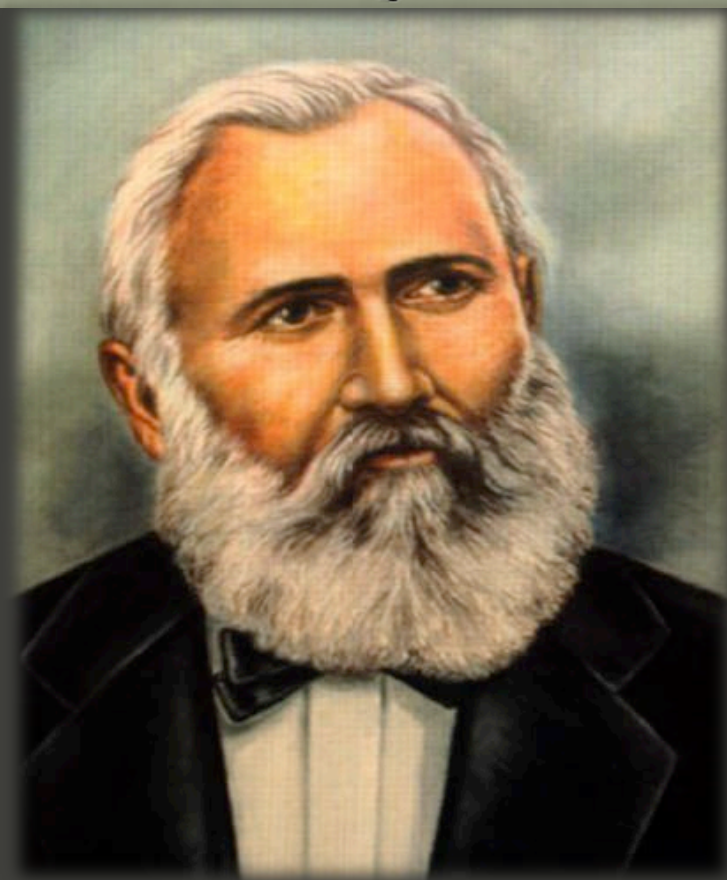


Byron de Menezes



Great Figures of Spiritism

Adolfo Bezerra de Menezes

The doctor of the poor,
the benefactor of us all.

COSMIC MEETING

Spirit communication from Ishmael through Frederico Junior.

About a century ago, a luminous assembly of spirits gathered in space.

Ishmael approached one of the disciples and said: “You will descend to the terrestrial struggles with the aim of converging our energies and directing them toward the sacred target of our efforts.

You will gather the dispersed elements with all the dedication of your spirit, so that we can set up a nucleus of spiritual activities, within the lofty intentions of reform and regeneration.”

The chosen disciple was reverent but stunned, and with tears falling profusely from his eyes, said, with great eloquence, that he would fulfill the mission entrusted to him.

A few years later, on August 29, 1831, this missionary, Adolfo Bezerra de Menezes, was born."



Adolfo Bezerra de Menezes Cavalcante



Born in the old neighborhood of Riacho de Sangue (Jaguaratama, today) in Ceara, August 29, 1831.



Dr. Bezerra married his first wife, Maria Cândida de Lacerda, on November 6, 1858. She discarnated March 24, 1863.



Dr. Bezerra with his two children from his first marriage.



His second wife, Cândida Augusta de Lacerda Machado, with whom he had seven children. They were married from 1865 to 1900.



Antônio Bezerra de Menezes

His father, Antonio Bezerra de Menezes, had been a militia captain; he was a stern man, extremely honest and of irreproachable character. His wealth was derived from his cattle farm.



