

Laura Kyte & Fabio Gonzalez
Cachi, Salta, Argentina
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The last update of the year! Where has 2015 gone? It feels like yesterday that we were touching down in the UK for Fabio's first English Christmas and then time with family and friends. This year will be a quiet **Christmas in Cachi**, in the sunshine with Fabio's family, and we also plan to open our home to the handful of athletes that will be around.

Following the "Juegos Evita" back in October, many of our teenagers disappeared to concentrate on their end-of-year exams, so our focus switched to a growing number of **9-12 year-olds** that had started to come to the track in the afternoon. We took a few to the city of **Salta** at the end of October, to participate in an athletics tournament with events for younger athletes, and a month later, we organised our own meeting in **Cachi**. We were pleased to have attracted about 10 under 12's and thanks to the authorities, contacts and some parents, we were able to distribute trophies and medals, and hold a raffle! We **thank the Lord** for helping us to organise this event, for His provision and for the encouraging results. There are plans to organise more track meetings next year, and Fabio had a very **positive talk** with the incoming mayor about our project, including the possibility of organising athletics and running events in general to encourage the people of Cachi to be more active.



Some images from our recent athletics event

During the month of October I was able to re-connect with PanAm athlete **RG**, pretty much picking up where we left off in Toronto, sharing runs, tea time (see below!) and life in general. She was preparing for the Valencia Marathon, an opportunity to qualify for the Rio Olympics, which she just missed by 25 seconds! This means she will be back in Cachi in March in preparation for her final attempt the following month in Santiago, Chile.

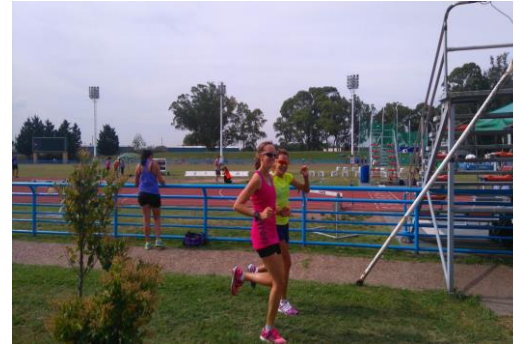
We were also hosted another PanAm athlete, **BC**, during a period of altitude training but unfortunately she had to return home early having picked up an injury. Please pray for both of these athletes, above all things that **God's love and presence** would shine in their hearts and lives.

November was a busy month for me running-wise, with trips to **Salta** and neighbouring province **Tucuman**. Both of these races provided opportunities to share about what we are doing in Cachi within the running community, and my better consistency this year led to an invite to a race at the end of the month in **Rosario de Lerma**, about half an hour away from the city of Salta.

As I write, we have just returned from **Mar del Plata**, where we both participated in the **National Athletics Championships**, Fabio representing the province of Salta in the 10.000m race-walk and me as a guest over 5000m. After thought and prayer, I decided to give competing a go, having felt in progressively better shape over the last couple of months. Fabio secured a **silver medal** for Salta and I was delighted to

improve my personal best time, despite the heat wave that occurred on my day of competition, and if I were Argentine, I also would have come back with a silver medal, having finished in second place!

As well as competition and some paddling in the ocean, we were delighted to see race-walker **JC**, becoming national champion on his birthday, and distance runner **SA**, fully recovered from her marathon in Valencia. We continue to pray for them in the same way as **RG** and **BC**, and we look forward to welcoming **SG** to Cachi in March as she will also prepare the Santiago marathon.



I-r: afternoon tea with Rosa, Juan and Fabio, Sandra and I

As mentioned, we will be in Cachi for **Christmas**, and we already know some athletes that will be training over the festivities, so we are planning to invite them to our house for a meal or something similar, during which we hope to share **a reflection** about the meaning of Christmas. Please pray for us as we invite people and for boldness to share the wonderful news about the coming of the King! We also pray that we would be **faithful witnesses and generous hosts** to D-Phil Student **AR**, who will be staying with us until early February.

On the morning of New Year's Eve, there is- of course!- a race in **Rosario de Lerma**, a traditional and important annual competition called the "San Silvestre". There are two races, 15km and 8km; I hope to finish the 15km in one piece (the heat in Mar del Plata was a good warm up!) and Fabio will have a go at running the 8km, no race-walking in the middle! We continue **to pray for good relationships** within the Salta running community enabling us **to share Christ**, especially at this significant time of year.

We value your prayers as we look ahead to **2016**. I would love to build on a positive year running-wise, but also remain open to other doors that the Lord may open, notably whether I am selected as chaplain for the **Paralympic Games in Rio** in September. We also pray for the **new governments** both at national and local level, and as part of the changes in Cachi, there is a strong possibility that **Fabio** is offered the position of **Sports Director**. This could be very positive but we are not sure how this might affect other priorities such as our training group and activities with the young people. We pray for God's **wisdom and peace** as He goes before us and leads the way.

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" Colossians 3.17. **Here's to a blessed Christmas and New Year!**

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