



SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST  
CHURCH

**Dallas, TX**

**Dallas Brazilian**

**Seventh Day Adventist Church**

1400 W Grauwylor Rd

Irving TX 75061

August 7, 2013

USCIS  
California Service Center  
P.O. Box 10590  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0590

Re: Osvaldo Souza Santos Junior - Beneficiary  
I-360 Application for Permanent Religious Worker  
Reference Letter

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this reference letter in support of the I-360 Application for Permanent Religious Worker on behalf Osvaldo Souza Santos Junior. I was the Senior Pastor for the Seventh-Day Adventist Luzo-Brazilian Church, which has three affiliated sister churches in the City of New York, NY (Westchester, Long Island and Queens), during years 2005-2011.

It has been said that great leaders build their lives upon simple principles. I was fortunate enough to meet Mr. Santos over 7 years ago and have called him a friend since that first day. Mr. Santos was my partner in ministry for the Westchester Luzo-Brazilian Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 261 E. Lincoln Ave, Mount Vernon, New York.

As senior pastor and he, even with no Bachelor's degree in Theology, but through his qualifications, as assistant pastor, Music Ministry and First Elder for the local church, we worked together harmoniously, prayed together, shared our knowledge with one another and respected each other throughout those years. I can affirm that Mr. Santos has served the congregation with dedication and commitment. His leadership has given support to young people and in different positive activities in the community.



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I do remember several times we met to make plans for the church and Mr. Santos always contributed with ideas to develop the church and its departments. He used to visit members, foster prayer ministries, lead out in anointing services and child dedications, encourage the disheartened, and assisted me in my other pastoral responsibilities. Furthermore, he did encourage the other members to return a faithful tithe, to develop a personal relationship with Jesus by strengthening their habits of personal Bible study and prayer. As co-workers we did several programs together such as: prayer vigils, various evangelistic meetings, Youth Congress and Sabbath morning worship service. Mr. Santos was always diligently seeking ways to impact the people around him in a positive and life changing way.

I did see and am aware of the principles on which Mr. Santos has built his life: honesty, discipline, self-control, truth and courage. He has always been the pillar of dignity, distinction, value, character and personality; bringing not only the personal but the Christian core values to his relationships with family, others, peers, subordinates and church members.

Mr. Santos has studied leadership as a Ph.D. in Leadership student at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI, one of our Seventh-day educational institutions around the world since 2009. This program has improved his knowledge and leadership skills, and it has brought more benefits for the church. He has a long experience and familiarity with religious music instruction, church leadership as well as how to conduct the church services and other activities. He is also an accomplished pianist and a spiritual leader. These requisites were required and Mr. Santos was well qualified to be the assistant pastor, First Elder and Music Ministry for the Westchester Luzo-Brazilian Seventh-day Adventist church.

Mrs. Santos is like a tree - a mighty oak. He stands for so many, "like a tree, planted by streams of water with leaves that do not wither." Many who know him have witnesses the fruit of his labor, have sat in



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his shade and even been protected by his presence. I had no reservation to recommend him as a leader at the church or in the community. I was proud of him, proud to call him a partner and most importantly, to call him a friend.

For your information, I am a pastor for Seventh-Day Adventist Church with more than 30 years of experience. Right now, I am the senior pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, at Dallas Brazilian Church, Texas.

If you need any additional information about Mr. Santos, do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Yours faithfully

A. Claudio G. Vilela  
Senior Pastor  
Dallas Brazilian Church  
[acgvilela@txsda.org](mailto:acgvilela@txsda.org)

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