

Bökenkamp, Ana Martha (1895–1987)

THE BRAZILIAN WHITE CENTER – UNASP

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Ana Bökenkamp

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Ana Martha Bökenkamp, teacher and chef, was born in 1895 in the city of Bielefeld, Germany. She married Walter Bökenkamp. They had one son, Geraldo, who became a minister for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brazil.¹

Ana accepted the Adventist faith in Germany. However, after making her decision she had family problems and difficulties regarding her work on the Sabbath.² As a result, she and Walter decided to move to Brazil in 1924.³

Arriving in Brazil they disembarked at the Port of Santos-SP, and afterward joined a group of Seventh-day Adventists located in Nova Europa, the countryside area of São Paulo state. After a few years they moved to Ibirama, Santa Catarina, where Geraldo was born.⁴ Ana was called to work as a teacher in the Paraná-Santa Catarina Mission (current North-Catarinense Association). She taught in Adventist schools in that region from

1935 to 1940.⁵ She was then transferred to the Butiá Adventist College in the city Curitiba where she worked as the women's dean and, at the same time, in the college kitchen⁶ until 1944.⁷

In 1946 Ana moved to Associação Paulista, where she worked as a licensed missionary until 1952.⁸ Simultaneously, she served as the chef of the Adventist Hospital of São Paulo until her retirement.⁹

While retired, Ana continued to contribute to the Adventist Church as director of the Dorcas Society (now Adventist Solidarity Action) in the German Adventist Church of São Paulo,¹⁰ which was officially founded in 1930.¹¹ However, it originated in 1924,¹² the same year that Ana arrived in Brazil.¹³ The church's goal was to welcome German immigrants and share the Adventist faith.¹⁴ As director of the Dorcas Society, Ana organized several visits to the nursing home located near the Instituto Adventista de Ensino.¹⁵

With the death of her husband in 1967, Ana decided to move to Brasilia where her son lived. Twenty years later, on December 9, 1987, at the age of 92, Ana Bökenkamp died in Brasilia. She left a legacy in the educational and health institutions where she served, and her son followed her life example.¹⁶

SOURCES

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NOTES

1. "Ana N. Bokënkamp," *Revista Adventista*, year 84, no. 2, February 1988, 26.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. "Parana-Santa Catharina Mission," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1936), 190; Parana-Santa Catharina Mission," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1940), 191.
6. "Ana N. Bokënkamp," *Revista Adventista*, ano 84, no. 2, February 1988, 26.
7. "Butia Academy," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1942), 203; and "Butia Academy," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1945), 219.
8. "São Paulo Conference," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1947), 155; and "São Paulo Conference," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1953), 175.
9. Ana N. Bokënkamp," *Revista Adventista*, ano 84, no. 2, February 1988, 26.
10. Keppke, E, "Sociedade de Dorcas da Igreja Alemã de S. Paulo," *Revista Adventista*, ano 62, no. 5, May 1967, 26; and Rueschel, R., "Visitando o "Lar da Velhice," *Revista Adventista*, ano 66, no. 10, October 1971, 27.
11. Carlos Alvarado Andrade, "Adventist Church of São Paulo" (Monograph, Adventist Institute of Education, 1985), 6.
12. Ibid., 3.
13. "Ana N. Bokënkamp," *Revista Adventista*, ano 84, no. 2, February 1988, 26.
14. Andrade, 3.
15. E. Keppke, "Dorcas Alemãs no Lar da Velhice," *Revista Adventista*, year 59, no. 12, December 1964, 21; R. Rueschel, "Visitando o "Lar da Velhice," *Revista Adventista*, ano 66, no. 10, October 1971, 27.
16. "Ana N. Bokënkamp," *Revista Adventista*, ano 84, no. 2, February 1988, 26.

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