

JACOB GARTENHAUS COLLECTION

AR 759



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
2002

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Jacob Gartenhaus Collection

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Summary

Main Entry: Jacob Gartenhaus Collection

Date Span: 1921 – 1991

Abstract: Jacob Gartenhaus served as a Southern Baptist missionary to Jews for the Home Mission Board from 1921 to 1948. An evangelist and founder of the International Board of Jewish Missions, Jacob was born in Austria, the son of a Jewish rabbi. He graduated from Moody Bible College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The collection focuses on the time he served as a missionary with the Home Mission Board.

Size: .5 linear ft.

Collection #: AR 759

Biographical Sketch

Jacob Gartenhaus, 1896 – 1984, was born an orthodox Jew in Austria, January 15, 1896. His father was a rabbi for many years, and Jacob was raised in strict observance of his family's religion, graduating from Cheder and Yeshivah Rabbinical Schools. At age seventeen, he came to the United States to seek his fortune, joining with his uncle who was in business in New York. He found no peace for the empty longing in his heart, and he eventually was forced to consider the claim of Jesus Christ to be the Messiah. He studied the Hebrew Scriptures, bringing his immense training and intellect to bear on the search for the truth. At last, he acknowledged Christ as Messiah and accepted Him as Savior at a mission in New York City. His family disowned him, and his former friends beat him so severely that he almost died.

Jacob left for Moody Bible Institute, where he was forced to use an interpreter for his classes, as he still spoke no English. He was very active in evangelistic efforts toward the Jewish community, working in the Chicago Hebrew area. Jacob served as director of the Jewish Department of the Home Mission Board until 1948, when he and his wife established the (independent) International Board of Jewish Missions. This organization, located in Chattanooga, Tennessee, has been responsible for organizing a concerted effort to take the message of the Messiah to the Jewish population of the world. Dr. Gartenhaus continued as head of the mission board until his death in 1984. On his deathbed, a nurse asked him if he was afraid to die. He replied, "No, but there is so much more yet to be done...so much more yet to be done."

Additional biographical information can be found in the Una Roberts Lawrence Collection (AR 631) and Gartenhaus' autobiography, Traitor? : A Jew, a book, a miracle: an autobiography. Nashville: Nelson, 1980.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of .5 linear ft. of material that covers the years 1921 to 1991. Most of the material focuses on the years, 1921 to 1950, when Gartenhaus served as missionary to the Jews with the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The collection includes clippings, correspondence, publications, notebooks, pamphlets written by Gartenhaus, programs, photographs, a scrapbook, conference information, addresses, and writings. Many of the clippings are related to Gartenhaus' concern for the Jews in Europe during the 1930's and 1940's.

The correspondence is primarily letters from Hyman Appleman and is related to evangelism efforts among Jews. The pamphlets in the collection are those written by Gartenhaus and published by the Home Mission Board or the International Board of Jewish Missions. The scrapbook is a volume of clippings related to Gartenhaus' speaking engagements and covers the years 1923 to 1939.

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title. The collection was acquired from the material at the headquarters of the International Board of Jewish Missions in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1996.

Arrangement

Arranged in alphabetical order by folder title

Provenance

Acquired in 1996 from the headquarters of the International Board of Jewish Missions in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Preferred Citation

Jacob Gartenhaus Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Appleman, Hyman, 1902 –
Southern Baptist Convention, Home Mission Board
International Board of Jewish Missions (Chattanooga, Tennessee)
Hebrew Christian Alliance of America
Missions to Jews

Related Materials

Gartenhaus, Jacob. *Traitor? : A Jew, a book, a miracle : an autobiography*, 1980.

The story of Jacob [videorecording] Rec R998vt

Lawrence, Una Roberts. Papers. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives. AR 631

Container List

- 1.1 Bookmarks
- 1.2 Clippings, 1924 – 1966
- 1.3 Correspondence, 1920's
- 1.4 Correspondence, 1930's
- 1.5 Correspondence, 1940's
- 1.6 Correspondence, 1950's
- 1.7 Declaration of principles by Committees on goodwill/Federal Council of Churches and Central Conference of American Rabbis
- 1.8 Everlasting Nation, 1990 – 1991 (International Board of Jewish Missions)
- 1.9 Hebrew Christian Alliance of America – Minutes, 1950
- 1.10 International Hebrew Christian Conference, 1925
- 1.11 “My trip abroad” by Jacob Gartenhaus, 1947 (trip to Europe and Middle East)
- 1.12 New Testaments
- 1.13 Notebook (pamphlets and notes)
- 1.14 Pamphlets (Home Mission Board)
 - Jacob Gartenhaus, Christian
 - Jewish trophies of grace
 - Nuestra Esperanza
 - New emphasis on Jewish evangelization through the local church, A
 - Open letter to the Jewish people of the south, A
 - Urgent call on behalf of the Jews in the South, An
 - Virgin Birth of the Messiah, The
 - Who is He?
- 1.15 Pamphlets and booklets, International Board of Jewish Missions
- 1.16 Photographs
- 1.17 “Post War Europe and the Jews”
- 1.18 Programs, 1925 – 1948
- 1.19 Scrapbook and clippings, 1927 – 1939
- 1.20 Writings and addresses