

## Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala  
www.porchdesalomon.org

and on [facebook](#)

Lloyd and Melanie Monroe

Founders/Directors

[dllloydmonroe@gmail.com](mailto:dllloydmonroe@gmail.com)

011.502.7762.0876

[melaniemonroe@gmail.com](mailto:melaniemonroe@gmail.com)

011.502.5285.7812

Mirna Recinos Aceituno

Solomon's Porch/Hotel California

[mirnarecinos2003@gmail.com](mailto:mirnarecinos2003@gmail.com)

011.502.7762.0793

Noe Benjamin Perez

Humanitarian Relief Director

[noebenjaminperez@gmail.com](mailto:noebenjaminperez@gmail.com)

011.502.5945.1313

Will and Amber Deeds

Assistant Directors

[wdeeds@mac.com](mailto:wdeeds@mac.com)

[amberdeeds@yahoo.com](mailto:amberdeeds@yahoo.com)

011.502.5941.2118

Betty Conley, R.N.

[betty17851@gmail.com](mailto:betty17851@gmail.com)

011.502.5350.0248

Rex Ware

Stateside Support Team

[rex.ware@fowlerwhite.com](mailto:rex.ware@fowlerwhite.com)

850.933.0344

Fred Thomson, Meghan Gould

Co-treasurers

[fredt@tbc-cpa.com](mailto:fredt@tbc-cpa.com)

850.559.5960

[megould9@aol.com](mailto: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](http://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 104

February 2014

## A PURPOSE AND A PLAN

by Lloyd

*My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. Jesus, at John 10:10, NIV  
Blessed are those who help the poor. ....if you plan to do good, you will receive unending  
love and faithfulness. Proverbs 14:21,22 NIV*

Last summer, after Melanie and I spoke at a Presbyterian church in Tennessee, an older gentleman commented to the pastor: "Let's get behind these folks—they have a purpose and a plan." How encouraging! That church will send 34 folks down to serve with us in 2014.

Indeed, a large part of Porch de Salomon's purpose is to invite folks (of all stripes) to partake in the rich and satisfying life Jesus promised by following him.

>For the materially poor, our delivery of decent food, clean water, medical care, housing, and education help bring Jesus' promise to life.

>For the spiritually poor, or those seeking more life-meaning (who sometimes are materially rich, at least in world terms), we engage them in our plan to do good by bringing help, houses, hope, and even happiness to those we serve in

Guatemala's Western Highlands.

We thank the former for opening up their lives to receive help and for doing their best.

We thank the latter for opening up their lives, calendars, wallets, and checkbooks to resource and support our plans to "do good."

We remain thankful for the way our purpose and plan came together in 2013. We anticipate, and are hopeful for, even more of that as we move forward in 2014 with Porch's multi-faceted work and ministry. *Thank you*, friends, for partnering with us.

Maria and Santos's family (including baby Lucas Salomon Lopic) celebrated Christmas in their new house (Porch's #8 of 2013). It was dedicated to Dr.

**Stevens'** memory! Our memorial plaque is shown below.



Don't miss our brand new, seven-minute Porch video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giDuoNhYoAM> and on our website. It's strong, as are our thanks to Lee Berger! Lee donated this wonderful tool!

[www.leebergermedia.com](http://www.leebergermedia.com)

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

## PLANNING TO DO GOOD!

Catarino and Santos' family (*right*) will receive Porch's first 2014 house; we broke ground January 27th. Santos was gravely ill, after delivering her twins last year. The health center referred them to us; the family had no money, or help, to buy milk for the babies. Your contributions enable us to always say "yes" to such needs.

All 10 live in a crumbling, dirt-floor adobe house in the indigenous village of Concepcion. They have no electricity, no *pila* (sink), no toilet or real furniture; they share one bed, which is in poor condition. They were underfed and malnourished; they are now on our feeding program. Yes!



Santos' "kitchen"



## MORE PURPOSE

Jose Quisquina's, Maria's, and their family's lives will be *richer and more satisfying* after they receive Porch house #2 soon!

(*Left*) They live in a leaky, dirt-floor, *adobe* house. Several earthquakes have shaken the house loose (leaving gaps); it is near the point of collapse.

They have no electricity. The entire family shares two board beds (*above*). José earns \$20 a week as a baker. He is known as a hard-working, honest, and friendly man.

We are excited about helping this family through the efforts and funds of our February teams!

