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Enjoying a day out at the races in Salta

We hope that the New Year has gotten off to a flying start...it has here!

This time last year I was just beginning to run again, slowly incorporating some new biomechanics...and following an extremely tough 2013 running-wise, I started the year with a **5000m personal best**, totally surprising myself and everyone! I remember in my last update I shared *Proverbs 13.12*: "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is the tree of life." This is exactly how I feel after waiting and persevering. A few pictures to share the moment, and to **give thanks to God for his faithfulness!**



We value your prayers for our hearts to be faithful in honouring God "in very little" or "in much" (see *Luke 16.10-11*) as we continue the year in our sport and some new projects...



Ten days previously we had returned from an eventful month in **Salta and Cachi**. As usual, we were training at altitude, visiting the family and overseeing the progress of our house. We even managed to pop back down the mountains to Salta and compete just before New Year! As early on as the first week, we both began to feel that the north was where we really wanted to be. Our lease in Buenos Aires comes to an end in March, which is when we will move. More information to follow shortly, but we are really excited by the prospect of **moving** either to Salta (the capital of the Salta province)

or Cachi! Please pray for the Lord's hand over the logistics of our move, our contacts and our conversations as we work out what our next projects will eventually look like in practice.

Between us, Fabio and I had some **fruitful chats** with athletes that were training at altitude in Cachi. Those who go there specifically to train have more time on their hands and are **open** to sharing more about faith and its connection to sport. Cachi is surrounded by breath-taking landscape which is a good way to get people thinking about God the Creator. Such was the case with marathon runner **MP**, who reached the 2012 Olympics, one of several athletes preparing for the up and coming ODESUR Games. It was great to meet her personally and have the opportunity to share life and faith, which so often come my way thanks to being a foreigner; everyone wants to know why I came to Argentina! Please pray for **MP**, and for the Lord to be at work in her life and in her heart as we continue to keep in touch.



Home sweet home...?

For a better look at Cachi's landscape, see this report by Carolina Rossi, an athletics journalist for major Argentine news channel C5N. No Spanish? Just enjoy the images...and you might see a familiar face!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kff_JniAtPQ&list=UUFgk2Q2mVO1BklRQhSv6p0w&feature=c4-overview

I am excited by the idea of being in Cachi, either living or on a regular basis as we move north. As mentioned, there are great opportunities to **spend time and talk openly** with many elite runners and triathletes; I imagine organising a dinner or afternoon tea (or coffee or “mate” for the Argentines!) with a small group and sharing our testimonies, even organising a Bible study or talk about how to live out faith in Christ as an athlete. We value your prayers- and suggestions/comments/ideas!- about how we can be a blessing to athletes that visit Cachi; and of course, for those young athletes whom we wish to get alongside on a more regular basis, such as **ER, SF, CD, PG and JC**.



Getting ready for the big day!

Back in Buenos Aires, we are looking forward to another **marriage** in “El Madero”; my friend and former flat mate **MA** marries **EB** on February 9th. They were just “pipped to the post” by **JC and MK** from Brasil, now back in the city and adjusting to married life. Please join with us in *praying* for the love of Christ to abound in each couple as they begin a new chapter of life together as one!



Newly weds!

We will be sorry to leave “El Madero” and so many wonderful friends and ministry colleagues in Buenos Aires, but it will be a joy to begin a new chapter of ministry with **churches, Christian networks and sports people** in Salta and the northern region. There is so much spiritual need, and so much scope for sharing with other Christians about the potential of sport in fulfilling God’s kingdom with other Christians, such as:

- *sport as worship;* - *sport as a way of reaching out to the community;*
- *sport as a medium for communicating Biblical values and principles;*
- *sport as a way of life, where players/athletes need specific support, prayer and understanding.*

We are blessed to have Latin Link missionaries **P and HB**, and my former mentors **D and FL**, living in Salta; not only do we have their friendship, but also great contacts among **churches** in Salta and the wider



With Angelica, Miguel’s wife, and their youngest daughter Ámbar

province where we can vision cast and get to know any Christian sports people needing support. We also look forward to being more involved with **Pastor M** and his outreach in Cachi; during our time there we enjoyed a lovely day out with the family to Algarrobal, about 16km from the town, along a winding, mountainous road. They were thrilled to hear of our decision to move up north!

In the meantime, please pray that we “**finish well**” here in Buenos Aires, offering the best support possible to, and making the most of our time with:

- **MEP**, as she begins training with a new basketball club; pray for recovery after suffering from some burn-out following personal and sporting difficulties.
- **YO, LO and VC**, as they continue their witness among friends and athletes in the CeNARD.
- **DJ**, still seeking direction over possible mission projects abroad.
- **LC**, coming to terms with possible separation from her husband and what happens next.
- **LF, LZ, RG and AG**; for God to be at work in their hearts and through our lives.

Thank you so much for praying with and for us!