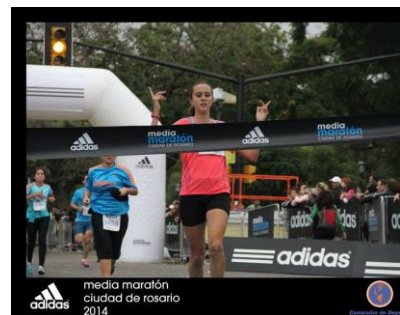


Laura Kyte (de Gonzalez)
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“Rejoice in the Lord always; I say it again, rejoice!” [Philippians 4.4](#)

In the highs and lows...God is still great

In the midst of some unexpected trials over the last month, I continue to **“learn the secret of contentment”** that Paul speaks of in [Philippians](#), that in times of abundance or in the desert-place, my soul can still shout, **“REJOICE”!** What I would call, real happiness.



I assume that if you know what you're looking for...you'll find it!

I am convinced that God is going to make me into the most empathetic sports chaplain ever! I had decided to invest in a trip to Buenos Aires to compete, quietly confident having shown some of my best form to date in training. However, I was struggling in the lead-up to my first race (of three planned), and a few days afterwards, was diagnosed with a quad strain and, more seriously, a hairline fracture (called a stress reaction) in my ankle.

This was a major blow and overwhelmingly frustrating, but I am eager to stand **FIRM** on God's word, and trust in who He is. The Bible tells us that the Lord is **FAITHFUL** ([Psalm 145.13](#), [Isaiah 49.7](#), [2 Thessalonians 3.3.](#), [2 Timothy 2.13](#)), even if we don't fully understand His ways ([Isaiah 55.9-10](#)), and has **GOOD PLANS** for His children ([Jeremiah 29.11](#), [Romans 8.28-29](#)). The biggest battlefield is often the mind and I am resolved to keep it under Christ's rule, rather than give the “father of lies” another victory ([John 8.44](#), [2 Corinthians 10.3-5](#)).

Whilst in Buenos Aires, I used my time to catch up with many names familiar to you by now; [RG](#), [LF](#), [LZ](#), [LC](#), as well as spending time with friends from “El Madero” like [CK](#), [DK](#) and [MA](#).



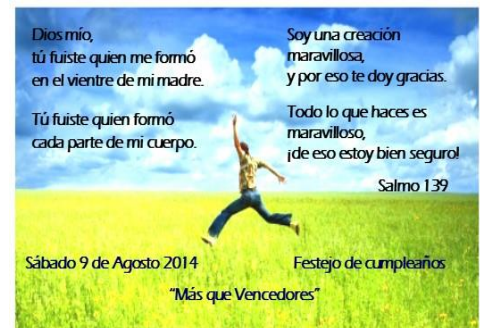
Back in Salta, I began physiotherapy and cross-training, and it has been lovely to spend time with the [BrkvdT family](#), friends from my Latin Link days. I have felt truly blessed to count on their support during this time, as well as get a little more involved with the many activities in their church, San Andrés. A 24 hour prayer event was arranged to coincide with the traditional **“Pachamama”** celebrations which encourage offerings to and worship of “Mother Earth”, rather than the one and **only Creator God**.

“The Lord is our God; the Lord is one” [Deuteronomy 6.4](#) (and part of the Jewish [Shema](#) prayer)

Prayer Point!

Pray for the physio treating me in Salta, VT. I was able to share something of my faith and gave her a DVD of athlete's testimonies. She said she wants to watch it with her sister who is an English teacher. Pray for God to be at work in their hearts!

Up in the mountains, things are progressing in Cachi! We were thrilled to incorporate ER into the group, an already renowned athletic talent who, after talks with his previous coach in Salta, recently began training under Fabio's direction. We welcomed several youngsters into our home on Saturday 9th August, where we celebrated all the birthdays of the year until that date (it was in fact one of the group's birthdays on that Saturday!). I had my first "mass" cooking experience, with 10 additional hungry mouths to feed (it's a start!), making pizza and pasta for the guests. We spent time talking and watching some athletics-related videos, before I gave a short talk on Psalm 139, centred on God the Creator and how He values us. I made a small wallet-sized card as a souvenir of the day and reminder of the key verse we looked at (verses 13-14). It was then time to sing "happy birthday" and, of course, the cake (courtesy of my sister-in-law, not my own baking skills!).



(l-r): group photo; share the joke!; the card and image of the day

We value your prayers for the word of God to fall on fertile ground, as well as for the hearts of those that couldn't come. We especially pray for CG and AP, who are experiencing some health problems.

We have also begun hosting elite athletes who arrive in Cachi for a stint of altitude training. We began with JC and SA, friends of ours for several years, and were amazed at the doors that God opened for us to share our lives and faith, chatting through some material from the Alpha Marriage Course, as well as a few devotionals aimed at couples. And we are booked out again! We now have LM and NE staying and there has already been one talk around "what is church?"...please pray for more opportunities to get to the heart of the Christian faith, Jesus Christ and His gift of grace.

I close with this final reflection from Mark Sawyer's excellent book, "The Trouble with Paris":

"...the incredible stress our culture places on pursuing our own will and goals will not lead us to lives that deliver happiness. But [...] Jesus calls us not just to surrender our wills but to engage in a whole new way of living. This is the true essence of conversion, the giving up of our way of doing things and turning control over to the Creator of the universe." (p.164)