His mother Joana

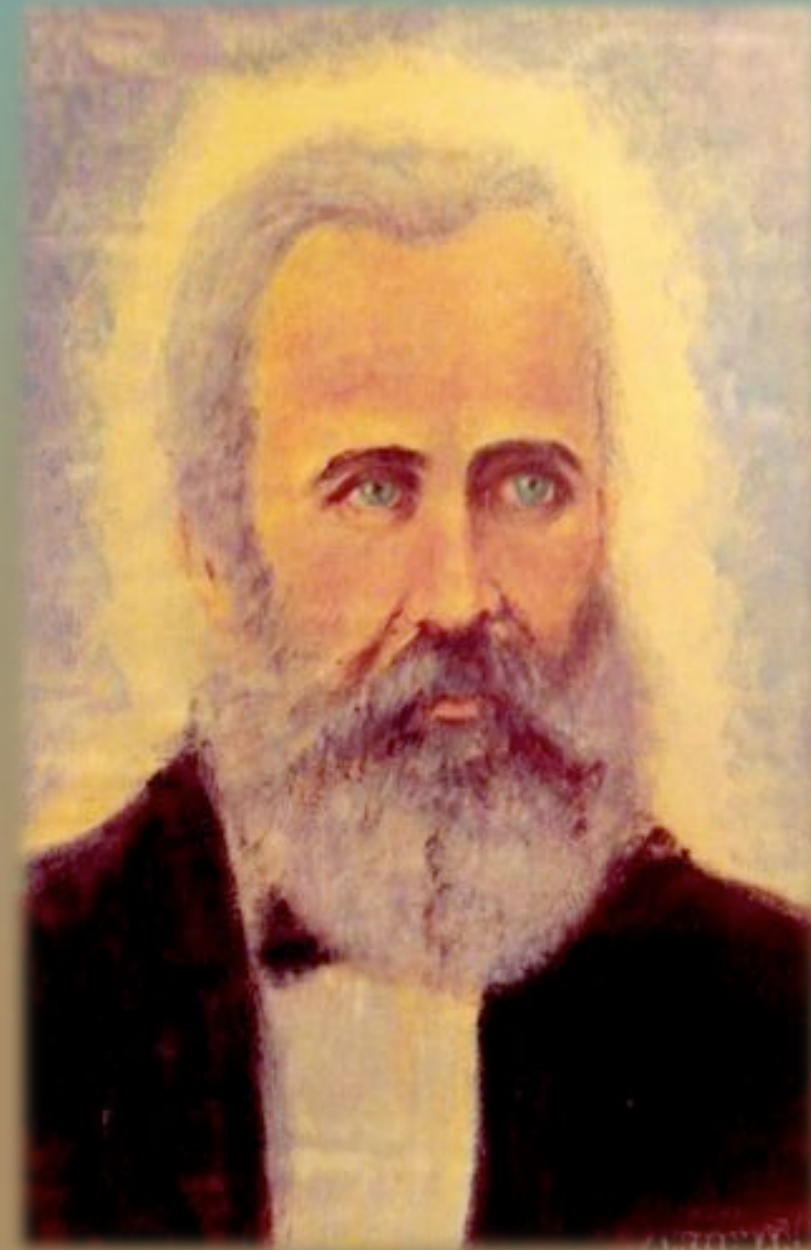


He soon compromised his fortune, due to his charitable feelings. Wanting to pay off his creditors, his intention was to give them everything that he owned, but they refused to accept.



Antônio Bezerra de Menezes

Mr. Antonio Menezes continued to administer his fortune, but drew from it only what was necessary to maintain his family, who exchanged their previously comfortable condition for a life of privations.



Early Years

Bezerra de Menezes



At a very early age, Adolfo revealed a keen intelligence.

At 11, he was studying Humanities and, by 13, he knew Latin so well that he was called on to substitute for his teacher.



School in CEARÁ where
BEZERRA DE MENEZES studied

Medical Training

In 1851 his father died, so Adolfo, with reduced funds, set out to study medicine in Rio de Janeiro. He began as an intern resident at Mercy Hospital in November, 1852.

He bartered for his tuition, offering to teach philosophy and math classes. He graduated from the College of Medicine of Rio de Janeiro in 1856, presenting his doctoral thesis on “Cancer Diagnosis.”

In 1857, he was named a titular member of the Imperial Academy of Medicine and assumed the position of Lieutenant Surgeon in the College of Medicine in 1858. In the following three years, he edited the Brazilian Annuals of Medicine for the Academy.



Rio Janeiro



Marc Ferrez

Political and Professional life

In 1861, having retired from the Army Health Department, he was elected municipal representative of the Liberal Party in the Court's Council, and developed the concept of a “neutral municipality” that would favor the humble and the needy.

He was elected General Deputy in 1867 but one year later, the Council was dissolved. During his political career, he had faced injurious rumors and accusations.

He temporarily retired from politics and worked on building the railroad from Macae to Campos, then headed construction of the railroad of San Antonio de Padua.

He was a director of the architectural company that opened the “Boulevard September 28” in 1872 and, by 1875, he was president of the Carril Urban São Cristóvão company.

Returning to politics, he was elected municipal representative in 1876 and Mayor in 1878. He also served as President of the Chamber and General Deputy for the county of Rio de Janeiro, in 1880 and exercised his political mandate until 1885.

Introduction to Spiritism



Bezerra de Menezes, meanwhile, had begun writing judicious commentaries about Catholicism in *The Reformer* as early as 1883 and attracted many readers.

A personal friend, Dr. Joaquim Carlos Travassos, gave him a copy of the first edition (in Portuguese) of *The Spirits' Book*.

Introduction to Spiritism

Dr. Joaquim Carlos Travassos & Bezerra De Menezes



Personal friend of Dr. Bezerra de Menezes, he gave him a copy of the first edition in Portuguese of *The Spirits' Book*.

Dr. Travassos had translated *The Spirits' Book*, with the pseudonym of Fortúnio, without a date of publication;

He continued with *The Mediums' Book*, in 1875,

Heaven and Hell, in 1875,

and *The Gospel According to Spiritism*, in 1876, without the translator's real name.



Bezerra wrote: “He gave me the book in the city but I lived in Tijuca, about an hour away by streetcar. I was carrying the book with me and since I did not have anything else to read during the trip, I said ‘Well, why not? I will certainly not go to hell for reading this ...



and after all, it will be embarrassing to have to declare myself ignorant, regarding this philosophy, when I have been dedicating myself to the study of all philosophical schools.”



“With this thought, I opened the book and I immediately became fascinated by it; it was all new to my brain.”



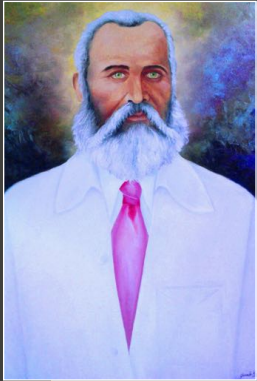
“I kept on reading, but I couldn’t find anything that was new to my spirit. I had already read or heard everything that was in the *The Spirits’ Book*.”



“I was quite amazed with that wonderful fact and I said to myself: ‘it seems that I was a Spiritist without knowing it’ or, as people usually say, ‘I was born a Spiritist.’”

ON AUGUST 16TH, 1886, THE EMINENT CITIZEN,
POLITICIAN, DOCTOR AND CATHOLIC, DR.
BEZERRA DE MENEZES PROCLAIMED HIS DECISION
TO BECOME A SPIRITIST BEFORE AN ASTONISHED
AUDIENCE OF TWO THOUSAND FRIENDS AND
COLLEAGUES IN RIO DE JANEIRO.





