

Laura Kyte & Fabio Gonzalez
Cachi, Salta, Argentina
February 2016



Exhausted but content after organising Cachi's first "Women's Race" in January!

We are entering the final two weeks of the long Argentine summer holiday, with January and February the most popular "get-away" months. Cachi welcomes hundreds of **tourists** during this time, with **athletes** forming a large percentage of them, choosing to spend their pre-season training at altitude. Making the most of this influx, Fabio and I organised the **first race exclusively for women** around the streets of Cachi. The new mayor had wanted to encourage the female population to get active and so the incentive was aimed at the locals but also open to any tourists and athletes that wanted to participate. We were delighted with the turn-out, especially the number of "cacheñas" that took part, and both Fabio and I felt that it would be good to incorporate more event-organising as part of our "**Más que Vencedores**" project, in partnership with the town council. We see looking after the body as an integral part of God's purposes, as **1 Thessalonians 5.23** reminds us:

*"Now may the God of peace sanctify you [] completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and **body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (my bold)

Our bodies are not separate from the rest of us, and form an integral part of how we look after ourselves spiritually. In my experience as a female athlete, sport can also be closely linked with **self-esteem** and the majority of women in Cachi feel embarrassed about being seen doing physical activity. This will no doubt slowly change naturally over the course of time but it would be a wonderful opportunity to share something of God's love through the very practice of sport, **empowering women in both sport and faith**.



They're off! International athlete CL (Santa Fe, Argentina) led the charge from start to finish



Handing out goody bags to the finishers



We had four over 60's and one 75 year-old finisher, pictured with Fabio, Salta's head of youth development and FILA coach Carolina Rossi who came from Buenos Aires to help out.

You may remember me mentioning that Fabio was being considered for the position of **Sports Director** of Cachi. After trialling the job for a month, we realised (quite early on in fact) that this was a case of the "**good**" being the enemy of the "**best**". The position demanded more than full time which was taking Fabio away from the activities that we had initiated here in Cachi through athletics, rather than complimenting them. The mayor, although disappointed, was very understanding, and Fabio has negotiated a new role as **Director of Athletics**, which gives him the authority to oversee activities on the track and make suggestions to improve the facilities. This is obviously much more in line with our vision, and through which we aim to maintain a positive relationship with the authorities, hoping to serve them through our project, for example, through event-organising or basic physical training for the police and new contingent of volunteer fire fighters. We are so **thankful** to God for "**making straight our paths**" during this sometimes difficult period, and for sustaining us through it all (**Proverbs 3.5-6**).

Our **extension** is finally finished and is already in use! We hosted Salta athlete **RB** and during Cachi's annual music festival in January, with about 6 of his family all piled up in the new room! We are currently renting to club runners **AG and VC** from Buenos Aires. It's a blessing to be able to offer people a place to stay whilst having a bit more space ourselves, and also keeping the spare room free in case any family or friends decide to visit for a couple of days. It also provides us with some income, so although the investment has been high and the wait a long one, we are so thankful to **Jehovah Jireh** for his great **provision**. We pray that we would be able to spend some time with our guests and for **opportunities to serve and come alongside other athletes** that are training in Cachi during this busy time of year. We are also planning a get-together with our **young athletes** to celebrate the several birthdays that have come and gone over the last six weeks, we pray that they would actually come and would feel at home with us.

I have been thrilled with my training over the last few weeks and was able to make the long trip to the town of **Federal, Entre Ríos** province, to participate in a competitive 10km race, delighted to finish third. Looking ahead to March, there are potentially three important races on the horizon, with amazing provision from the organisers who are able to budget for travel costs. However, things are not all rosy at the moment, as I am struggling with some pain in my hamstring, preventing me from training properly. My prayer is of course that God would **restore** my body and enable me to race in my best form in March; at the same time, it is important to remember that I am human and need to be **wise** in listening to my own body, to respect and look after it rather than always trying to push through. I still find injury and fatigue very difficult to deal with, given my catalogue of past cases, however minor they are. I still need to learn how to fully rest in **God's peace** in these situations, not to despair but to choose to stand firm on who He is and His purposes. I recently published a **devotional** about building our identity on the "rock" rather than the sand; it's time for me to put it in practice!



Finally, I share the following prayer requests with you:

- Sports ministry colleagues **MO and RT** recently lost their 2 year old daughter very suddenly. Their rock-steady faith has been incredible and inspiring. May the Lord continue to **sustain** them through this confusing and painful time, and may we all learn to **draw closer to Him in suffering**, rather than distance ourselves and reject God because of the problem of pain.
- News about **Rio!** All international chaplains that have been recommended to the organising committee for both the Olympics and Paralympics are still in the dark. Please pray for **L** who is heading up the chaplaincy in Brazil, and we pray God would open doors for the people He wants to be there. If He wills it, I will be one of them (Paralympics)!



Los Guayacanes 146, Salta, 4400, Argentina
00 54 9: 11 4157 3005/387 507 2079
laurakytedefonzalez86@gmail.com

www.veritesport.org
fabengo@hotmail.com

www.facebook.com/masquevendorecachi
Skype: laura_kyte fabio.marchista