

Laura Kyte (de Gonzalez)
July 2013



Getting back on track...

Winter is here and the truth is that its arrival hit us hard, as the past couple of months have been full of challenges, difficult decisions and delicate health.



Post-sports ministry talk, with DD and M

Firstly, many thanks for your prayers for the sports ministry talk I gave at **M's** church at the start of the month. It was a great experience and went very well, and at the end of the talk, a relatively new Christian, **DD**, came up to me and said how much he was touched by what I had shared. He is a former professional volleyball player, and is currently in rehabilitation for drug abuse, a problem which began after leaving professional sport. He told us how the church had been a great support for him over the last year, and how the talk opened his eyes to see sport and God's purposes for sport in his life in a whole new way. It is such a privilege to see how God had planned for **DD** to be there just at that moment to hear something so relevant for his life, please remember him, and of course **M**, in your prayers!

The difficult decision we were faced with during the month of May was whether or not we would continue with our coach and biomechanic, **D**. The various institutional complications which emerged at the beginning of the year (bursaries, lack of funding, unjust decisions etc) made working together over the last few months quite a strain, and a few additional issues began to arise which prompted Fabio and I to pray about whether continuing with **D** was the right thing. After talking it through and with much prayer in between, we decided to separate, a tough decision but one which left us at peace. Some time ago Fabio and I had prayed about whether the door might open one day for us to work together as coach and athlete respectively, planning my training and competition schedule together; and we believe that the time has come for this to now become reality. Fabio, who also remains without a coach, hopes that the *Argentine Athletics Confederation* will accept a proposal which would allow me to represent him within the governing body as he aims to continue as a self-coached athlete.

Please pray that God would have His hand over these issues; that He would protect and strengthen our relationship now with a sporting dimension added to it; and that He would guide and open the way for this partnership to bear fruit and be a blessing to each other and to those around us.

Following this difficult decision, my **health** in particular suffered a substantial blow with the first bouts of cold weather, another frustrating time of not being able to train and get back to form. I was laid low for about three weeks and the first days of getting back into things were tough! However, I am thrilled to say that I have made some good **progress** in my fitness over the last month, and I have **two races** in mind for the month of July in an attempt to get back into things, regardless of the result. A good number of people are quite keen to see me return to competition, the majority for positive reasons although of course, there is the odd handful of people who are waiting for you to fall flat on your face! Returning to competition, especially in mediocre fitness, is, however, a good test for the **heart**; making sure I am doing my sport for the Lord first and not motivated or worried by the opinions or expectations of those around me.

At the end of July, Fabio and I will be travelling to **Cachi** to furnish the house that is being built there, we are excited about this! We will spend a month getting it ready to rent out to athletes in particular who travel up to **Cachi** to train at altitude. Please pray:

- that the Lord would inspire us as we think about how we can leave a “God flavour” around the house, perhaps through decorative details (pictures, Bible verses, literature) as well as through praying for those who will be staying there as this happens.

- for opportunities to bless and share with any sports people who might be training at this time of year (we know of one athlete so far).

Fabio and I also successfully completed *The Marriage Course* along with **DK and CK** from *El Madero*. This was a great time of fellowship for us as two married couples, as well as providing Fabio and I with some practical tools to get the best out of our marriage and work through any issues we might have. Praise God for this resource and also for **DK and CK's** effort in setting up the church and preparing a delicious meal week in week out!



Celebrating the end of the Marriage Course with DK and CK

We have also had some great opportunities to get alongside other athletes, both Christian and non-Christian alike:

- Fabio was able to attend the cell group run by Christian athletes **Y, L, and V**, which centres on a sporting Bible study and discussion with other athletes of some or no faith.

He was also able to meet up with Christian athlete **DJ** and encourage him in his faith and sport, please remember these three athletes in your prayers as they seek to love God in and through their sport.

- **MB** is a very promising middle-distance athlete from the city of Mar del Plata, and I was able to meet up with her, along with **Y and V**, as she passed through Buenos Aires on her way to the *South American Athletics Championships* in Colombia. **Y and V** had been able to get alongside **MB** regularly and share their faith with her, and it seems that the Lord has been working in her heart to bring her to Jesus. It was wonderful to be able to pray together for **MB** before leaving for Colombia and to give her a sports Bible (a New Testament with sporting testimonies and a concordance for sports-related issues)



Fabio with (l-r) V, Y and MB

- I would appreciate your prayers for **O**, whom I had begun meeting up with for discipleship. These meetings have not happened for a while due to various family issues that **O** has to resolve, also meaning she has not been making it to church. Please pray that God would open the door for us to meet again, and above all, that the Lord would be guarding her heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

- I continue to pray that our God will cause “the morning star [to rise] in your hearts” in the lives of **LF, LZ and S** (taken from **2 Peter 1.19**), whom I continue to pray for and share life with as much as possible.

With love in Christ,
Laura and Fabio

Pico 2820 3A, Saavedra, CP: 1429, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina

loz-floz@talk21.com

Skype: laura_kyte

www.veritesport.org