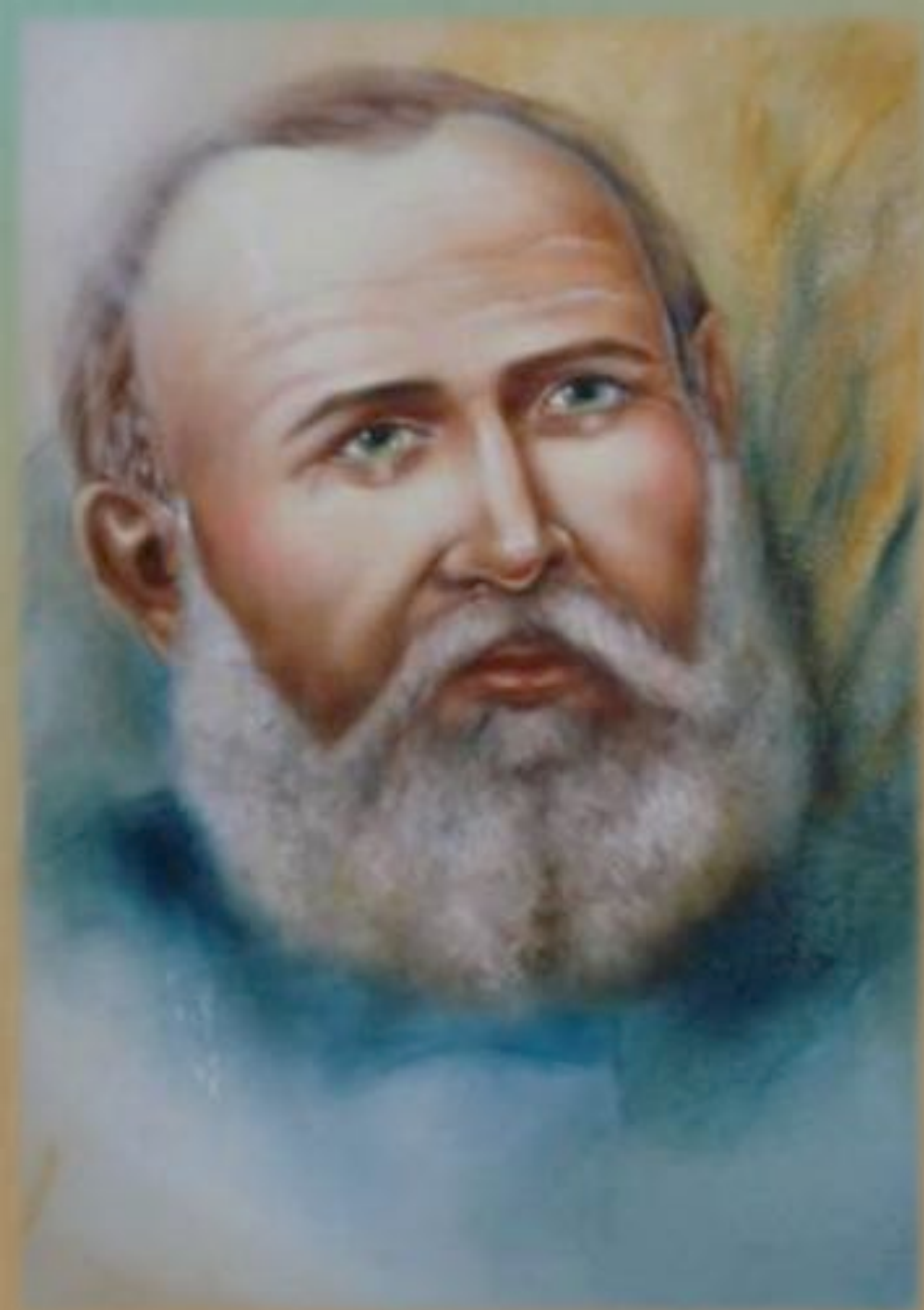
“When an afflicted person calls, a doctor is not entitled to finish a meal, nor to ask if it is near or far.” “Those who do not help because they are entertaining guests or because they have worked long hours and are tired, or because it is too late at night, because there’s a bad road or bad weather, because it is far away or on the top of a hill



– or, worst of all, those who ask for a car from ones who have not even the resources to pay for a prescription, or who say to one who is crying at the door “seek another doctor” – those are not doctors but, rather, medicine dealers who work for the income and to pay off their college debts.”



“Those are unfortunates who send to others the angel of charity that came to pay them a visit and that brought to them the only source that could satiate their thirsty of Spiritual wealth, the only one that will never get lost in the sways of life.”



