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- *Short-term mission teams in Guatemala
- *Humanitarian relief for indigenous families
- *Solomon's Porch café ministry
- *Live music outreach
- * Helping transform churches and individuals

PorchTalk

Volume 88

August 2012

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

Teach your children well... You, who are on the road. Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, 1970
Teach ... your children. ... when you are on the road. Moses, Deuteronomy 11:19
Let me teach you. Jesus of Nazareth, Matthew 11:29

July saw Porch de Salomon chock-a-block full with big teams of teachers, young people and even little kids (!). Working in the indigenous villages, where the population of children and youth exceeds 60%, gave those teams great exposure to the energy, warmth and plight of the indigenous kids.

There was plenty of teaching, learning and youthful verve. The interesting juxtaposition of a secular youth team (International Co-op, Vancouver Island, Canada) and one from Sharon Church (formerly Sharon Baptist Church, McDonough, Georgia) was rich. Some learned to give the Way of Jesus a new look. Others learned to no longer worship church; rather, we can better follow that Way as our act of worship. May this be true for all of us!

Teamer comments:

* My trip to Guatemala was the experience of a lifetime. The families we helped were so grateful for us being there but they helped us in return as well. Their situations, smiles and lives opened our eyes.

I now appreciate and am so thankful for everything I have. I learned to laugh at the little things and enjoy life and I learned teamwork and determination (thanks to the "Stairmaster"-the steep end of the" trail up!). "Thank you" to Porch De Salomon for all of your help and inspiration and for making this trip possible. *Meghan Minato, Team International Co-op*

* This was my second trip to Panajachel to work with Porch de Salomon; I will remember my experiences there for the rest of my life. Porch's friendly and incredibly hard-working staff made our large group feel at home. Their knowledge of the area and strong ties with

the local community made us feel very welcome and safe.

Thank you Lloyd, Melanie, Hector, Mirna and the rest of your staff for changing my life and providing the opportunity to really help people, I will be back one day soon. *Cory Cossenias (Team International Co-op)*

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(Above, from left) Cory, Meghan and Team Int'l Co-op moved all construction material up to the steep site by hand. (Right) Sharon Church teamer Michelle, with Linda's help, fitting indigenous village children with some of the many good shoes they brought.



"For the lost, the least and the last"

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN *(Cont'd from page 1)*

More teamer comments:

*Porch de Salomon is a great ministry right on the intersection of the main drag in Panajachel. We spent an incredible week with them.

Lee Rush, Team Leader, Sharon Church

* This was my first mission trip, and it was even more rewarding than I thought it would be. I learned more about myself and my ability to work in tough conditions. I began to truly understand how hard the local people work to support their families.

It reminded me of how hard my parents worked to bring me to Canada from China. It took them five years to get my documents ready and save enough money; they each worked three jobs a day! I now realize that lots of people in Guatemala don't have the opportunity for the better life we now have. It made me really cherish what my family and I have today. *Fiona Zhao, Team International Co-op*

Porch de Salomon thanks these teams, their families, donors, our faithful Porch partners and all who help these teams and us learn and bless many here in Guatemala. *Gracias!*



(At right, from top down): Sharon Church team leader Lee Rush hams it up as his team gives Polaroid pic crafts to Bible school kids.

Co-leader Jeannie Rush shared a story of such a photo being the only one the family of a now-deceased child, from a Bible school years ago, has of her.

(Middle) Teamer Phillip teaches some jump rope, thrilling the locals.

(Bottom) Ed Rush was such an encourager to our local Porch team leadership.

(Below): Team Sharon, with help from two volunteer families (Inglis and Wiebe, from Winnipeg) made record time in digging and pouring the foundation and floor at Mayra's family house in Panimatlam.



BRUCE BACK FOR MORE

This was the second time we brought Canadian high school students to Panajachel to help Porch build houses. This has been a wonderful opportunity for us and our young people to learn, to grow, and to serve those in need.

I say this for all 37 in our group - students, parents and teacher chaperones alike:

* We learned to work as a team, hauling materials up to job sites, mixing cement on the ground, passing buckets of concrete, plastering walls, digging a pit for a septic tank.

*We learned by seeing how hard most Guatemalans work just to have the bare necessities for their families.

