



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

Greater New York
Conference Headquarters

October 21, 2008

DHS, USCIS
Attn: I-129 (R-1)
California Service Center
P.O. Box 30111-30115
Laguna Nigel, CA 92607-0111

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Re: Osvaldo Souza Santos, Jr. Beneficiary
I-129 Application for Temporary Religious Worker, R-1
Change of employer

Dear Sir or madam:

I am writing this letter in support of the I-129 Petition for R-1, Temporary Religious Worker on behalf of Osvaldo Souza Santos. Mr. Santos has been in R-1 status since December 2007. He continues to maintain his R-1 status through employment with his initial sponsor, The First Portuguese Speaking Baptist Church d/b/a/ All Nations Baptist Church, where he holds the position of Religious school Administrator/Director. At this time, our religious organization is filing an I-129 Petition on Mr. Santos behalf, so that he may work as a temporary religious worker, in the position of assistant pastor for our organization beginning October 27, 2008 and ending October 26, 2011, in R-1 status.

The Greater New York Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist Church was incorporated in 1902. We are a tax-exempt organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. We are a constituent and operate under the umbrella of the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists that is also exempt from taxation under the section described above. Our certificate of Incorporation and Tax-exempt Status is attached hereto. We are a world-wide denomination with more than 13 million members in 204 of the 230 countries officially recognized by the United Nations and is purely supported by voluntary services. The observance of the seventh day of the week as its day of worship and the strong belief in the second coming of Christ are among the Biblical pillars upon which the Seventh-Day Adventist Church is founded. Since its inception, the Seventh-Day Adventist Church has embraced health reform, returning a faithful tithe and baptism by immersion. In keeping with its mission the church owns and operated one of the strongest and most viable parochial school systems in the world including, colleges universities with graduate and post graduate programs and professional schools. In addition to this, the Seventh-Day Adventist Church operates an

extensive health system, with hospitals and clinics world wide, and an international literature ministry comprised of 57 publishing houses that produce, and more than 7,000 literature evangelists that disseminate religious books, literature, and media in some 348 languages of the world.

In the position of assistant pastor, Mr. Santos will be assigned to address the spiritual needs of the Luz-Brazilian Congregation in the Greater New York Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. The Luzo-Brazilian community is a vibrant and growing community in New York and needs the ministry and orientation of a dedicated and experienced spiritual leader with Mr. Santos' qualifications. He will also be responsible for: coordination, directing and overseeing the music program for the church; overseeing the finances and business aspect of the Church; making missionary visits to people's homes in an effort to strengthen their health, character, and education through personal counseling, prayer and Adventist reading materials. This will be a full-time, forty hour a week position, with a mandate towards spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Oswaldo Santos has been serving the church as "voluntary part-time services, in the Luzo-Brazilian Westchester Church in Mount Vermont, New York as Music Director and also as Elder since April 1, 2004 until the present time. He has provided these voluntary services on a regular basis, for an average of twenty to thirty hours, per week, since April 1, 2004. Being that our Church is purely supported by voluntary services, our members voluntary services tend to be organized on a weekly and hourly basis for efficiency purposes, instead of sporadically. Mr. Santos's typical voluntary hours are as follows: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, from about 9:00 am to 1:00 pm; Saturdays from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, with a break for lunch of about an hour; and Sundays, with varying hours. Mr. Santos has never received any numeration or other type of payment for his voluntary services, as doing so would be contrary to our Church's policy of our Church being run on "purely voluntary services". However, now with his offer of full-time employment, he will receive a salary upon receiving his new R-1 approval through our sponsorship.

In the position of Music Director, Mr. Santos duties include: conducting the worship, coordinating and preparing the musicians to sing and play in the church; teaching musicians, choir members, and church members music; playing the piano in our programs; responsible for leading rehearsals of choir and musical bands and coordinating musical portions of church services; ordering musical supplies when necessary; visiting the homes to deliver Christian literature; praying in homes; conducting Bible Studies; starting home prayers groups; sharing the beliefs of the Church to prospective members; serving as a counselor for people in need. Mr. Santos' experiences as well as his voluntary services have assisted the growth of our musical program, and especially the development of the church leadership skills.

Based on the needs of our community and parishioners, we have now decided to offer a position of assistant pastor to Mr. Santos. Mr. Santos is well qualified for the position.

He has been a member of our denomination for over two years, as evident by his baptismal certificate, which shows that he was baptized on November 16, 2002.

Further, Mr. Santos graduated from the Faculdade Catolica de Administração e Economia (Catholic University of Administration and Economics) in 1992, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He has also completed post graduate courses in finances at the Superior Institute of Post Graduation and SPEI College, Curitiba, Brazil. His foreign degree has been evaluated as the equivalent to a bachelor's in Business Administration, plus two years of graduate studies in finances from a U.S. University. From 1995 to 2002 he worked for Montalve Volkswagen car dealership, Parana, Brazil, as a manager, and from 1988 to 1994 he worked for Citicorp Corporation, Parana, Brazil, also as a manager. Both position involved managing the companies finances, supervising employees, etc. In addition, he is an accomplished musician, having graduated from the Music Liras Conservatory, Parana, Brazil in Piano, and having studied at the Music of Fine Arts School, Parana, Brazil. He has also directed and produced two CDs, titled "Reason to Sing" and "It is great to be of Jesus." Based on his experience and education, Mr. Santos is well-qualified for the position.

Mr. Santos's salary is expected to be \$ 21,000 annually, in addition to full medial and dental coverage, as well as, a retirement plan. We are well able to afford to pay this salary. We currently employ 178 employees.

Please process our request at your earliest convenience, so that Mr. Santos may begin working on a full-time basis immediately. Thank you for your kind attention to this request. We look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard A. Marker".

Richard A. Marker, J.D, Ph.D., D. Min.
President