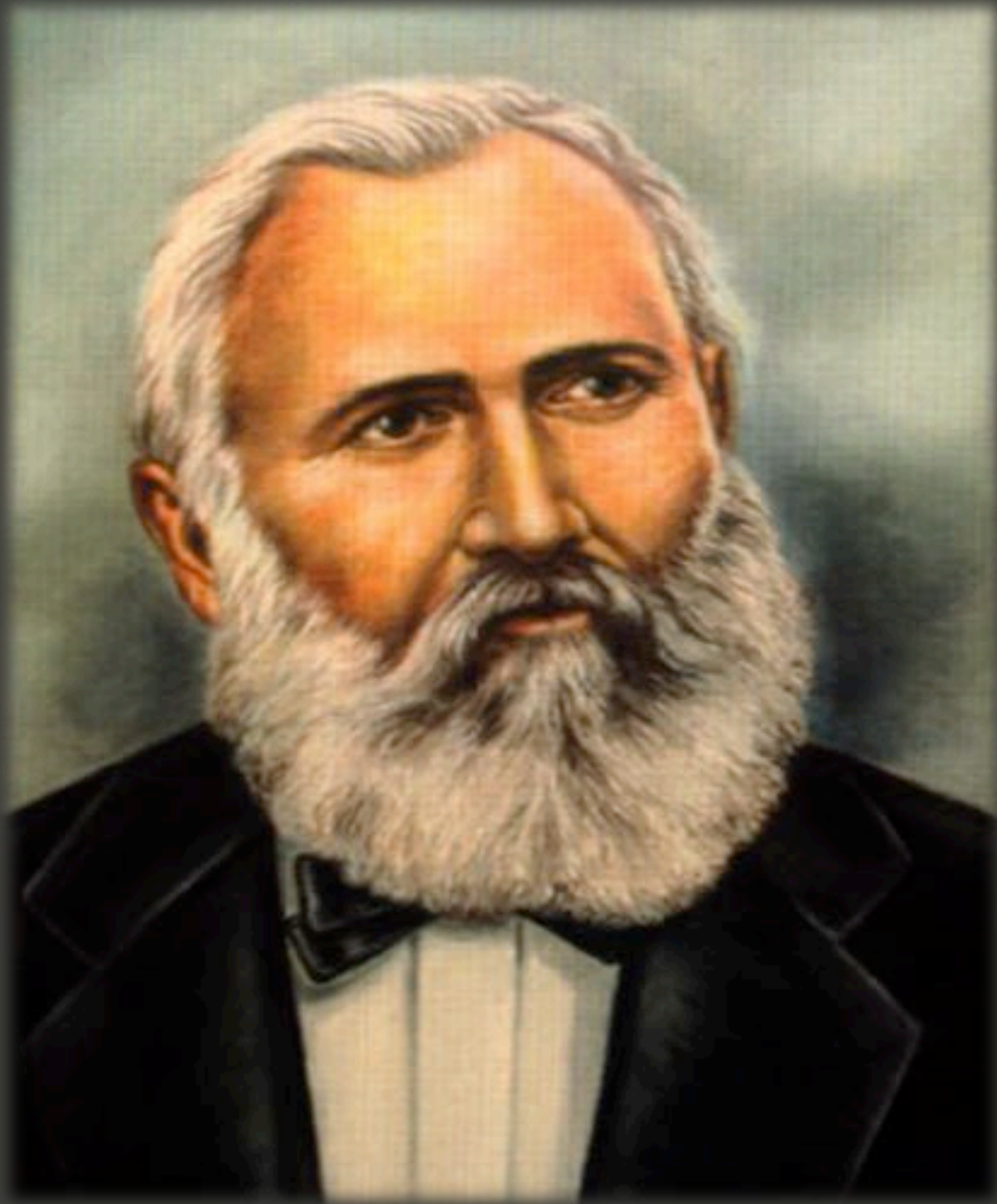
Still ministering to the needs of others as a doctor, Bezerra did not charge his patients. Not only would he decline payment, he also often gave what money he had, to the poor.



His wife, Candida Augusta de Lacerda Machado, explained the situation to a friend, Mr. Cordeiro, who learned, with great surprise, that his dear friend was enduring financial difficulties.

Mr. Cordeiro arranged to solve the problem by charging only those patients who could afford to pay. He established, however, the lowest possible price: five thousand reis.

Financial Difficulties



In January, 1887, Bezerra began to write weekly articles for the newspaper O Paiz (“The Country”), edited by Quintino Bocaiúva who was soon to become the first minister of the Republic of Brazil. Although it was published in Rio de Janeiro, O Paiz was widely read throughout the country in the late 19th Century.

He had been assigned to this task by the Spiritist Union of Brazil’s Commission of Dissemination. Today, only a few people know the articles and chronicles signed “Max” which was Dr. Bezerra’s pseudonym for the series of “Philosophical Studies,” published under the title “Spiritism.”

Ninety years later, Freitas Nobre, founder of “Folha Espírita” and known for his role in the political circles of São Paulo, researched, organized and launched this work in three published volumes.

Published Works

The Spiritist Center

Bezerra de Menezes, accepting the “instructions from Allan Kardec to the Brazilian Spiritists” and received by the medium Frederico Junior, founded the “Spiritist Center”.

The Spiritists' enthusiasm soon faded, however, and quarrels ran deep among the “mystic” and “scientific” factions: those who only accepted Spiritism in its religious aspect, as opposed to those who only accepted its scientific and philosophical aspects.

Bezerra found himself abandoned by his companions, at one point being the only participant in the Center. He was a tireless worker, however, and was eventually recognized as the only one capable of uniting the Spiritist movement in Brazil.

At 63 years of age, he assumed the Presidency of the Brazilian Spiritist Federation, a position he held from 1894 until his death.





Final Years

Early in 1900, Bezerra suffered a stroke that kept him bedridden for three months, and from which he would not recover.

A true pilgrimage of visitors, both rich and poor, streamed to his house; everyone knew of his financial difficulties and the family's struggle but no one would offer direct assistance, for fear of offending him.

Instead, they gently slipped their contributions under his pillow where the person who was changing his linen was surprised to find pennies from the poor and large notes from the wealthy.

On April 11, 1900 he died and his obituary, on the front page of O Paiz, named him an "eminent Brazilian".

A group of Bezerra's friends, at the initiative of Leopoldo Cirne, formed a commission on April 17, under Minister Quintino Bocaiuva's patronage, to promote shows and concerts to benefit the family of the man who had earned the distinction of being called the "Brazilian Kardec".

A Bibliography of Writings by Adolfo Bezerra de Menezes:

Posthumous Works of Allan Kardec

Spiritism as a Theogonic Philosophy

The Haunted House

Madness under a New Prism

Marriage and Shroud

Black Pearl

Gospel of the Future

Lazarus - the Leper

History of a Dream



A Bibliography of Writings by Adolfo Bezerra de Menezes:

During the abolitionist campaign in the 1880s, Bezerra wrote a prudent treatise on “Slavery in Brazil and the necessary measures to be taken for its extinction - without damage to the Nation”. He also alerted readers to the problems in his home territory with “Brief considerations on the droughts of the North”.

He was one of the editors of *The Reformer*, a liberal organ of the Court of the Second Empire, and editor of the newspaper Sentry of Freedom. He also wrote several biographies of famous people, such as the Viscount of Uruguay, the Viscount of Carvalas, etc.



