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Cachi, Salta, Argentina  
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What has PG been up to? And who are these new faces in Cachi?

We have a **NATIONAL CHAMPION** in Cachi! 15 year-old race-walker **PG** recently took part in the National Under 20 Athletics Championships and won the 10.000m title. We are thrilled for this young athlete who has shown so much dedication and commitment since taking up the sport almost one year ago; he has made fantastic progress. Although not all athletes took part in the championships this year, to **PG's** advantage, we are very proud and **give thanks to God** for the progress seen in **PG's** own personal growth. When there is an exciting prospect of a medal, it is still hugely important to hold your nerve and not get too "hyped up" before the competition. We are especially proud and thankful because **PG** travelled without **Fabio** for the first time (as part of the Salta team) and showed himself to be mentally strong and in control of his emotions. **Thank you for praying for our young athletes and their development!**

April and May have been fairly quiet months in Cachi in terms of visiting athletes but one which has been extremely positive for **Fabio** in particular, who was unexpectedly given a job as "personal trainer" to **PAA** and **SAE**, who arrived in Cachi to prepare for a mountain race taking place in Salta and Jujuy (8-10<sup>th</sup> May). Both enjoy running as an outlet from work and city life, quite a contrast from the elite, professional athletes who usually come to Cachi, and we enjoyed getting to know both of them. We spent time "off-track" by having them around for lunch and making the most of a couple of social occasions in Cachi like the fortnightly French cinema evening and a monthly women's meeting. The latter was particularly interesting as the meeting was dedicated to **Alejandra**- a teacher from Buenos Aires but living in Cachi for several years with her husband and young son **Joaquín**- who passed away suddenly during her battle with cancer. Those who attended were invited to share their memories of her and reflections on death and mourning process, which provided a great opportunity to share something about the **hope we have in Christ**. **PAA** opened up about some of the very sad things that had happened in her family, and I spoke of **Emily** and the sometimes difficult "mourning" process of being far away from home. I shared **how the Lord sustains me and gives me hope** through these things, and I was encouraged that **AM**, the co-leader of our small Christian community here in Cachi, was also present and sharing her experiences as a Christian.



*Left to right: the northwest of Argentina, known as the Noa region, where sport has taken me recently! With NC last year; with AS and JL from Tucumán, during their stay in Cachi.*

Sport has continued to provide me with several opportunities to share **the importance of Jesus in my life** with fellow athletes. In March we met **AS and JL** from neighbouring province **Tucuman** and in April I decided to compete in a 10km race there. I stayed with them for a couple of nights and it was lovely to share life and faith, especially after I thanked them with a card and the famous leaflet and magnet combo!

I also met up with **NC** from the Salta running circuit, currently out of action as she is heavily pregnant! Again, another opportunity to **share life and support her** through this time of big changes for her and her partner **JL**, also a successful runner from the province of **Jujuy**.

I currently find myself in **Buenos Aires** where I am staying with **MA and husband EB** (friends from “El Madero”), in the same flat I used to share with MA! Our single ladies flat is now a family home! I am in **Buenos Aires** for racing commitments with my club, **FC Max**. I give thanks for a good race in the city of **Rosario** as part of the Adidas Half Marathon and 5km event; not only was I pleased with my performance, but I also had opportunities to get to know fellow team mate **DO**, who said she was brought up in a Christian family. **The Lord always surprises me and I feel encouraged that He chooses to place me in these situations to encourage other athletes in their faith, whether great or small.**



With  
DO  
before  
racing

I am in **Buenos Aires** for another week with one more race at the weekend. I pray that I may be a **blessing** to others, especially those I hope to see during this time: **LZ, RG, SA and AJ** from the sports ministry network, among others. I value **prayers for good health and protection** as I continue this competitive cycle which could mean frequent racing until June, hopefully including a trip to race in **Jujuy**.

Following recent election fever in the UK, we would be grateful if you could lift up the **political leadership** of **Cachi and the province of Salta** in general, as the 17<sup>th</sup> May will see an election of a new mayor or the re-election of the current mayoress. Elections in **Cachi** (and most of the country) are always rife with controversy and accusations of corruption. After 24 years in power, people are becoming restless for change and more vocal in their opinions, and even though the mayoress did NOT win the first round by a sizeable margin, people still wonder if their votes will make any difference in the second and final round.

We are comforted by the fact that Jesus knew all about corrupt politics, and how amazing to think that He represents such a different kind of government; servant leadership, justice and truth, all characteristics of **the kingdom of God and His rule!** Both **Fabio and I** have been casting votes recently and we were encouraged by the simple yet clear reminder in **Revelation 1.5**: “...Jesus Christ...the ruler of the kings of the earth”.

*Whatever happens politically in our countries- and in our lives in general- our God is still seated on His glorious throne, the King of Kings!*

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