

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala
www.porchdesalomon.org

and on [facebook](#)

Lloyd and Melanie Monroe

Founders/Directors

dlloydmonroe@gmail.com

011.502.7762.0876

melanietmonroe@gmail.com

011.502.5285.7812

Mirna Recinos Aceituno

Solomon's Porch/Hotel California

mirnarecinos2003@gmail.com

011.502.7762.0793

Noe Benjamin Perez

Humanitarian Relief Director

noebenjaminperez@gmail.com

011.502.5945.1313

Will and Amber Deeds

Assistant Directors

wdeeds@mac.com

amberdeeds@yahoo.com

011.502.5941.2118

Betty Conley, R.N.

betty17851@gmail.com

011.502.5350.0248

Rex Ware

Stateside Support Team

rex.ware@fowlerwhite.com

850.933.0344

Fred Thomson, Meghan Gould

Co-treasurers

fredt@tbc-cpa.com

850.559.5960

megould9@aol.com

850.933.7892

Tax-deductible Donations:

Porch de Salomon

PO Box 10509

Tallahassee FL 32302-2509

Or on-line

www.porchdesalomon.org

*Short-term mission teams
in Guatemala

*Humanitarian relief for
indigenous families

*Solomon's Porch
Café ministry

*Live music outreach

* Helping transform churches



PorchTalk

Volume 103

December 2013

FAITHFUL STEWARDS, GIFTS, and GRACE

Offer hospitality to one another Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. I Peter 4:9-10 (NIV)

Back in our February edition, we listed BIG changes that Porch de Salomon would undergo in 2013. Now, we report again, at year's end, that:

- * God has been *faithful*, with his grace and provision, toward PdS
- * Many of you have been generous to Porch de Salomon, with the *gifts* of your time, talents, and treasures, as faithful stewards of your resources
- * We have offered hospitality to, and served, many. We have also done our best to be faithful stewards of the resources and opportunities that have come our way.

Because of this, the changes we listed have turned out very well, God be praised:

1. Will and Amber Deeds' family has become an integral part of Porch de Salomon. They have been a blessing to our ministry and the Panajachel community. (*See page 2!*)
2. Noe had a great first year as our Humanitarian Relief Director. He oversaw 18 short-term teams; their work has included nine new house builds, medical/dental clinics, Bible schools and more. Additionally, with the help of Nik, Sindy, Mirna, Betty and others, he manages our 52-week-a-year humanitarian relief efforts. He is a natural speaker "on his feet" and always brings a positive, witty attitude to bear.
3. The purchase of our first ministry facility, smack dab in Pana's *Zona Viva*, has worked out very well. Solomon's Porch /Hotel California is a very visible part of our town's vibe. The opportunities to extend hospitality abound! Our Sunday worship gatherings there are often "standing room only."

Once more, thank you and thank God for this and much more.

(From below, counterclockwise):

* Malcom (*in the middle*) is our new Chilean friend. He has responded to our hospitality (including construction work) in sterling fashion.

* "Smile of the year" during our visit to a new adult day care

* Alex joined his dad Bruce's third trip down from Vancouver Island. They funded and installed a new roof for Edwin.



"For the lost, the least, and the last"

(Below) Team Monticello FUMC helped dedicate Cristina and Rosa's new house while Team Christ the Shepherd Lutheran did likewise at Isabel's family house (# 7 and #6 for 2013, respectively). We thank the churches and donors who help fund these projects.



OUR FACILITY

Solomon's Porch Café / Hotel California, (shown right) was the launching pad for our 2013 teams. It also allows us to minister squarely in the center of "the largest open-air asylum on earth" (in the words of one experienced hippie).

In 2013, we were able to make extra payments on our facility purchase debt through special donations (not general ministry funds). Thank you, special donors, y Gracias a Dios!

Please contact me if you would like information on honorary/memorial donation opportunities to advance this effort.
Lloyd



Catarino and Santos' new twins are growing, with the help of formula from PdS. This will be our first house project in 2014. Look for the story in our February *PorchTalk!*



WILL DEEDS writes: It was really exciting for me and Amber to host "our" first team, Olive Branch Church of God (IN). We can share pictures, tell stories, and talk with people about what life is like down here, but it can never replace seeing it, smelling it, hearing it, and feeling it for yourself.

That's why it was so neat to be able to share with this team, including Amber's parents, what our ministry is like. We love working with Porch de Salomon and believe in the work we are doing. Having people from back home experience it with us only confirmed to us how unique and beautiful the relationships we are forming here are. Thank you, Olive Branch, for a great week of work and your on-going support of Porch de Salomon!