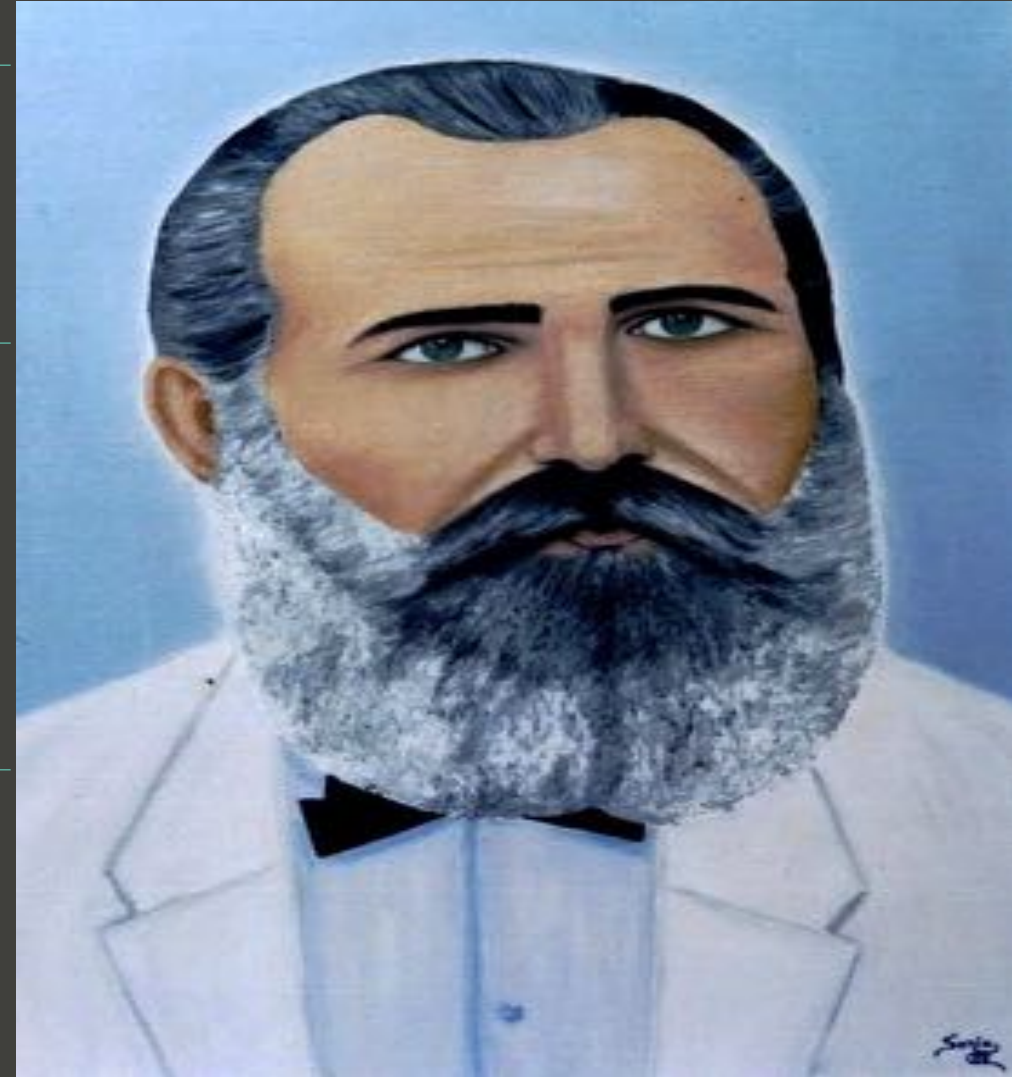
Spiritist Publication – The Reformer

Anecdotes from the life of Dr. Bezerra de Menezes: Daily Bread

While still a student of medicine, Bezerra was facing serious financial difficulties, needing fifty thousand reis to pay his rent and college tuition.

One day a refined young man came to his door, intending to hire him for private tutoring in Mathematics. Bezerra refused, at first, because it was the subject he liked least but the visitor insisted and, considering his desperate situation, Bezerra finally agreed.

The student wanted to pay for his classes in advance and laid out fifty thousand reis. Bezerra, relieved and happy, prepared himself for the classes, but the young man never returned.



Assistance to the needful:

