

Berger, Albert

(1865–1943)

THE BRAZILIAN WHITE CENTER – UNASP

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Huldreich F. Graf and Alberto Berger

Photo courtesy of Brazilian White Center - UNASP.

Albert Berger, canvasser and missionary, was born in Gutenberg, Germany,¹ on November 5, 1865.² On February 10, 1897, Albert married Lesley Klaus, with whom he had eight children. Lesley was born May 27, 1870, in the city of Teófilo Otoni, state of Minas Gerais. She died July 22, 1954, in the city of Ijuí, Rio Grande do Sul state.³

In 1895 Albert and his brother, J. Frederic Berger, who had been living in the United States, emigrated to Brazil. On August 6 of that year⁴ they arrived in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, coming from Walla Walla, Washington, United States.⁵ When they arrived, they briefly visited the missionary William Henry Thurston. Then Albert went to the state of Espírito Santo, where the canvasser A. B. Stauffer was working by himself and had

already been asking for help for quite some time. Along with the canvasser Albert Bachmayer, Berger introduced the canvassing work in the district of Isabella, located 48 kilometers from the head office of the Adventist Church in Brazil, located in the city of Rio de Janeiro.

After two months working in that district, he canvassed with his brother for a period in the city of Rio Nova.⁶ Later he worked selling Adventist literature in German colonies located in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. They did not work directly with Brazilians because of the non-existence of Adventist literature in Portuguese.⁷

In 1898 Albert and Frederic Berger began canvassing work in the state of Minas Gerais, selling books to German immigrants who lived in Vale do Mucuri. Because of their work, 30 people were baptized in the first baptism ever conducted in that state.⁸

In 1915 Albert and Frederic went canvassing once again in the state of Espírito Santo. As a result of their work in that state, some Adventist groups were formed. Among them were groups in Manteiga, Bananal, Ribeirão, Laranjinha, and Laranja da Terra.⁹

As an Adventist volunteer missionary, Berger also disseminated books in the state of Santa Catarina, Paraná, and São Paulo,¹⁰ traveling by horse or on foot.¹¹ Albert Berger died November 8, 1942, at the age of 77, in the city of Ijuí, state of Rio Grande do Sul,¹² where he had lived with his wife. His work as a missionary and a pioneer in the canvassing area in Brazil made a great contribution to the gospel preaching and the mission accomplishment of the Adventist Church.

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