## PASTOR PONDER'S PURPOSE *by Rev. Jeff Sumner*

Late last year, a group from our church went to Porch de Salomon for the *purpose* of serving the people in and around Panajachel. Two moments stood out to me. One happened while our team worked alongside a family to help build their house. During a break, a teenage team member was looking at one of that family's children, while another child sat on her lap. The child sitting on her lap spontaneously reached up and kissed the teen on her cheek. The sight of this kind of love and connection brought tears to my eyes. It reminded me of the importance of leaving my comfort zone to build relationships despite the challenges of cultural barriers.

The second was during a conversation with two gentlemen on the terrace of Porch's ministry facility in Pana. We discussed the week's activities and the Porch's fairly unique ministry methods. That approach is highly relational and often, messy. It reminded me of:

\* our Lord's command to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19, *NIV*).

\* our Lord's example as He went from town to town, walking the countryside with the intention of meeting needs through loving service and fellowship. Christ was so focused on reaching those in need, it was said, "Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Matthew 11: 19b, *NIV*). This missional approach to living our professed faith may be messy, but, as I found out during our trip, is exactly what our Lord lived and called us to live as His followers.

Heading back home, my head and heart were spinning from all I saw God do through a different approach to missions and ministry. I suspect God is at work to change how I live as a man, a husband, a father, and a pastor. I will be forever unsatisfied with living out my faith in Christ in any other way than loving people where they are, walking with them, and meeting their needs. If that means it's messy, then so be it. I am sure that is the life Jesus has called us to.

\*\*\*\*

*Jeff is a husband, father, and pastor of Olive Branch Church, in Roann, Indiana. A Porch newcomer, he encouraged us greatly with his attitude and view that Porch's outreach plan foreshadows the future of incarnational ministry.*



**"TWO BROTHERS,"** Will Deeds' powerful two-minute video, portrays a bit of Antonio and Alberto's (and their family's) story and how Porch, through our building program, is bringing hope and a sustainable income to these hard-working young men. See it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIBLitmjwk4>



Marta Can and her family are also enjoying their new two-story, mini-house (we used all the tiny home site they had) and triple-decker bunk beds (built by our Guatemala Joe and helpers). This was our **ninth** house build of 2013.

Melanie says: "I love to see the change in people when they get that seed of hope. The look of sadness and despair on Marta's face has changed to one of joy. I was happy to see her smile for the first time. God is good!"

## PRAISES and PRAYERS

- \*God's provision, through generous donors, which allowed Porch to finish out 2013 strong
- \* The Deeds' presence and work in Pana during the holidays
  - \* Donated time, material, or professional services from:  
CopyFax 2000, Russ Rainey, DDS, Dermatology Associates, Rich Blankenship, CPA, Carroll & Company, CPA, Leaton Hall, M.D., Wes Scoles, M.D., and Holly H. Mitchell
  - \* A \$5000 memorial donation to reduce our facility debt

- \* Team Brandon/Roper/Shalley, Feb. 1-8; house build
- \* Team Heritage UMC (KS)/Lees, Feb. 8-15; house build, Bible school
- \*Team Gina/Amador County (CA), Feb. 15-23; house build, Bible school
- \*Team Outtatown/Canadian Mennonite Un., Feb. 23-Mar. 2; (36 folks!); Chuaxic community center construction
- \*February volunteers: Mike O, Dara B, Jayne M, Donald A, Bill P, Bill L, Roy and Jonna D.

## 2014 Beca Scholarship Update

Education is a key to breaking the cycle of poverty that grips Guatemala. Without money, many children never attend school or attend for only two or three years.

We're pleased to report that generous donors have again provided enough money to send **at least 76 children and youth to school** this 2014 term (which began in January). We thank all our Beca partners/donors!

We have more candidates than we can currently fund. We are still accepting donations; \$240, per year, is the cost of this life-changing gift. Please contact [dloydmonroe@gmail.com](mailto:dloydmonroe@gmail.com) or Rex 850.933.0344 to get involved.

Check out Will Deeds' great blog report of his day spent photographing our Beca recipients, like those shown right, entitled "**Taking Pictures of the Next Abraham Lincoln**" at: <http://deedsville.org/2014/01/11/980/>



## *Porch de Salomon*

PO Box 10509  
Tallahassee FL 32302-2509  
[www.porchdesalomon.org](http://www.porchdesalomon.org)

and on 

NON-PROFIT  
STANDARD  
POSTAGE & FEES  
PAID  
WACISSA FL  
Permit #1

