship to study Learning Technology in America. That subject was something known by very few people in Brazil, at that time, and because of the knowledge she acquired, on the next years she was requested to speak to many companies about that around Brazil.

Today she considers her professional life as a God's gift to provide the family a way not to depend on the disloyalties brothers in church. Specially those who use the tithes to press over the pastor.

They lived on the pastor's house, in the back of the chapel. It was a great surprise to everybody, because it was not worthy. The chapel was considered by the neighbourhood ugly and it was out of the city code building. So they thought of building a concrete temple.

When they went to the city hall to get the building permission, they were notified that the Government was about to get the property back. A battle started. That happened because the temple had to be built until some past date. Now the battle was to keep the property. After a long bureaucratic struggle, they scheduled a meeting with the Mayor. Therefore, the entire church board explained the situation to the Mayor, who gave them time and the permission. Immediately they started the building, which is there serving the church since 1975 until today.

On that time, something interesting happened. Revd. José Zito was living in Brazil since 1956, was married, and had Brazilian children. He tried to be naturalized as Brazilian, but the authorities said it was not possible because there was someone with the same name as his, who had problems with the justice and the banks. His request was denied.

When he went to Los Angeles to attend one of the Church of the Nazarene General Assemblies, Rev. José Zito realized that he had no nationality. He was born in Cape Verde, which was one of the Portugal colonies until 1975. When he came to Brazil, he was a Portuguese citizen. After the independence of Cape Verde, the foreigners from that country had to use a Cape Verdian passport. Therefore, the Brazilian authorities did not recognize the Portuguese passport at the airport. He was not allowed to leave Brazil. He had to explain that entire situation repeatedly until the authorities gave him a provisory passport. The Brazilian citizenship was given to him only in 1994.

Since 1964 until 1989, when Brazil had its first Republic President, chosen by democratic election, the country was under a military dictator Government. (From 1964 to 1988, the President was chosen by the Congress. After the 1988 Federal Constitution, we have general election for President). So the agents used to visit the churches, not to listen to the gospel, but to hear what the priests were teaching. They did it into universities, theatres and artistic groups too. One day, someone claiming to be a federal agent, requested Revd. José Zito to give a list of people who was against the Government. Therefore, he replied that he would not do that because his mission was to bless, not to denounce.

Rev. José Zito led the Church of the Nazarene in Asa Sul for fifteen years, from 1968 to 1983. In this period, there was an American Assembly of God television preacher, who was in evidence. But this preacher had some personal problems and people discovered his life was a lie. Revd. José Zito usually says we must have our eyes only in Jesus, because if the Christians' faith is based on the preachers' life, if he falls, the person will fall too. The right thing to do is to keep our eyes in Jesus.

One preacher that he admires a lot is Revd. Billy Graham, who also had his program on TV in that period. His preaching style was more balanced than that another one and his character was always the same. Both friends and enemies observed him a lot and never found any problem. He is a faith hero nowadays. So Revd. José Zito, during Revd. Billy Graham world evangelistic campaigns used to invite the entire neighbourhood to watch it on TV.

After fifteen years, he was invited to be the shepherd of another church. A new personal and ministry challenge ahead.

The ministry on the Church of the Nazarene in Jardim Leonor

From August 1983 to September 1992

DURING ITS HISTORY, the Church of the Nazarene in Jardim Leonor, also called the Second Church of the Nazarene in Campinas, which is a countryside city in São Paulo State, faced some troubles with its shepherds. Before Revd. José Zito Oliveira arriving there, more than ten pastors passed by that church. In general, they spent just a short time there. However, Revd. José Zito was in charge of that congregation for nine years, what changed the relationship between the church and the pastor.

Revd. José Zito started the pastorship there in 1983. That church was hurt by the problems with the shepherds, so he had to be very kind and lovely, and yet firm, to treat the problem. The love was used to remove the bad congregation expectation. One of the most faithfully sisters said he would be there just for three years, because he would not stand that church. By the way, that church could badly pay his salary, which was less than the one he had in Brasília.

The relationship problem, of course, had a strong inner component that was treated firmly

day by day. With the on going work, the newborn brothers coming and the maturity of the elders, the problem was solved.

On that church, Revd. José Zito achieved the highest level of satisfaction on leading the church. Both pastorshipping, counseling and preaching were done with passion during nine years. The Oliveiras felt in love with that church, which answered them back with love too. He had a solid preaching style. The classical structure proved all its value to give a solid and technical base to a great preacher. His sermons, plenty of Bible references, showed his wisdom and didactical skill to preach the Word of God on the most appropriated way to move mind and hearts straight to holiness.