Editor: check out the Deeds' blog at deedsville.org

At left: Olive Branch'ers, and Jerry Morris (foreground, solo volunteer from Tallahassee, FL), move blocks to Cristina's house build site.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

by Lloyd

Porch de Salomon is a small, inter-denominational mission which demonstrates God's love, expressed best through the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, to "the lost, the least, and the last." We strive to do this through creative, "right risk-taking" service and outreach; from the streets and bars of Panajachel, to the incredibly poor shacks of the indigenous villages of Guatemala's Lake Atitlan Basin, to the air-conditioned, padded-pew comfort of our stateside churches.

Melanie and I continue in our ninth year of full-time service; we appreciate the sacrifices our volunteers Betty, Joe, Neil, Will, and Amber have made to be a part of the work (as well as our paid Guatemalan workers!) God has blessed Porch and our families by providing for these years of ministry through the generosity of our stateside partner churches and supporters. Thanks be to Him... and you. God's work here, through Porch, is only possible through your generous financial support.

One of the toughest things we've learned to do is to put our pride aside and ask for donations. We seek God's grace as we give you this opportunity:

Every need we meet, most everything we do here, costs money. Our base monthly ministry budget is \$9000—while this is sizeable, we deliver high-impact, life-changing hope, help, and service with this. Please consider:

- 1) making a year-end, tax-deductible general support donation or 2) funding one of the special needs (below) or
- 3) making a much-needed monthly pledge for 2014. "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7) and so do we.

Thank you! See page one for donation instructions or contact me at dlloydmonroe@gmail.com (or 850.688.2076 after Dec 11) or Rex 850.933 0344 now! Thank you.

Nidia's severe, untreated bi-polar disorder was wrecking her and her family's life. With no other assistance available, Porch has provided her anti-psychotic medicine in 2013. She is doing much better, God be praised. A monthly donation of \$80 (or half at \$40) will fund this forward for her! Someone say "Yes" please. *Gracias!*



SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Your dollars have high impact in Guatemala!

- *Two weeks' formula for cleft palate baby (\$25)
- *One month's swim therapy for spina bifida kid (\$40)
- * One week's coffee supply for 65 men at Casa Tat Loy alcohol/drug rehab center (\$40)
- *One-half *Utz Jay* clean water system for a family (w/ replacement filter) \$45
- *One month's physical or speech therapy for a special needs Guatemalan child (\$50)
- *One month's protein (eggs, beans, milk for an indigenous family (\$60)
- *One month's temporary housing for an indigenous Guatemalan family (\$100)
- *One month's in-patient alcohol/drug rehabilitation for an addicted person (\$125)
- *Chicken coop (with chicks, feed, and more) for an indigenous family (\$200)

Please provide NEW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2014

In Guatemala, over 50% of indigenous teenagers have not completed third grade. On average, indigenous Guatemalans have only 3.5 years of school. Grinding poverty is the predominate cause of this problem; families simply cannot afford school as they struggle to put food on the table each day. For example, neither little Rosa nor Raquel (see page one) will be able to attend school next year without help.

Juan de Dios (15, at right) lives in the Xecotoj housing project and became the "man of the house" after his father left for the states; Juan, his mother, and siblings have heard nothing from the father since then. A scholarship will allow Juan to resume his schooling; he wants an education to help him so that he can, in turn, help his family.



Each year since 2006, Porch de Salomon has provided school scholarships ("Becas") through the generosity of our Beca donors. In 2013, our donors funded over 50 scholarships! We are now inviting and accepting donations for the 2014 school year (which runs from January to October)!

These annual scholarships cost \$240 each. Please consider funding (or locating other donors for) one or more of these life-changing gifts. Please contact us directly with your questions or to say "Yes" to this need; dlloydmonroe@gmail.com or call 850.688.2076, by December 30 if possible. We thank you, our partners and donors, and God, for putting us in a position to let such "second mile" donations go 100% directly to the needy.

PRAISES and PRAYERS

- * For a great November and a high-impact 2013
- * For everyone and every opportunity mentioned in this edition
- * For generous year-end donations and 2014 pledges, especially for our Beca scholarship program
- * For each of our partner congregations
- * Lloyd and Melanie's Dec. 11- January 30 furlough/promo stateside
(contact us for our schedule or if you'd like to connect!)

**SAVE (and share!)
THIS ONE...
our next PorchTalk will
be February's !**



Best wishes for a blessed and happy holiday season and a prosperous 2014 from our in-country Porch team!

(From Left): Lloyd, Sindy, Mirna, Carmen, Noe, Betty, Abra, Birma, Ezra, Will, Amber, Joe, Melanie, Neil, and Nik

*Their work, with Porch de Salomon, supports the families of our six full-time Guatemalan staffers (as well as part-time workers and our seven construction contract builders, who are not shown).

Your donations and support make the work and witness of Porch de Salomon possible.
Gracias, y Feliz Navidad!

Porch de Salomon

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Tallahassee FL 32302-2509
www.porchdesalomon.org

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