

Laura Kyte (de Gonzalez)
March 2013



"There is none like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is great in might" Jeremiah 10.6

"Great is our LORD, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure" Psalm 147.5

It is always good to kick-start any day or activity praising God and remind ourselves that whatever we face, our Lord never changes!

Firstly, Fabio and I want to say a big THANK YOU for your prayers regarding unexpected complications to bursaries and funding. In general terms, the situation is still unresolved and we are waiting for further news about how things will develop. In the meantime, training has continued and to help "top up the funds" I have been able to start some part time administration work via the web with "Christians in Sport", hours which I fit around training and ministry activities. In addition to this has been the generosity of supporters, thus enabling us to keep up such activities (more details below!), and recently we received some promising news that one of Fabio's bursaries looks set to continue, a small monthly amount but certainly a great help in closing the deficit we have been facing. We are SO GRATEFUL for your specific prayers, support and encouragement during a tough couple of months, though we have experienced God's faithfulness and love in so many ways, and even though there are still things to resolve funding-wise, we will continue to trust...and praise!

I have it on my heart to tell you about the current situation of our church "El Madero", and ask for your prayers around this issue.



David's (semi-kneeling) birthday gathering with friends from El Madero

In 2011, just after I had joined the church, we were all shaken up by the sudden news that the pastor's wife had left her husband and wanted a divorce. Despite everything, our pastor **E** was committed to "El Madero" and kept things afloat with the support of the Unión Evangélica Argentina (the denomination which El Madero belongs to) and the congregation. However, it was clear that these events had taken their toll on **E** and after finishing his degree in medicine (which he had also been doing alongside pastoring a church!) at the beginning of 2012, he was offered the chance to complete the practical part of his degree in his town of origin, Punta Alta, in the far south of the Buenos Aires province. He accepted as it

was a good opportunity for a fresh start and although we knew he would be sorely missed, as a church we supported his decision.

E left in June, as Fabio and I left for the UK. Upon our return we were surprised to see dwindling numbers, as many had left at the same time as **E**. The church continues without a pastor, with no-one to fill the vacancy. Two members of the congregation, **LC** and **D**, have been overseeing the pastoral and teaching side of things, with everyone getting involved where they can. On one hand it is sad to see a once thriving church now reduced to a group of about 10 regular and committed members; on the other hand, the general feeling is that this is a good time to refine and sharpen our gifts and commitment to El Madero and its members, to deepen our friendships and care of one another and to persevere in prayer and faith. We sense that the Lord is giving us a "spiritual detox" and challenging us to stand firm and although we

need to be praying for a leader, not to simply sit and wait for one to drop into our laps, but to fill the gaps ourselves with our own teaching, pastoral care and leadership gifts, something which is already happening. So despite everything, there continues to be an atmosphere of looking ahead and expectancy as we wait on the Lord.

For me personally, the door opened to become more involved in leading worship, something which I have had on my heart for a long time, and I am also involved in co-leading a small female discipleship group. I have definitely felt a “burden” for El Madero in the sense of “staying put and assuming responsibility” rather than looking elsewhere.

Please join with us in praying for El Madero, for protection and growth in this time, and for God’s will to be done regarding leadership and the direction in which we are headed.

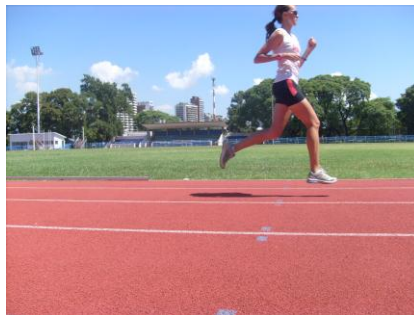
Other news and prayer points:

- Please pray for **M**’s parents facing health difficulties, but praise God for the consistent example that she gives to her family and friends.
- **L** and her family, following the sudden death of her husband’s sister and brother-in-law in a fatal car accident. Please pray for God’s mercy and consoling hand on **L**’s nephews (**F** and **C** in their teens) who were seriously injured in the accident and recovering, suffering physical as well as psychological consequences as they face life without their parents. This is such a tragic situation, let’s be praying that God works miraculously through this situation and surrounds the boys and their family with love and Christian care.
- **LS**, a (non-Christian) running friend of mine, has separated from her long-term partner. I have been meeting with her to encourage her and keep her company in this difficult time. Please pray for God to reveal His love to her and that He would give me His words of wisdom to build her up and point her to Christ.

Finally, a quick mention about biomechanics; can you spot the difference?



Cachi Jan 2012



Buenos Aires Feb 2013

Hopefully you’ll agree that the image on the right is a lot prettier than the one on the left! The last couple of months have been very positive, a few “growing pains” here and there (i.e. getting the body used to a new style of running) but on the whole, moving forward.

We look forward to hearing your news and sharing prayer requests. Thank you for blessing us!

With love in Christ,
Laura and Fabio

“The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble” Psalm 9.9

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