*We saw how our efforts two years ago have helped to change the fortunes of Manuel's family by providing them with a simple house.

*We were touched by the gratitude of Eusebia's family as we poured their roof, helping them to regain some hope in their life.

*We saw a ten year-old boy come each morning to help us haul sand and gravel before his afternoon shift at school, so that he could have a sandwich and some extra food for his family.

These are the experiences that transform our lives; by giving, we receive so much more. Thanks to everyone at Porch de Salomon for making this possible.

--Bruce Izard, a recently retired Spanish teacher, co-led Team International Co-op, Vancouver Island, Canada



(Above) Team Internat'l Co-op helped pour the concrete roof (la terraza) at Eusebia's family house in Xolbe. Bruce Izard is seated, front row, at center, in black shirt.

SPEECHLESS TEACHER

by Kristen Swartz

Meet Mayra. She is a 9 year-old indigenous girl who suffers from cerebral palsy and seizures. I don't know much about cerebral palsy, but I do know that Mayra recently stole my heart. Mayra can't do much. She can't talk, walk or play with kids normally. She can only sit or stand there making repetitive clutching motions with her hands and watch what is going on around her. However, there is good news. She has been receiving treatment and her family is receiving a new house, courtesy of Team Sharon Church and Porch de Salomon.

It was fun to watch the team kids and the indigenous kids play together at the job site. Mayra was standing off to the side, watching and smiling. I went over to her and tried to engage her, but she couldn't speak. My normal routine with kids is to "color" with them or blow bubbles, but she couldn't do these either. I wanted to give her attention, but felt awkward because I didn't know what to do. I finally took a chance, pulled up a chair and placed her in my lap where she could watch her house going up around her. She loved the attention. As we giggled at each other she clutched my hands and grinned so big that I thought her lips would split. We had so much fun together.

The longer I am here in Guatemala, the more I learn to break through my comfort barriers that hinder building relationships and serving. I make excuses to justify my not doing something because it might be awkward, or frankly, I don't want to do it or risk discomfort. However, I am finding that when I seize the moment and try to meet a need, I am usually profoundly rewarded by it. Sometimes, it's as simple as giving a smile or a hug.

Mayra taught me a good lesson; I will remember her smile and our giggles for many years to come.

Kristen Swartz is from Tallahassee, Florida. She and her husband Joe have been in -country volunteers with Porch de Salomon since early 2011.



PRAISES:

- * Great July teams with new friends and support
- * The chance to join what God is doing with the poor (both kinds!) in Guatemala's Western Highlands and Panajachel
- * The generosity of our faithful partner churches and mission partners (thank you, especially, J and K!) which resource all Porch de Salomon does
- * Will & Amber Deeds' (IN) decision to join us in Panajachel early '13 (*check out www.deedsville.org*)

Please PRAY FOR:

- * Our Solomon's Porch worship gathering (Daniel Katyl to lead)
- * A productive (and restful!) furlough for Melanie and Lloyd
- * Continued sobriety and growth for Rudy
- * Godly discernment for Hector, Mirna and all in Pana
- * Deeds family (*see Praises*): Will, Amber, Abra and Ezra
- * Continued financial provision for Porch de Salomon
- * Our Fall 2012 teams (and projects!) as they come together

MONROE'S FURLOUGH SCHEDULE

Lloyd and Melanie are stateside July 25-Sept. 21 and would love to connect with you or your group. Contact us at lloyd@porchdesalomon.org or 850.688.2076.

COME JOIN US:

- July 29, a.m.-- Tallahassee Heights UMC
- August 5, a.m.-- Holy Cross Anglican (Tallahassee)
- August 12, a.m.--Redeemer Lutheran (Winter Park, FL)
- p.m.-- Church at World Golf V. (St. Augustine)
- Aug. 19, a.m.-- Miccosukee UMC
- p.m.-- John Wesley UMC (Tallahassee)
- August 26, a.m.-- CTS Lutheran (Alpharetta GA)
- p.m.-- Sharon Church (McDonough GA)
- August 28, p.m.-- Killearn UMC Mission Comm.
- August 29, p.m.-- Deerlake UMC
- September 2, a.m.-- St. Teresa Comm. Beach Church (FL)

...and more in September! We appreciate all these opportunities to share.

Sharon Church kids goin' at it good!



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