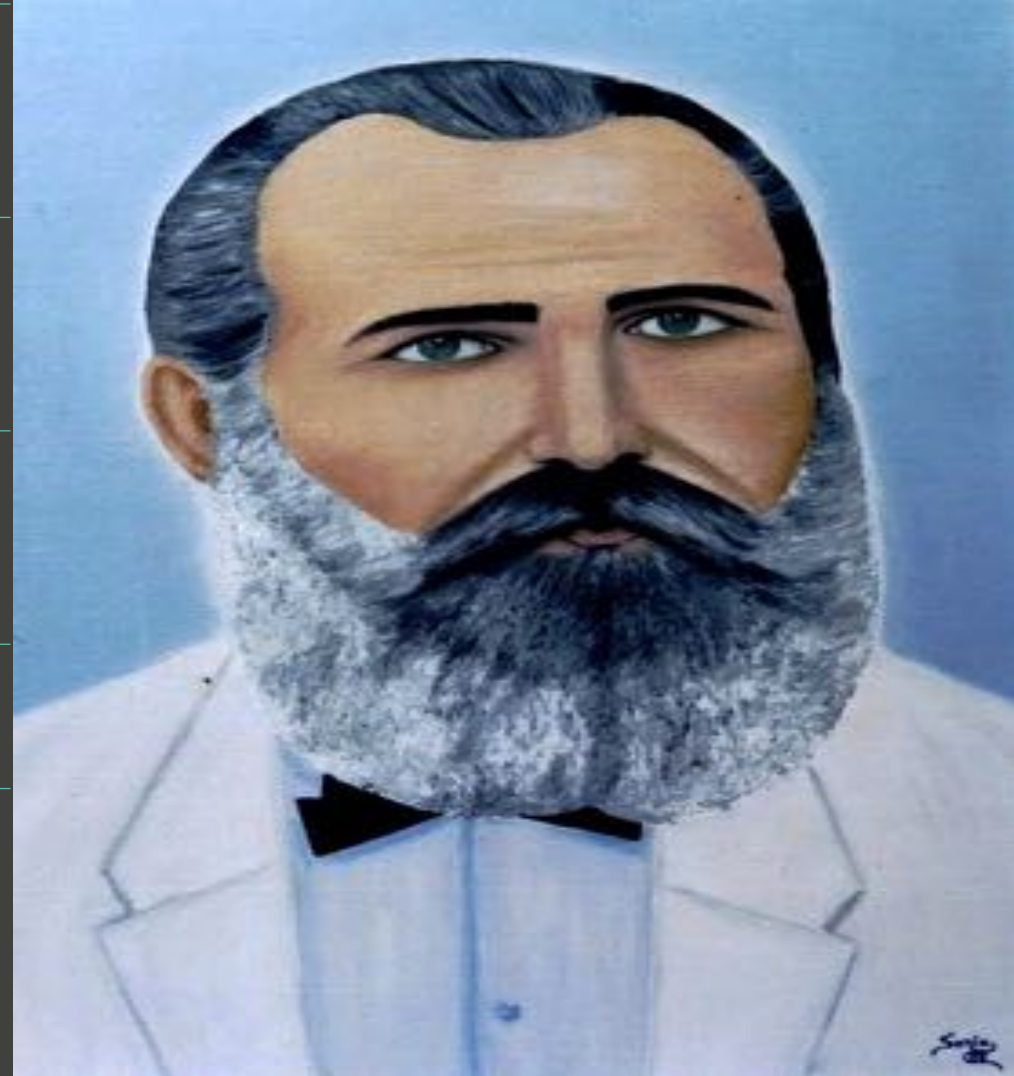
In 1894, Bezerra was invited to assume the presidency of the Brazilian Spiritist Federation. Reluctant to accept, he discussed his concerns with Bittencourt Sampaio.

“... assistance to the needful in the treatment of the sick is currently almost exclusively homeopathy, and I am not a homeopathic doctor.”
“And why don't you become a homeopathic doctor?” his friend asked.

At that point, the medium Frederico Junior, channeling the spirit of Saint Augustine, said: “It is better this way. It will be easier for us to help you in the treatment of our siblings.”

“How, kind Spirit? Are you suggesting that I make my living out of Spiritism?”

“Of course not! You will live your profession, giving to your patients the fruit of your knowledge, studying homeopathy as our friend Bittencourt suggested. We will help you in another way, by bringing you, whenever you need them, new pupils of Mathematics.”

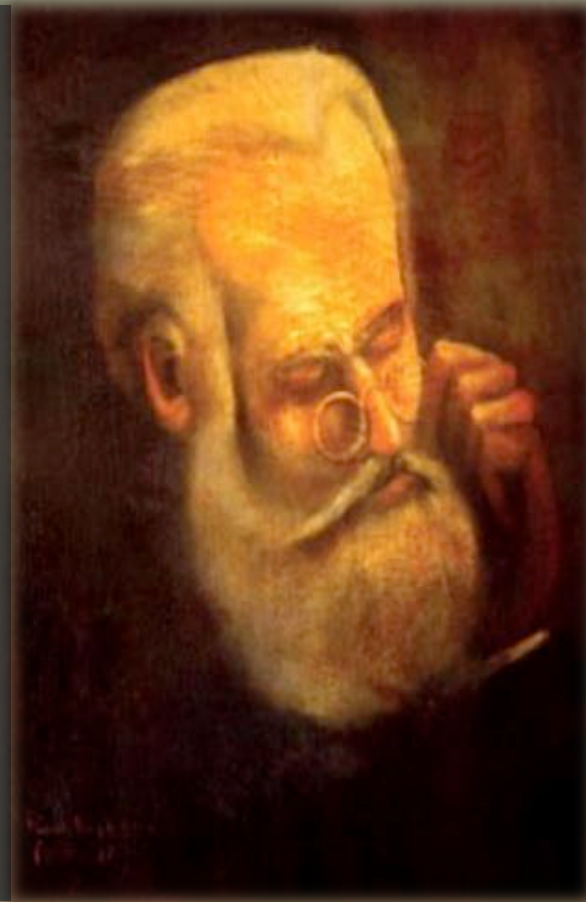


A Case of Disobsession

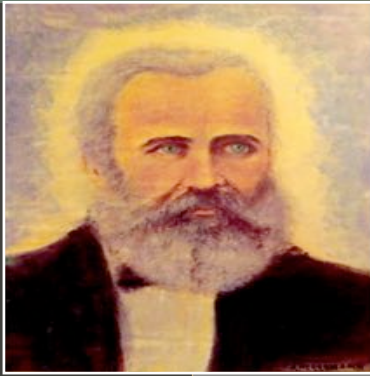
Bezerra invited, with great eloquence and persuasiveness, the obsessing spirit to resign lovingly its ill intentions of revenge. He put into action all the resources of his highest feeling and talked in such a fatherly and loving way that he disarmed the spirit of its hatred and deeply touched the inner recesses of its soul.

The obsessor made a moving and sincere confession: “Old Saint, what convinced me were not your words but rather your feelings!”

And the cure took place.



Musical Harmonies



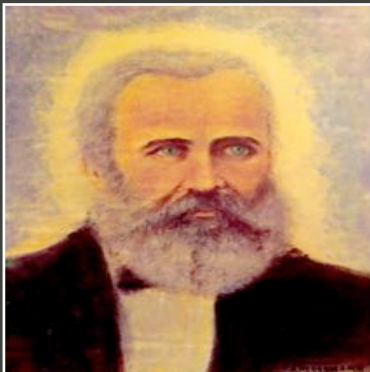
A friend asked Bezerra if he liked music.

