

Baranski, Willi Paul (1908–1990)

THE BRAZILIAN WHITE CENTER – UNASP

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Willi Paul Baranski, pastor and canvasser, was born February 16, 1908, in the city of Ulenhof, Germany¹ to an Adventist family. His parents were Michael Baranski (1864-1943)² and Christine Anna Lihowski (1871-1939), both Germans. From this union another four children were born.³ Willi moved to Brazil in 1922 with his parents and two siblings, and later he became a Brazilian citizen.⁴ They landed in the city of Rio de Janeiro and moved to the city of Nova Europa, state of São Paulo, where the family established a church.⁵ He was baptized at the age of 17, on July 25, 1925.⁶

Baranski's ministry for the Seventh-day Adventist Church began in 1929 when he accepted an invitation to participate in a training course for canvassers taught by the director of the Publishing Department of the São Paulo Conference. The following year he began to work as a literature evangelist in the city of São Paulo. After this first experience, he canvassed in other cities throughout the state of São Paulo.⁷ On November 12, 1934, he married Ambrosina Dias de Campos (1914-1990), in the city of São José do Rio Preto. From this union were born three children who died while they were very young, and then another two daughters⁸ were born—Myriam Esther Ana and Lilian Elda Luci Baranski.⁹

During this period the church did not always have the financial resources to maintain a pastor. So, while living in the city of Araraquara, Willi served as a pastor as well as a canvasser, even though he did not have a degree in theology. In 1940 he accepted an invitation to lead the Publishing Department of the São Paulo Conference!¹⁰ He stayed in this position for three years,¹¹ while continuing to canvass until 1945.¹² The following year he had an opportunity to serve as a district pastor in the cities of Sorocaba and Itararé, in the state of São Paulo, where he

stayed for two years. Later he was director of the Publishing Department of the Paraná-Santa Catarina Conference (1948-1951)¹³ and the Rio-Minas Gerais Conference (1952-1960).¹⁴ Willi received his ministerial ordination in 1953.¹⁵ In 1961 he was appointed leader of the Publishing Department of the Santa Catarina Mission,¹⁶ where he stayed for seven years.¹⁷ During this period he was appointed to be a delegate from the South Brazil Union Conference to the 50th General Conference Session, held in 1966 in Detroit, Michigan, USA.¹⁸ At the beginning of 1968, at the age of 60, he decided to retire.¹⁹

Willi canvassed occasionally during his retirement.²⁰ He died on September 2, 1990, at the age of 82, in the city of Cosmópolis, state of São Paulo, and he was buried in the city of Artur Nogueira in the same state.²¹ During his ministerial journey, Willi Baranski was a canvassing pioneer in Brazil. He trained and inspired hundreds of young people throughout the country.²²

NOTES

1. "O lado compensador da vida de secretária," *Revista Adventista*, year 85, n. 8, August 1989, 6; Lilian Baranski, interviewed by Renato Stencil, Ellen G. White Research Center, Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, August 22, 2017.
2. R. Belz, "Michael Baranski," *Revista Adventista*, year 38, n. 10, October 1943, 23.
3. Myriam Esther Ana Baranski, interviewed by Ivo Ribeiro, Ellen G. White Research Center, Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, November 14, 2016; and "O lado compensador da vida de secretária," *Revista Adventista*, year 85, n. 8, August 1989, 6.
4. "O lado compensador da vida de secretária," *Revista Adventista*, year 85, n. 8, August 1989, 6.
5. Myriam Esther Ana Baranski, interviewed by Ivo Ribeiro, Ellen G. White Research Center, Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, November 14, 2016.
6. "Willi Paul Baranski," National Center of Adventist History, September 12, 2013, accessed November 23, 2016, http://www.memoriaadventista.com.br/wikiasd/index.php?title=Willi_Paul_Baranski.
7. "O lado compensador da vida de secretária," *Revista Adventista*, year 85, n. 8, August 1989, 6; and "Willi Paul Baranski," National Center of Adventist History, September 12, 2013, accessed November 23, 2016, http://www.memoriaadventista.com.br/wikiasd/index.php?title=Willi_Paul_Baranski.
8. "Willi Paul Baranski," National Center of Adventist History, November 12, 2013, accessed November 23, 2016, http://www.memoriaadventista.com.br/wikiasd/index.php?title=Willi_Paul_Baranski; and "Ambrosina Baranski," *Revista Adventista*, year 86, n. 6, June 1990, 45.
9. Myriam Esther Ana Baranski, interviewed by Ivo Ribeiro, Ellen G. White Research Center, Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, November 14, 2016.

10. "O lado compensador da vida de secretária," *Revista Adventista*, year 85, n. 8, August 1989, 6.
11. "São Paulo Conference," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1941), 192; and "São Paulo Conference," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1943), 154.
12. "Willi Paul Baranski," National Center of Adventist History, September 12, 2013, accessed November 23, 2016, http://www.memoriaadventista.com.br/wikiasd/index.php?title=Willi_Paul_Baranski.
13. "Paraná-Santa Catarina Conference," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1949), 167; and "Paraná-Santa Catarina Conference," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1952), 169.
14. "Rio-Minas Conference," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1953), 167; and "Rio-Minas Conference," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1961), 163.
15. Myriam Esther Ana Baranski, interviewed by Ivo Ribeiro, Ellen G. White Research Center, Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, November 14, 2016.
16. "Santa Catarina Mission," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1962), 175.
17. "Santa Catarina Mission," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1962), 175; and "Santa Catarina Mission," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1968), 214.
18. Myriam Esther Ana Baranski, interviewed by Ivo Ribeiro, Ellen G. White Research Center, Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, November 14, 2016.
19. "O lado compensador da vida de secretária," *Revista Adventista*, year 85, n. 8, August 1989, 7.
20. *Ibid.*, 5.
21. "Willi Paul Baranski," National Center of Adventist History, September 12, 2013, accessed November 23, 2016, http://www.memoriaadventista.com.br/wikiasd/index.php?title=Willi_Paul_Baranski.
22. "O lado compensador da vida de secretária," *Revista Adventista*, year 85, n. 8, August 1989, 6.

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