

Laura Kyte & Fabio Gonzalez  
Cachi, Salta, Argentina  
October 2015



"+qV" even made it to Teas!

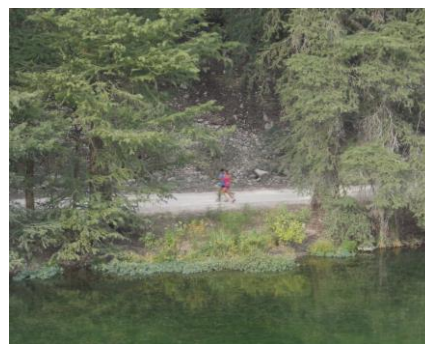
Following on from my **Pan American** experience, it wasn't long before I was back on the **North American continent**, flying out to **Texas** on September 21<sup>st</sup>. This time, however, I was not travelling alone, and the purpose of the trip was a mix of both "business" and pleasure! We landed in **San Antonio** airport on the day of our **3<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary** and this was probably our first proper holiday together, just us navigating the city sights! The reason we had come to this part of the world was because from the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October, we were participating in a **retreat/conference** for elite sports people, coaches and chaplains which had been recommended to us by several sports ministry colleagues. More about this shortly...



River Walk, San Antonio

Although technically on holiday, we were both excited to explore new places faster than walking pace, so training along the rivers in **San Antonio** and **Austin** were part of our daily routine. We even found a **5km race** in the centre of San Antonio which included a **race-walking category**, which unsurprisingly, Fabio won! I was also fairly pleased with my run, the added bonus being that I was the very first person to cross the finish line that day, even beating all the men!

After just over a week's holiday, we headed to **San Antonio** airport to be picked up and taken to a **conference/retreat centre** somewhere in the middle of no-where, where we would be for the next few days along with about 50 more athletes, coaches and chaplains. It was a breath-taking place of natural beauty with plenty of trails to explore and a crystal clear river for swimming or kayaking. We met some **fascinating people** from different parts of the world, some former or current Olympic medallists, but the most striking thing was that nobody was looking at who you were or had been as a coach or athlete; we were all there as a **community** of brothers and sister in Christ, seeking to build each other up and rest in God's presence. This made it a **safe place**, a refuge, for all of us whom God had brought there for His purposes. One of the highlights was being able to re-connect with good friends, encouragers and colleagues **Stuart (Verité)**, **BB (SRS Germany)** and **JW (Christians in Sport)**, as well as make new friends and share life experiences with others. Both of us left feeling **renewed, refreshed and thankful** that we could be a part of this unique time together.



Fabio & Stuart on our balcony; can you spot which of the two flying dots is me? And whilst I stay on dry ground, Fabio gets his feet wet! Note the beautiful scenery!

Upon our arrival back in Argentina, Fabio was straight back into action, making the 6 hour coach trip down to **Mar del Plata** where the national schools games, “**Juegos Evita**”, are held annually. They had been brought forward this year due to general elections, but Fabio was keen to go, even though he had not been named as an official coach, despite having 7 young athletes on the Salta team! We **praise God** for His hand over logistics as Fabio was able to be included in the same hotel as the other coaches, and we are so thankful for the results that He has given us, with two race-walking gold medals and several personal bests. This has been a great year for Fabio as a coach; we see **God’s faithfulness** in guiding the decision-making process we faced nearly two years ago regarding Fabio’s



Young athletes from Cachi enjoying the beach in Mar del Plata



*I will keep running for Jesus, however fast or slow, as long as He enables me to!*

race-walking career and move into coaching. However, he is not completely done yet as he plans to represent Salta in the **National Athletics Championships** in December, hopefully getting a medal for the province; so he will be back in **Mar del Plata** in a couple of months! I am **praying** over whether I should attempt to join him or not, but it depends on our finances, my fitness and my eligibility, which I trust the Lord will make clear in time. Personally, although results have not been anything spectacular this year, I am **thankful** to be in much better health and able to train consistently; it is always nice to feel faster and to hold on to good form for longer periods of time but at least I am not bed-bound every couple of months! I trust that my body will continue to recover in **God’s time**, and I am learning that sports ministry as an athlete is not always about where you are on the rankings or the podium; of course, being high up can open many doors, but **God is bigger** than this and works through our relationships with others and our faithfulness to Him through the difficult and inexplicable moments. **Thank you** for continuing to pray for both of us in this area of our lives.

Some of you are aware that at the beginning of September, **Fabio’s father** passed away. This was not wholly unexpected, as his health had been deteriorating for some time, however, it is always a shock and comes too soon.

**Thank you** to those who have been praying for Fabio’s family, and we continue to particularly pray for **MT**, Fabio’s mum, who had devoted most of the day’s 24 hours caring for her husband over the last few years. We also pray for **God’s justice, peace and direction** in the life of **NG**, Fabio’s younger sister, who made the brave decision to return to Cachi at the time of her father’s burial in order to leave behind a very unhealthy relationship. She is firm in her decision but this has not gone down well with her partner, who is the father of one of her two small boys, and she fears that he will take legal action causing things to get messy. Fabio and I believe that NG has made the right decision, but unless the **Lord intervenes and transforms** the situation, things could become very complicated. We pray that **His will be done, strength** for NG and **wisdom** as we stand by her.

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