

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

www.porchdesalomon.org

and on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/porchdesalomon)

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Tax-deductible Donations:

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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 92

December 2012

FINISHING WELL

[What] keeps me going is that I do the will of the One who sent me, finishing the work he started. Jesus at John 4:34 (MSJ)

Porch de Salomon moved toward the end of an impactful 2012 striving to finish well with the last of 20 teams, medical clinics, three more house builds (11 for 2012!), children's ministry, challenges, new opportunities and friends, some with great needs.

Many of us find it easier to start things than to finish them well; we welcome your prayers for perseverance and wisdom.

Here are three year-end stories which have helped us finish 2012 well (as always, with the help of our mission partners):

* The first is one that will not be done until early 2013. Cecilia is an indigenous, pregnant single mother with five children. Her husband abandoned her four years ago for another woman; without resources, she and the children were forced to live in a crumbling, dirt floor lean-to behind her in-laws' house. Hector describes it as similar to having a "dog tied up out back." With this arrangement, the husband has returned, uninvited, and impregnated her twice.

Burdened, Hector has worked hard to obtain a small home site for them at a safe distance from her husband's family. A generous donation from the Lewis Hall and Mildred Sasser Singletary Foundation, combined with the resources of incoming teams, will allow us to build her a quality, concrete-roof house so that she and her children can regain a modicum of dignity and independence.

* Several years ago, we met teenage Leidy at her mother's adobe house. Her single mother suffers from crippling arthritis and limited earning capacity; she and her siblings never had enough to eat. We have helped remedy that with our weekly food/protein program (and a chicken coop!). Leidy was able to start attending school again with a Porch "Beca" school scholarship; last month, she finished this year very well as the number one student in her class! *Felicidades Leidy!* (Cont'd page two)



Leidy's grades earned her flag-bearing honors in a recent parade



Cecilia and her children outside their shack

"For the lost, the least and the last"

FINISHING WELL *(continued from page one)*

* One of our recent joys has been helping Edwin and his family end this year on a high note. He has received a wheelchair, ramp, hygiene items and a freshly painted room. Christ the Shepherd Lutheran team member Randy Potts writes:

Edwin's body is ravaged from cerebral palsy and he rarely gets to leave his room. Our team had the privilege of celebrating his 26th birthday with him and his family at a Solomon's Porch dinner.

As our week-long work here began, we were asked to be open to "defining moments" during the trip. Edwin wanted to watch us play billiards from his wheelchair; he said he understood the game.

He intently watched our every move, smiled "ear to ear" and cheered us on in his own way. I was deeply touched by his joy and smile at such a simple thing as watching a billiards game up close.

While our team came to serve, Edwin's smile, joy, loud excited sounds and waving his twisted hands and arms were all a true gift and blessing to me. He humbled me as I consider the many simple things that God provides us and yet we take for granted. Not

Edwin—for him, it was a night to remember and for me also because of him. That night, Edwin became the touch of Jesus to me and I am so humbled and grateful for that touch.

We thank you, our ministry partners for your friendship, prayers and financial support which, year in and year out, help us press on with the unfinished work of our Father for the lost, least and last. We humbly invite your tax-deductible, year-end donations to resource this work—and thank you in advance for your consideration.



FINISHING TEAMS

(L) Christ the Shepherd Lutheran teamers Jay and Jim work on the earthquake-resistant "waistband" on their house build.

(R) FUMC Monticello teamers Caroline, Jamen and Brooke help with prescriptions in one of their team's free village medical clinics. Both teams had a blast!



We were again blessed to host a "kids team" from Casa Bernabe orphanage in Guatemala City. Team leader Vivian D. wrote us:

Thanks for loving deeply, offering hospitality and faithfully administering God's grace. Your lives show how to live in the world with one foot placed firmly in eternity. I'm amazed at how Porch's ministry has grown yet know God blesses those who serve whole-heartedly. 1 Peter 4:8-11. Vivian



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

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 eighth year of full-time service; we appreciate the sacrifices our volunteers Betty Conley, Joe & Kristen Swartz and Will & Amber Deeds 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 \$8000—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 2013. "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 lloyd@porchdesalomon.org (or 850.688.2076 after Dec 13) or Rex 850.933 0344 now!

Phavel (2) needed surgery on his "private parts," and quick! While our general fund will pay the cost, thanks to steady donors, we invite a special gift of \$475 to fund his operation.



Cleft-palate baby Yoni, his parents and his formula



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)
- *Two weeks' food supply for indigenous family (\$50)

- *One-half Q Beta 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 temporary housing for an indigenous Guatemalan family (\$100)
- *One month's in-patient alcohol/drug rehabilitation for addicted person (\$150)
- *Chicken coop (with chicks, feed and more) for an indigenous family (\$200)

Please provide NEW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2013

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 when they struggle to put food on the table each day. For example, Leidy or Cecilia's children (*see page one*) cannot go to school next year without help. Juana (*at right*) is a 16 year-old whose scholarship enabled her to resume school after her mother's death two years ago.



Each year since 2006, Porch de Salomon has provided school scholarships ("Becas") through the generosity of our Beca donors. In 2012, our donors funded over 50 scholarships! We are now inviting and accepting donations for the 2013 school year (which runs from January to October)!

These annual scholarships cost \$220 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; lloyd@porchdesalomon.org 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:

- *Porch booths at Tallahassee alternative Christmas markets:
--John Wesley UMC, Dec. 1-2
--Christ Presbyterian, Dec. 7-8
- * Generous donations: Singletary Foundation, Bast motorcycles, Pierce corn-grinder, Davenport, "old Curmudgeon" and more!

Please PRAY FOR:

- * Deeds family; resource-raising, peace and favor in advance of moving to Pana in January. Schedule, news: <http://deedsville.org>
- * Our indigenous leadership team in Panajachel
- * Generous responses to our giving opportunities and requests for year-end donations
- * Another high-impact year for Porch in 2013

*Best wishes for a blessed and happy holiday season and a prosperous 2013 from our in-country Porch team!
(L-R, from top) Gaby, Betty, Joe, Kristen and Nicolas
(Middle) Veronica, Marci, Mirna, Birma, Carmen and Hector
(Front) Melanie and Lloyd

*Their work with Porch de Salomon supports the families of our eight Guatemalan staffers (as well as our seven construction contract builders who are not shown).
Your donations and support make the work and witness of Porch de Salomon possible. *Gracias!*



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

... and more! Melanie and Lloyd look forward to reuniting with our family stateside Dec. 13-Jan. 24. We also invite "face-to-face" ideas or questions from our partners or new folks.
Join us as we share Porch "tidings" at:
December 16-- First Presb. M'cello FL
December 30—Wacissa UMC
January 13—First Presb. Fort Walton Beach
January 20—Salem UMC, Havana FL

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and on 

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