The church brothers were involved in all the ministries, that is why Mrs. Zilta had to create a new one. It was some kind of small groups that today we call cells. However, her work there went far from this. She received her degrees in the metropolitan city of Belo Horizonte; she improved her professional educator career in Brasília, the Republic Capital; and she studied in America. All of this was unusual, at that time, to the women of Campinas, a countryside city. This entire cultural and professional knowledge made her being recognized all around she worked, either secular or in ministry. Her life is an alive lesson of determination and it brought to the church's women a new understanding about the woman role in church and society. Well motivated, and looking to Mrs. Zilta's life example, the girls improved their studies and professional career.

When Revd. José Zito challenged the congregation to build a new temple, it caused a kind of spiritual shock and empowerment on people. To do that, they would have to take a faith step because they did not have enough money. The church was in a constant growing and the old temple, actually a chapel built of cheap material, had no longer condition to gather all the newborn brothers. In addition, it was very hot inside of it on summer time and very cold on winter time. When they built that old chapel, they made it entirely with roof material, which was used inappropriately on the walls.

From September 1992

To build the new temple, they had to put down the old chapel. Sunday school demanded a great job in logistic to divide people into classes among the neighbourhood. Some families offered their living rooms or garages to this purpose. To worship, they used a hall on the back of the property.

Each week that hall became smaller and smaller for gathering the congregation. That is why it was a priority to finish the new temple. When they built the roof, people moved to worship inside, but there were not any windows. It was so cold in winter time, that people used to bring their blankets to keep warm during the worship.

The eighties and the nineties in Brazil were terrible period because of the inflation factor. Everything became more and more expensive day by day. So, to build the church they had to be focused both on money matter and engineer matter. They also faced troubles with the builders, until the day that a group of retired brothers offered themselves to keep the work going. Suddenly that team grew with a new builder, who was Revd. José Zito.

On September 7th 1992 (Brazilian Independence Day Celebration), the new temple was inaugurated, even though it was not completely done. The rush was because on that day, they would have a triple celebration: The temple inauguration, the retirement of Revd. José Zito and the beginning of the new pastor.

On a day plenty of emotion, Revd. Robert Collins, one of the first missionaries and Mrs. Frances, his wife, remembered the building of the old chapel and the God's work beginning there. Other Nazarene authorities spoke and someone noted the Mosteller family's offering. However, the great emotion happened with the pastorship change. A long warm hug marked that moment. More than the shepherd's responsibility, Revd. José Zito passed the mission to preach and take care of God's people. It was also the transfer of a family's legacy and pastorship anointing. The new pastor was his second son, Revd. Humberto, who is leading that church for more than fourteen years now.

REVD. JOSÉ ZITO OLIVEIRA worked for thirty years as senior pastor, beginning at the Church of the Nazarene in Sobradinho, 1962, until his retirement, in the Church of the Nazarene in Jardim Leonor, 1992. Nowadays he is the Brazil Central Subregion's Centro-Oeste District Chaplain of pastors. However, if we consider also his time as Associate Pastor and District Chaplain, so it will rise up to fifty years serving the Lord. He and the congregations built three temples. What a life and ministry example!

When asked about his retirement, he said that a shepherd never retires. Rev. José Zito says the pastorship never stops, because it is a call, a God's permanent call. The retired shepherd keeps on duty, more flexible and without the local church responsibility. It is good because he can help a lot of churches and new pastors. His young son, Revd. Eduardo, says that Revd. José Zito knows how not to interfere on the sons' ministry. When they ask for help, Revd. José Zito does it kindly and with few but precious words. "I talk very little to be heard, not to speak twice", he uses to say.

Revd. José Zito and Mrs. Zilta are a couple who admire each other. Mrs. Zilta says that her husband is a constant man, even in private life, in preaching or even in his character. He always preserved his steadiness and dignity.

His preaching style has perfectly suitable on the classical outline. Used with wisdom, this structure gave him the perfect base for using his eloquence and freedom to preach, exhort and teach about many subjects. He chose the bible centered speech style, talking always about the redeemer work of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit holiness work.

He advises one who wants to be a preacher, shepherd or missionary that it demands first to seek a holiness life, maturity and God's anointing to step out of emotional decisions and the adventure desire. Both are traps. The God's work is done anywhere, but under holiness.

Revd. José Zito also gives a fantastic example that all the shepherds have to follow. Everyday he walks at least three miles!

Actually, each church has its own characteristics and difficulties, but Revd. José Zito never complained about any of them. Of course, everyone left their own mark too. The Church of the Nazarene in Alto dos Pinheiros marked his life and ministry because it was the first one. He and Mrs. Zilta faced the personal and denominational challenge to move that congregation to a self-support church.

