

Dad E. T. Gackenheimer lost his Bible off the top of his car while serving the SDA Church in the Caribbean area or it could have been lost in Africa, but we don't know. How it has shown up in Chile, South America is anyone's guess. However, we do well remember the lost of his very important Bible. JWH.

Monday, June 08, 2009

["http://garcias2chile.blogspot.com/2009/06/story-in-soot.html"](http://garcias2chile.blogspot.com/2009/06/story-in-soot.html)

This morning, Pedro and I took a couple of hours to ourselves and headed downtown on a mission of multiple purposes. First we visited the bank and deposited the monies for our electric bill into our house owner's account (he has it debited automatically each month.) Then we visited the post office and picked up a few pieces of mail, mostly birthday cards for Isabel (which she will be delighted to receive!) And finally, we stopped at the Cioccolata cafe for a brunch of sandwiches and yummy ice cream melted into coffee/hot chocolate (his was the former, mine was the latter.) We looked over the calendar, chatted about the kids, discussed goals for our personal spiritual growth and devotional times, and talked over the upcoming ministry events and changes we are facing. It was a much-needed break for just the two of us!

Along the way to the post office, we made another stop as well. It turned out to be quite a fascinating one. On one of the downtown streets there is a dusty little store full of a drab assortment of American gadgets - mostly used sports equipment and kitchen wares - and I like to joke that whatever you put out for that garage sale ten years ago has probably found its way down to this store by now! remember correctl. I seriously don't know who would buy half the stuff in this place; in fact, I visited it once before but walked right out within a minute or two. It is aptly named "Cachureos Americanos" (American Odds-and-Ends) and according to the lady at the store, they buy the items by the pound off the container ships that come into Iquique's harbor.

What I missed on my last visit but discovered on this one was a delightful pile of old English books tucked away in a back corner. I found early editions of Gothic suspense novels by authors such as Phyllis Whitney and Victoria Holt, as well as books of various and sundry religious persuasions. As I perused the books, an aged leatherbound Bible caught my eye. The name written in cursive on the inside cover was E.T. Gackenhimer. I deduced from the writings on the front and back covers and throughout the Bible that perhaps it had belonged to a pastor, since there were texts for weddings and texts for funerals and even a short story about Spurgeon's preacher boys, if Iy.

Although I didn't purchase the Bible, I wrote down the name to look up when I reached home. Finding such a personal piece of someone's history intrigued and strangely saddened me. It didn't seem right for this special Book to be lost amidst the dusty novels and outdated Reader's Digest anthologies. Imagine my surprise when I returned home to do a Google search and found a story dedicated to Reverend E.T. Gackenhimer and his life and ministry. I've not read it all yet but apparently he was an Adventist preacher who served for 40 years in places around the world, including Africa and the Caribbean. I was delighted to know the Bible had belonged to someone interesting and special. Who knew that we would find such a "story in the soot" of a little shop in downtown Iquique, Chile?

I was even able to find an e-mail address for Rev. Gackenhimer's granddaughter. I wrote to share the story with her and look forward to her response. It is a small and curious world, indeed!

Posted by stephanie garcia

garcias2chile@abwe.cc

Dear friends: I am the one whose name is listed in Dad Gackenhimer's on-line story of his life "Bwana Moto". I am John W. Henson the father of Shandelle Henson. Shandelle is a teacher at Andrews University in Michigan. My wife Audrey was the daughter of Elder Gackenhimer.

We well remember the time dad lost his Bible by putting it on top of his car and driving off. I'm not sure if it was in Barbados or Africa. He was very sad over its loss. He died on June 4, 1989 and mom Gackenhimer is also now dead (2005).

We would really love to have the Bible. Please buy it and mail it to us. We will be happy to pay for your troubles. Just let us know the cost. This is very important to our family. He was an Adventist preacher for 40 years.

Looking forward to a reply from you.

God bless,

JWH

From: Pedro Garcia
Date: Monday, June, 8 2009 10:56pm
To: JWHenson
Subject: RE: The Lost Gackenheimer Bible
Dear Mr. Henson,

I will try to return to the store tomorrow morning to retrieve the Bible. It is no problem at all. I will be very glad to do so! My parents were missionaries, as are we, so I understand the significance of such an important piece of family history. God bless!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Garcia



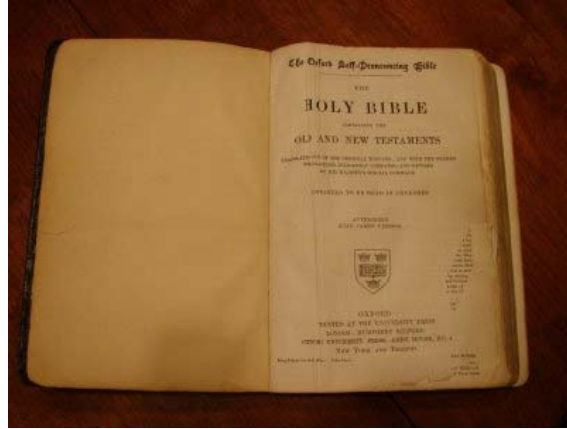
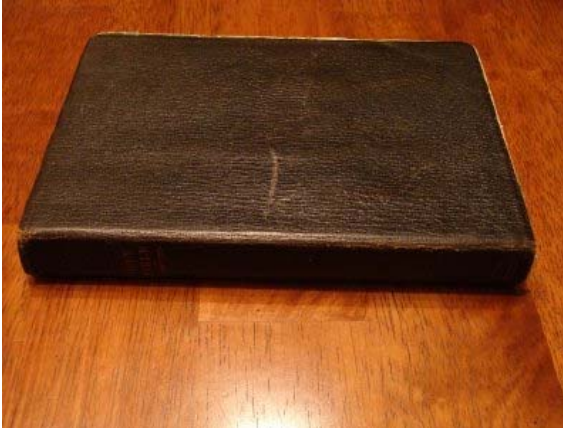
Iquique, Chile

From: Pedro Garcia
Date: Wednesday, June, 10, 2009 5:00pm
To: JWHenson
Subject: RE: The Lost Gackenheimer Bible

Dear Mr. Henson,

I returned to purchase the Bible and will be mailing it back to Rev. Gackenheimer's family soon. I made sure to pay for it first (in case the story increased its value, since most items do not carry price tags in this particular store.) Then I told the saleslady the whole story. She was quite surprised and impressed!

Stephanie Garcia



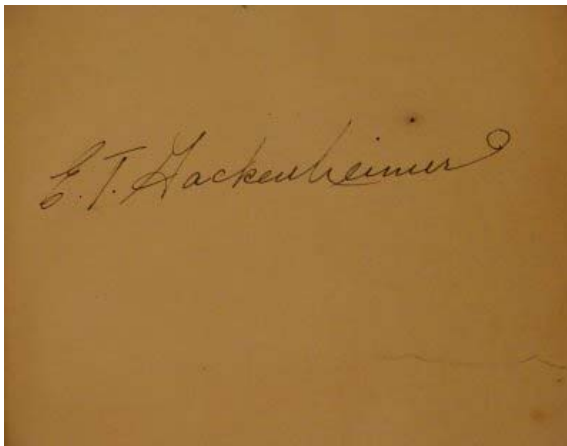
The Bible



The Store Where Bible Was Found



The Books



Dad's Signature