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## Kaltenhäuser, Karl (1878–1948)

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Karl Kaltenhäuser worked for the Seventh-day Adventist Church mainly in East Africa and Brazil.

### Early Life

Karl Kaltenhäuser was born on March 4, 1878, in Immingerode, near Duderstadt, Germany.<sup>1</sup> Nothing is known about his parents or siblings. In 1906, after a series of lectures by G. W. Schubert in Berlin, Kaltenhäuser was baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.<sup>2</sup> After working for 16 years in the construction industry, he attended the mission school in Friedensau, Germany, from 1908 to 1909 with the aim of serving as a pastor in Germany.<sup>3</sup>

## Ethiopia and World War I

Due to his experience in construction, in 1910, Kaltenhäuser was sent by Conradi to Abyssinia, today's Ethiopia, to help with the building of the mission station in Asmara.<sup>4</sup> After this was completed, Kaltenhäuser moved to German East Africa with his fiancée, Anna Liedke. Anna was born on May 7, 1880, in Lichtfelde, West Prussia,<sup>5</sup> and had also attended the Friedensau Mission School. They worked together with Bruno Ohme in the Victoria-Nyanza area.<sup>6</sup>

Kaltenhäuser was married twice but had no children. He was married to his first wife, Anna Liedke, on March 8, 1911.<sup>7</sup> However, Anna Kaltenhäuser died four months later of blackwater fever.<sup>8</sup> This tragedy did not deter Kaltenhäuser, who did pioneer mission work in Tanzania until 1914 and established several mission stations, including the one at Ikizu.<sup>9</sup>

In 1914 Kaltenhäuser met Lina Barho, who had come to German East Africa as a missionary nurse. They were married in 1915.<sup>10</sup>

During the First World War, Kaltenhäuser fought for the German Reich and was interned by the Belgians in 1916.<sup>11</sup> As a result, he and his wife were separated for 45 months.<sup>12</sup> After Kaltenhäuser was able to return to Germany around 1917,<sup>13</sup> he worked in the cities around the Ruhr area from 1918 to 1921.<sup>14</sup>

In 1921, Kaltenhäuser was back in Ethiopia. This time, he and other missionaries established two mission stations west of Addis Ababa to reach the non-Christian Galla. They were building on the efforts of indigenous mission workers who began to be trained as missionaries as early as 1920. Fifty of them were taught to “read, write, in religion and crafts” so that they could reach their compatriots. After the end of the war, however, missionaries of German nationality were restricted in their freedom of movement, so a new mission area was found for some missionaries, including Kaltenhäuser.<sup>15</sup>

## Brazil

In 1923, the Kaltenhäusers left Abyssinia and reached Brazil after a short stay in Germany in 1924.<sup>16</sup> In Brazil, the Kaltenhäusers worked for more than 17 years. His function was that of a pastor, evangelist, and missionary in the states of Santa Catarina, Espírito Santo, and Minas Gerais. Until 1930, they worked in the whole area of Santa Catarina. At first, Brusque<sup>17</sup> was the main residence of the Kaltenhäusers, from where Karl made long trips to reach the congregations and their members as well as to conduct evangelistic meetings.<sup>18</sup>

Later, the Kaltenhäusers stayed mainly in the interior of Santa Catarina.<sup>19</sup> As early as 1925, he was able to gain a foothold with his work and to baptize the first five people.<sup>20</sup> In the following years, Kaltenhäuser visited all the congregations and small groups in his area,<sup>21</sup> founded schools, and baptized a small number of believers during his visits.<sup>22</sup>

From 1931 until 1940, Kaltenhäuser worked in the federal state of Espírito Santo. In his new area, the work was not without dangers—the murder rate in Espírito Santo was very high, and Adventists became the victims of shootings, robberies, and gang crime.<sup>23</sup> Kaltenhäuser also found this field so large that he felt overwhelmed by the challenge of being able to serve all the members and congregations in the area. Nevertheless, he would regularly travel for weeks through the area to visit almost every Adventist family.<sup>24</sup> After recognizing the situation and problems of the congregations, especially the German members,<sup>25</sup> he accepted the challenge of visiting every congregation and family in order to build the Adventist Church in his territory. As a result, many territories were reached, and the number of Adventists increased.<sup>26</sup>

## Later Life

It is not known exactly when the Kaltenhäusers retired, for Kaltenhäuser was already 63 years old when he was transferred in 1940 to Teofilo Otoni in the state Minas Gerais, Brazil. He later worked in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, and finally in Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais.<sup>27</sup> During that period, the Kaltenhäusers lived in the vicinity of the Theological College of Petropolis in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and lived there for the rest of their lives.<sup>28</sup> There Kaltenhäuser died on July 5, 1948.<sup>29</sup> Lina survived her husband for another 26 years and also died in Petropolis, on October 19, 1974.<sup>30</sup>

## Contribution

Karl Kaltenhäuser actively helped to build up the mission in Ethiopia and Tanzania and continued this work despite the loss of his first wife and the turmoil of the First World War. In his pastoral work in Brazil, Kaltenhäuser successfully organized churches in the context of the pioneering work in those sprawling areas. Through this work, Kaltenhäuser helped to change the image of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the places where he ministered,

and from those places, it spread throughout Brazil.

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