The Church of the Nazarene in Sobradinho marked him because of the great social and pioneer work in Brasilia. For example: The telephone lines were connected to Sobradinho just in 1964. Before it, the quickest way of communication was the telegram. In such occasion, Revd. Mosteller came to Brasília with his entire family. Some days before it, he sent a telegram telling Revd. José Zito about his travel, but they arrived before the telegram!

The Church of the Nazarene in Sagrada Família was marked by the fast and deep changing of life congregation, both spiritual and social. The Church of the Nazarene in Jardim Leonor was marked by

the end of the list of rejected shepherds. When Revd. José Zito thought about that situation, he realized that it is better to start a new congregation than to lead another one that is already established.

He compares a congregation with a baby. When a shepherd starts a new one, it is like his baby. Therefore, he can disciplining it since the beginning, while an established one has its own way of life. It is like an adopted child, which has some traumas, like rejection. In this sense, the Church of the Nazarene in Asa Sul was marked being a baby that was born in his arms.

The Church of the Nazarene in Jardim Leonor was like an adopted child that he loved before conquering it, and after that, he was true and deep in love with that.

“Good thing is to be a preacher of the Word of God”. As Revd. José Zito says it, he realized that his sermons and pastorship grew up with the homiletic experience and the maturity in the pastorship work. It demanded cooperation of both, theory and practice, and an eye on the social customs evolution.

To the new shepherds generation, Revd. José Zito observes that today they have better opportunities to study and work, because there are more seminars and the Church of the Nazarene has a good structure and good Brazilian leaders.

Lately Revd. José Zito and Mrs. Zilta have received a lot of homage. In 1992, on his retirement celebration in the Church of the Nazarene in Jardim Leonor, Revd. Robert Collins and his wife Mrs. Frances and another Nazarene pastors and missionaries talked about that. Another preacher was Revd. Lázaro Aguiar Valvassoura, the senior pastor of Central Church of the Nazarene in Campinas (Also called the First Church of the Nazarene in Campinas). At that moment, he said that he has known Revd. José Zito for thirty years, and he said: “Revd. José Zito is a man of unchangeable convictions and a man of unquestionable holiness”. He kindly remembered of his entire life offered to Jesus that occurred in a young retreat during Revd. José Zito's speech.

October 2006

In 2001, the former General Superintendent Revd. Jimmy Lee Bond and his wife Mrs. Sara, former missionaries in Brazil in the 1970s, were in Brasília to a pastor's retreat. Revd. Jim Bond spoke about his admiration for Revd. José Zito, who was a faith hero to him, because as young student in America he heard about that first Nazarene that arrived in Brazil before the missionaries. He also said that Revd. José Zito became an alive challenge to his ministry.

In May 25th 2002, the Federal District Deputies Chamber (The Legislative House) gave Revd. José Zito Oliveira and Mrs. Zilta Rocha de Carvalho Oliveira the title of Honorific Brazilian Citizens, a very rare and special civic homage.

Also in 2002, both Church of the Nazarene in Asa Sul and Central Church of the Nazarene in Brasilia celebrated his 80th birthday.

In 2005, the Oliveiras received a diploma and a medal of Pioneer Honor, because they were one of the leaders during the Brasília's building and consolidation as the Capital of the entire Brazilian people. Also in 2005, the Church of the Nazarene in Jardim Leonor, during the missionary week about Cape Verde, paid them a homage.

In 2006, Revd. José Zito met his ministry mate and former senior pastor, Revd. Charles Gates and his son, Revd. Greg Gates, that went to Brasilia to the anniversary campaign of the Church of the Nazarene in Ceilândia, the fourth Nazarene church in the Federal District. They had a great time remembering the first and hard days, with the great happiness to see each son on the pastorate and keep going the work they started fifty years ago. (Revd. Greg Gates is the senior pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in Watertown, NY).

In November 2006, a former pupil from the Nazarene School in Sobradinho, nowadays a retired Lawyer and civil servant, launched a book in which he honours a lot of women. He wrote kindly about Mrs. Zilta's lessons and teachings, more than forty years ago, those helped him building his character and personality. He thanked for the Oliveiras' life lessons.

“DEAR preacher, pastor, missionary,

There is nothing better than to be a God's Word messenger. 1st Corinthians 1:21 and 2:14 talks about the crazy thing that is the God's wisdom.

The secret for the messenger to be well succeeded is:

- give yourself with no fear;
- live without complain;
- accept it without doubt;
- preach without giving up.

In all the things, and overall, do not become a bishop or a priest. Always be a prophet (Proverbs 29:18).

Do not live as the human models, because not being as Jesus is a kind of sin.

Throw yourself on God's duty and do not move your eyes out of the Master (Luke 9:62).

From the minor of your brothers,

José Zito Oliveira