



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

Greater New York
Conference Headquarters

May 7, 2012

Attn: I-129 (R-1)
USCIS, CSC
24000 Avila Rd, 2nd Fl, Rm 2312
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Office of the President

PO Box 5029
7 Shelter Rock Road
Manhasset, NY 11030
Telephone: (516) 627-9350
Fax: (516) 365-5105
e-mail: president@gnyc.org

Re: Osvaldo Souza Santos Jr., Beneficiary
Greater NY Conference, 7th-Day Adventist Church, Petitioner

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter in support of the R-1 status renewal on behalf of Osvaldo Souza Santos. Mr. Santos has been providing traditional religious services to our organization, as assistant pastor, since April 28, 2009, under R-1 status. Upon his R-1 status approval he will resume his full-time, assistant pastor position.

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 and 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 continue to 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 continue to 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. The position will continue to be a full-time, forty hour a week position, with a mandate towards spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Oswaldo Santos has been working for our organization on a full-time basis, forty hours a week, in the position of assistant pastor, since April 2009. However, in light of his R-1 status, which has expired, he has temporarily stopped working, and will resume upon his R-1 status renewal. Please see the attached weekly schedule, which describes in detail Mr. Santos' religious duties on a daily, as well as a weekly basis.

Prior to joining us on a full-time basis, he served the church on a "voluntary part-time services", in the Luzo- Brazilian Westchester Church in Mount Vermont, New York as Music Director and also as Elder from April 1, 2004 to April 2009. He provided these voluntary services on a regular basis, for an average of twenty to thirty hours, per week. 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.

In the position of Music Director and Elder, Mr. Santos duties will continue to 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, it is essential that Mr. Santos continue to work in R-1 status, so that he may continue to minister to our community. 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. He has been a member continuously since his baptism.

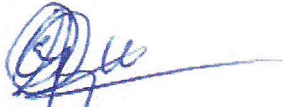
Further, Mr. Santos graduated from the Faculdade Catolica de Administração e Economia (Catholic University of Administration and Economics) in 1992, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He has also completed post graduate

courses in finance 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 finance 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 will be \$25,000.00 per year, in 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 over 252 employees.

Please process and approve Mr. Santos' application for an R-1 status extension as soon as possible, so that he may resume his assistant pastor position. This will assure that our parishioner's religious needs will continue to be addressed with religious experience and education that can only be provided by someone with Mr. Santos' qualifications. Thank you for your kind attention to this request. We look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Earl Knight", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

G. Earl Knight
President



SEVENTH-DAY
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January 25, 2010

USCIS
California Service Center
P.O. Box 10485
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-1048

Office of the President

PO Box 5029
7 Shelter Rock Road
Manhasset, NY 11030
Telephone: (516) 627-9350
Fax: (516) 365-5105
e-mail: president@gnyc.org

Re: Osvaldo Souza Santos, Jr. Beneficiary
I-360 Application for Permanent Religious Worker
I-485 Application for Adjustment of Status

Dear Sir or madam:

I am writing this letter in support of the I-360 Application for Permanent Religious Worker and I-485 Application for Adjustment of Status on behalf of Osvaldo Souza Santos. Mr. Santos has been providing traditional religious services to our organization, as assistant pastor, since April 28, 2009, under R-1 status. Prior to joining our organization he provided traditional religious services to the First Portuguese Speaking Baptist Church d/b/a/ All Nations Baptist Church, where he held the position of Religious school Administrator/Director, also under R-1 status, from December 2007 to April 2009. At this time, our religious organization is filing an I-360 Application on Mr. Santos behalf, so that he may work for us on a permanent basis, in the position of assistant pastor.

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 continue to be assigned to address the spiritual needs of the Luzo-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 continue to be responsible for: coordination, directing and overseeing the worship 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. His position will continue to be a full-time, forty hour a week position, with a mandate towards spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Oswaldo Santos has been working for our organization on a full-time basis, forty hours a week, in the position of assistant pastor, since April 2009. Prior to joining us on a full-time basis, and served the church on "voluntary part-time services, at the Westchester Luzo-Brazilian Church in Mount Vermont, New York as Music Director and also as Elder from April 1, 2004 until April 2009. He 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 were 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. During the period in which he volunteered his services, 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". Upon beginning his full-time employment in April of 2009, he began receiving a salary for his services.

In the position of Music Director and Elder, 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.

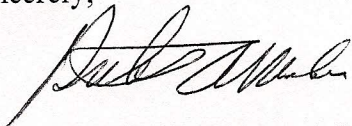
Based on the continuing needs of our community and parishioners, we have now decided to offer Mr. Santos a permanent position of assistant pastor. Mr. Santos has long experience and familiarity with religious worship instruction, leadership as well as church services and activities. Mr. Santos is well 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 finance 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 finance 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 positions involved managing the company's 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 \$25,000.00 per year, in addition to full medical and dental coverage, as well as, a retirement plan. We are well able to afford to pay this salary. We currently employ 252 employees.

Please process the I-360 Application for Permanent Religious Worker, and I-485 Application for Adjustment of Status on behalf of Mr. Santos, so that we may have the privilege of having him work for our organization on a permanent basis. This will assure that our parishioner's religious needs will continue to be addressed with religious experience and education that can only be provided by someone with Mr. Santos' qualifications. Thank you for your kind attention to this request. We look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Marker, J.D., Ph.D., M.Div.
President