“Music is to me the greatest joy.”

“Then why do you not go to the concerts?” the friend queried. “This season has been amazing.” “I have no time to hear lyric harmonies because of my sick patients.”



But all work and no play will make you very dull” the friend warned.



“Not quite.” Bezerra countered. “My work allows me to hear the sweet harmonies of the heart, which is the most beautiful music in the world.”



I am not, due to my weaknesses, that which it should represent in the human heart, I cannot judge myself without the risk of displaying pride, but I can assure that I already understand my duties to God, to my neighbors, in a general way, remarkably more elevated than before becoming a Spiritist.

“Before becoming a Spiritist, even the thought of losing a child would lead me to mentally blaspheme, I would go berserk.

After becoming a Spiritist, I lost four raised beloved children, praising and thanking our God of love for proving in this manner my obedience to his sacrosanct decrees.” Reformer, 1892

50 years of death

The medium Divaldo Franco, was taken to a large building with enormous Greco-Roman columns and entered without understanding why.

There were about 5,000 people there, crowding into the immense hall and he soon realized he was at a meeting to pay homage to Dr. Adolfo Bezerra de Menezes. He observed the presence of many incarnates out-of-body, like himself.

When Dr. Bezerra arrived, surrounded by friends, a magnificent light appeared and the sublime spirit of Celina, messenger of the Holy Maria, took shape and announced: “Adolfo Bezerra de Menezes, due to your years of service you are now granted the opportunity of incarnating in any system of a galaxy close to Earth.”

