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March 30, 1972

Atlanta First Baptist Church Celebrates Jewish Passover

ATLANTA (BP)--Five hundred members and friends of First Baptist Church Atlanta came together Wednesday, March 29, to celebrate the first day of the Jewish Passover.

It was part of the church's observance of a Southern Baptist emphasis on Jewish Fellowship Week.

Meanwhile, Jewish families all over the world were together that same night to commemorate the historic passing of the angel of the Lord over Egypt before the Exodus of the Hebrew people.

At First Baptist Church here, the group was led step by step into the intricacies of the Seder (order of service) by Jonas J. Cohen, field evangelist for the American Board of Missions to the Jews.

First there was the "maror" (strong horseradish) to remind the Jews (and Baptist partakers) of the bitterness of slavery. The group also partook of the sweet "charoset" (a mixture of apples, nuts, spices and wine) to represent mortar for the bricks which the Israelites were forced to make as slaves.

Some of the participants found themselves laughing at the mistakes they made in the service, especially when they tried to find a place for the broken "matzoth" (unleavened bread). They had no cushion under which to hide the broken "matzoth" as Jewish tradition requires. Others grimaced as they ate the bitter herbs used in the ceremony.

Cohen explained the solemnity of the occasion, and its meaning to the people, as he led the service.

He later observed that the Baptist group was no less solemn than any Jewish family--they were serious for the prayers, yet picked up on the gaiety of what for the Jews is a festive occasion. In a sense, it is a national birthday party, he explained.

The entire evening was designed to give the Baptist group an insight into Jewish customs and traditions which before had an air of mystery to most of the participants.

After the service, several participants commented that as New Testament church members, they had somehow missed out on much of the history of the nation from whom Jesus' lineage is traced, but had discovered in that experience another half of their religion.

Many agreed they had entered the Easter season in what Mrs. Alan Sommerfield, a Hebrew-Christian, said in a testimony to the group was ". . . more fitting than Easter eggs and bunny rabbits."

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French Baptist Church Service
Featured in European Telecast

3/30/72

PARIS, France (BP)--The Easter Sunday services of the Avenue du Main Baptist Church here were to be featured on a live and direct television broadcast carried throughout French-speaking Europe by Eurovision.

Eurovision is the cooperative organization for international telecasts by members of the European Broadcasting Union.

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Potential viewing audience for the Baptist worship service was estimated at 50 to 60 million viewers.

Pastor Andre Thobois, president of the French Baptist Federation's Executive Council, was scheduled to lead the service and preach.

The telecast is one of only two "live" telecasts per year from all Protestant churches in France carried by Eurovision. The programs are featured only at Christmas and Easter.

It will mark the first time a Baptist church in France will have been featured on the telecasts, although Baptists have occasionally been invited to present the 30-minute taped service on regular Sunday morning Protestant programs over the "state" network.

The Easter Sunday worship hour was to include an observance of the Lord's Supper, and musical numbers sung by a choir composed of youth from several Paris area Baptist churches.

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Radio-TV Commission Leader
To Lecture at Golden Gate

3/30/72

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--J. P. Allen, director of audience response for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, will be guest lecturer for the fourth annual H. I. Hester Lectureship in Preaching at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Allen, former pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, will give four lectures on the theme, "Preaching in the Mass Media Age." The lectures are scheduled April 25-28.

A graduate of Louisiana College in Pineville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, with the doctor of theology degree, Allen has done postgraduate work at Yale University, New Haven, Conn., and has been a visiting lecturer in pastoral psychology at the European Baptist Seminary, Ruschlikon-Zurich, Switzerland.

The H. I. Hester lecture series is named for a long-time professor at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and former vice president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

The Hester lectures will be held simultaneously with the annual Pastors' and Chaplains' Conference at Golden Gate Seminary.

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