

Laura Kyte & Fabio Gonzalez  
Cachi, Argentina/Birmingham  
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*During a family visit to Swindon*

Six weeks ago, we touched down in London Heathrow for an extended stay in the UK, and have now settled into a routine in and around Birmingham, living with my parents who have generously made room for us!

Fabio is now half way through his term of English study and is making good progress. He has been placed a class that is stretching him to the limit but we think that the class below would be too basic, so he is persevering where he is. Reading and writing are the most difficult areas for him, but his speaking and listening have improved a great deal, and will no doubt continue to do so as time goes on. He has enjoyed getting to know other students from all over the world, and is also adapting well to life in the Kyte household!



*Fabio with classmates and giving a presentation to them recently.*

We had thought since 2015 that Fabio would study English during our next UK visit, however, some of you have been aware that for me, this trip is more than just the usual "home leave", where we try and visit as many people as possible. The last 12 months in Argentina were a real struggle for me, causing lots of emotional imbalance, spiritual

dryness and physical ups and downs. I hit a wall and had had enough, a reaction that is common in cases of burnout, and it has been recommended to me that I switch off and avoid taking on too many commitments. This does leave me in a bit of limbo about the future, torn between conflicting desires and a sense of duty, which in turn provoke some anxiety as I feel that I have no clear sense of direction or specific call. Furthermore, I am burdened knowing how well Fabio has been doing in Cachi with coaching and various commitments; why would he want to be anywhere else? Deep down, I am still passionate about the overarching vision of serving and ministering to sports people, applying faith to sport and exploring God's purposes in and through sport, but I have been encouraged not to rush into making decisions about the next steps, rather to keep praying and waiting on God, His timing, and His Spirit to show both of us the way forward. Confronting these issues, trying to dig deeper into how this burnout or breakdown came about, will be the difficult part of my time here, as I seek to work through them with help from leaders and counsellors, but something I feel is essential for the long term, especially when thinking about future ministry.

Consequently, this raises issues about returning to Argentina and my future with Verité Sport. For now, we are due to return in March, Fabio a few weeks before me, to resume our activities in Cachi. We pray that things would become clearer over the coming months, that the Lord would bring agreement, joy and clear conviction about the next steps. We also really value prayer for our marriage as unsurprisingly, we have felt the strain of unsettled emotions and questions about the future.



*Where is the Lord leading?*

Now for some more light-hearted news I am happy to share. Injuries prevented me from running the **Birmingham Half Marathon** in the way I had hoped to, and although after a month's training I felt I could complete a 13-mile run, I had originally made the decision not to go, as I decided I didn't want to risk getting dragged around at a pace I wasn't ready for. The Monday of race week, I received an invitation to a **media call** with other local participants who had been featured in the lead-up to the event, and former World 10.000m Champion and Olympic silver medallist, **Liz McColgan**, ambassador for the Great Birmingham Run. I decided that this was an opportunity not to be missed, and it motivated me to go ahead with the plan of using the event as a training run, seeing how I felt on the day. It was great to meet and hear the stories of inspiring people, and somehow I made it on local TV! You can see the playback on <https://www.madeinbirmingham.tv/catchup/?c=news&p=x4ugxl&v=x64rdfs> from about 15'30.



As for the run itself, I was pleasantly surprised by how good I felt, and could push on and make a race of it, especially during the latter third. The only slight bittersweet moment is that had I been in the shape I was in May, for my first half marathon, I could well have won it! It is difficult to understand why these things happen in sport, especially when it was a silly fall that started a chain of injuries, but God has been present through it all and this time it was more about *overcoming* circumstances than a black and white result, something I have been encouraged to focus on over the last year. I am also happy to be back running with my local club, **Bromsgrove and Redditch AC**, as well as getting to know a few people down the local gym, as I continue to represent Christ in the sporting environment I love and believe I was purposed for.

Finally, we are delighted to report that in the recent **Evita Games**, the national schools' multi-sport championship, our athletes **Alejandro** and **Nadia** brought back two medals, gold and bronze respectively.



As well as hours of studying, **Fabio** has regularly been in contact with his athletes and with **Kelo** and **Claudia**, who have taken on the responsibility for continuing the group. We **thank the Lord** for their willingness and commitment, maintaining the good results we have become used to over the last few years. We are also thankful for Fabio's sister, **Norma**, who is looking after our house during our time away, including any visitors that stay there. **We pray and bless them, and hope that you will do too!**

*And of course, thank you for your continued partnership in the gospel to this point, your prayers and words of encouragement have blessed us beyond words.*

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