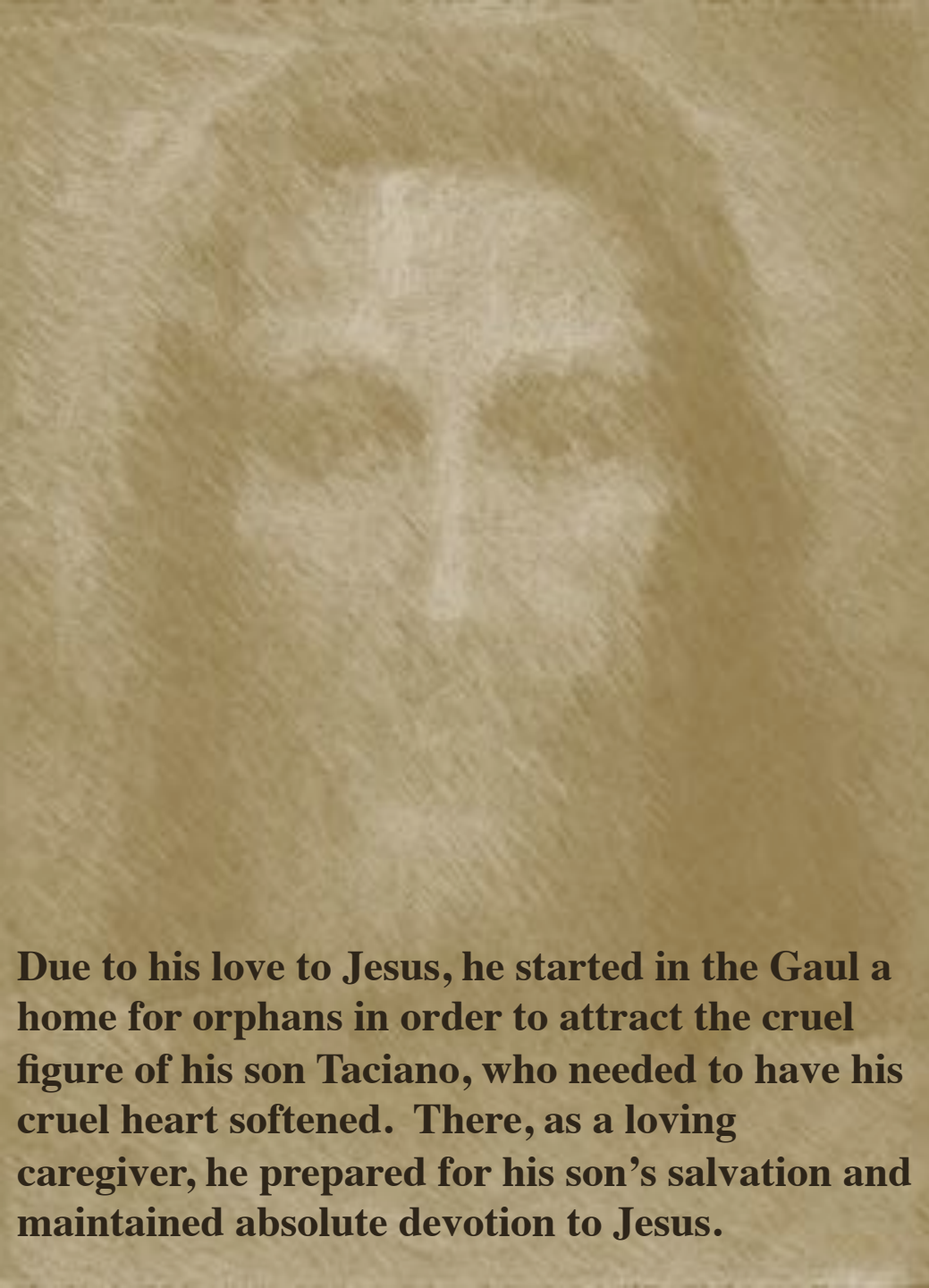


50 years of death

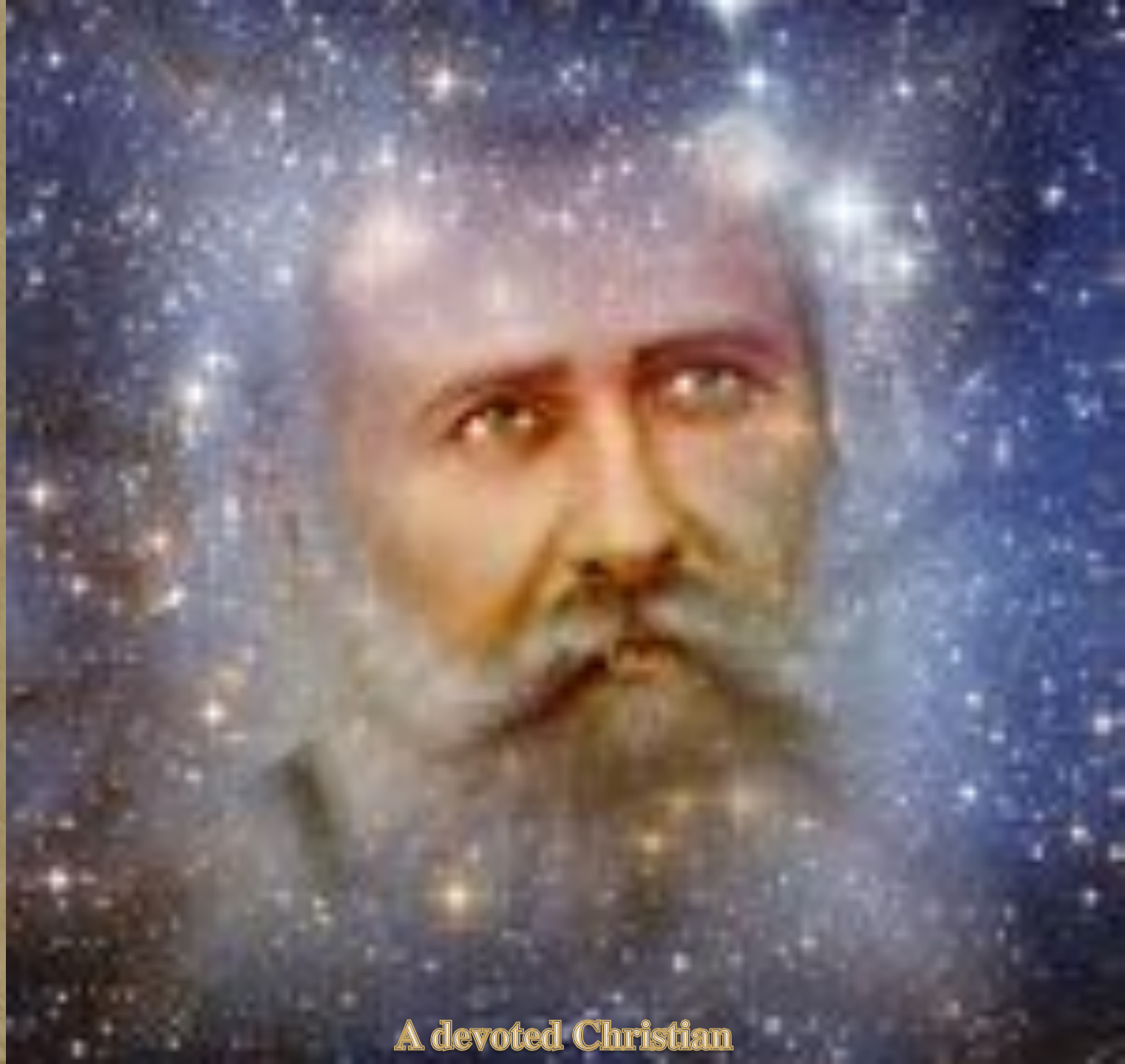
Dr. Bezerra, unable to withhold his emotions, answered: “I do not deserve that. If I have some credit, I would like to request the Holy Maria to continue in the green-yellow lands of Brazil. I would like to stay there while there is a single individual crying, or a single moan from my Brazilian brothers and sisters.”

Upon hearing Bezerra’s request, the celestial being left but, after a few seconds, a melodious choir was heard singing a divine chant and an ethereal, luminous hand wrote in the air: “Your desire is granted. You will remain for 50 years more in the Brazilian lands of this shadowy planet, in order to complete one hundred years of service, abnegation, renouncement and total dedication.”





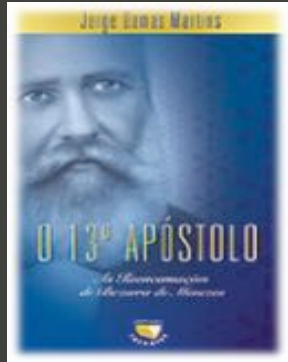
Due to his love to Jesus, he started in the Gaul a home for orphans in order to attract the cruel figure of his son Taciano, who needed to have his cruel heart softened. There, as a loving caregiver, he prepared for his son's salvation and maintained absolute devotion to Jesus.



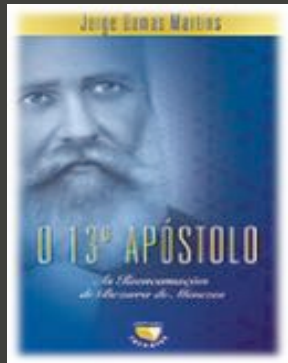
A devoted Christian



1,600 years later, he reincarnated as Adolfo Bezerra de Menezes Cavalcante to proclaim the message of Allan Kardec on Earth. This message of love is truly the base of all affirmations of this powerful revelation that confirm the old law and the loving message of Jesus.



Reincarnations related to the dissemination of Christ's message among human beings, are Zaqueu, Matias, Brother Corvino 1 (Lyon Church -233DC)



Quinto Varro, Quinto Celso and Parmenio.

The references employed by the author Jorge Damas are: Yvonne Pereira, Chico Xavier, Newton Boechat.

A combination of
intelligence and
modesty, hard work
with resignation, effort
with peacefulness,
energy with patience,
tact with strength: that
was Dr. Bezerra de
Menezes.



This is Dr. Bezerra de Menezes