The purpose of this dissertation is to develop a contextualized model for an ethnic church planting process in large cities such as Berlin.

The unchurched population of foreigners in Germany stands at around seven million with 450,000 of them living in Berlin. A few existing ethnic Adventist churches in Germany have been established in the past but no strategy has been developed to reach new foreign groups. Although there are some Adventist ethnic churches in Berlin, they have not developed a coherent strategy to reach the rest of the foreigners.

The German attitude toward integration of foreigners has been to ask them to become Germans. This same attitude is also widespread in the Adventist Church, where many believe that foreigners should learn German first before the Church will witness to them. This method is clearly inappropriate and ineffective.

A number of steps will be followed in developing a strategy. First, the issue of foreigners in Germany and Berlin in particular will be analyzed in order to learn more about the trends of recent history in this country. Fundamentals of the church planting process, church growth, cross-cultural evangelism, and ethnic churches will also be studied mainly through library research. Data about the foreign community in Berlin will be collected from various statistical sources in Germany.

Second, the English-speaking New Life Church (NLC) will become the base for a church planting process among foreigners in Berlin. Through this church an outreach strategy for foreigners will be developed and implemented over a three-year period. The financial resources will be provided through the Global Mission department of the Berlin-Brandenburg Conference, North
German Union, and Euro-Africa Division.

Periodic evaluations will be conducted to determine the success of various stages of the project and to identify lessons learned. A monitoring process will help identify milestones reached and progress achieved or lack thereof.

Regular reports will be submitted to the sponsoring organizations and to the Adventist media in Germany such as, the *Advent Echo* (official German church paper) and Stimme der Hoffnung (German Voice of Prophecy).

The researcher expects to plant two new ethnic churches in Berlin providing a venue for the German Seventh-day Adventist Church to grow in membership.

Andrews University, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

**Title:** Developing a Relationship-Based Evangelism Training Program to Equip Church Leaders and Members in the North Brazil Union

**Name of researcher:** Davi Tavares

**Adviser:** Bruce Moyer, Ph.D.

**Date completed:** February 2009

This project will create a relationship-based training program to equip and motivate pastors, theology students, local leaders, and church members in the North Brazil Union to reach people through a relational evangelism approach.

Theoretical and practical books were analyzed and good concepts and useful tools were found related to relational evangelism. In order to develop a relationship-based evangelism training program to equip church members in the North Brazil Union, a five-step process will be followed as reproduced in the following chapters of this dissertation.

First, this researcher will show the theological basis for the relational evangelism style as found in the New Testament, mainly in Jesus’ and the apostles’ relational approaches. In addition, some evangelical authors, including Ellen White, were studied.

Second, in the literature review this researcher will examine books and journal articles about the topic in question, and establish the connection between the relational approach and the accomplishment of the great commission. The role of the Holy Spirit, the relationship and fellowship in the early church as a community of love, and preaching the gospel with kindness and passion are also emphasized.

Third, significant information and data from the North Brazil Union were gathered to enrich this project.

Fourth, a suggested “relationship-based evangelism training program” will be provided with new strategies and innovative approaches regarding how to reach people for Jesus in this