

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala
www.porchdesalomon.org

and on 

Lloyd and Melanie Monroe

Founders/Directors

dllloydmonroe@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 106

April 2014

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Lloyd

And ... have compassion, making a difference. *Jude 1:22*

You are the salt of the earth. *Jesus, at Matthew 5:13.*

Our Lord is telling us that we, like salt, should make a difference in the situations we are in. Greg Laurie

Last month, our visiting bluegrass musician friend LeRoy Mack wrote, under his photo in our cafe: "Solomon's Porch—Making a difference." That encouraged and inspired us and set this issue's theme!

March was an amazing, rewarding, and at times challenging, month for our work in Guatemala. Our short-term work teams included those from: NorthStar Church (Panama City, FL), Burke Family (TX), Trinity UMC (Gainesville, FL), Deerlake UMC, Trinity UMC Youth (both Tallahassee), LeRoy/McNees family, First Presbyterian (Fort Walton Beach). All told, 83 folks joined with our year-round local Porch team to help make a tangible difference in Guatemala's Lake Atitlan Basin. Houses were built, patients were treated, rotten teeth were pulled, money was spent, lives were changed, songs were sung, and folks had the opportunity to see and experience the abundant life Jesus promised.

Still, a rare, picky, visiting naysayer (who happened to be rich) took offense when I pointed out, during a team orientation, that many folks in the outside world would notice, and would care, if the work of Porch de Salomon ceased. We work in Jesus' name and strive to give him the glory (albeit, imperfectly). This same Jesus, after pointing out how salt makes a difference, exhorted us to "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good

works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." *Matthew 5:16.*

We thank God for the opportunities he has given Porch de Salomon to serve, shine and give glory. We thank you, our mission partners, who generously (and sometimes sacrificially) resource our work which, indeed, makes a difference to many.

(Clockwise, from right)

- *Sally Rosser with indigenous village kids
- * New partner church NorthStar wowed us with their flexibility, vibe, and support
- * Texans Anabel and Sarah carrying a plank (with an interesting shadow beside them)



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



Amelia making a difference!



First Presby. FWB teamers M.G. and John building beds in Joe's new workshop area



Our combined NorthStar and Trinity UMC (Gainesville) village medical clinics treated:
 *406 medical patients,
 *over 100 dental patients
 and fitted 100 pair of eyeglasses. *At left, Brian Gibson, M.D., works with an indigenous patient.*

Great trip! Not your typical mission trip, but lots of smiles, lots accomplished, and material changes you can see that will help folks down here. I do not attend church regularly and lean towards the philosophy of the Buddha. Yet, I felt at home.

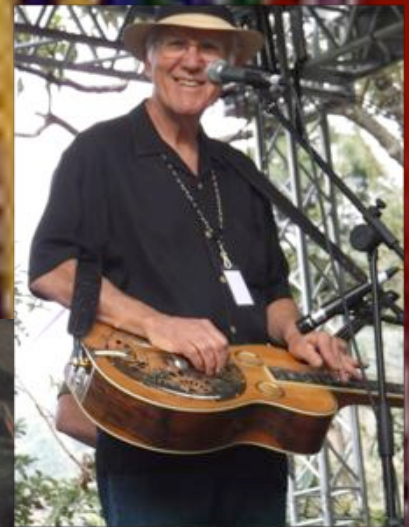
Thanks to Lloyd, Melanie, and all for having this vision and giving us the opportunity to leave some good karma. *Phil May*
 (Below, from left: Phil, Lonny and TrUMC Youth leader Kelly Rains)



Father/daughter foundation diggers Alan and Ashley



SINCE 2007, Porch de Salomon and our musicians have been involved in the annual *Festival Atitlán* benefit music festival. On March 22, "the tribe" came together, in a Santiago Atitlán field, to celebrate music, life and love and to raise money for special needs children in our area. *At right: LeRoy Mack McNees brought his famous resonator guitar sound, and two new bluegrass friends, to the scene. Thanks for that and for this issue's theme, LeRoy (www.leroymack.com)! Below right: MarcoTrio Electric (Marco, Lloyd, and Abel) came on after dark and had the celebrants on their dusty feet a dancin'.*



Vanessa with TrUMC teamer Kirsten



DAUGHTER'S DIRT DRAWING

by Casey Burke

We had dug house foundation footers for three days but had never been to a "groundbreaking"; your thoughts go to a ceremony. Instead we witnessed a reckoning. The young couple had three kids and a shack but nothing else: no sink, no toilet, no water, and unless Carlos found work that day, no food. The young mother, Zoila, was tearful because she couldn't offer us any hospitality...because there was none.

The tears flowed from our entire group when Zoila (23) related her sadness when she would sit in the board, cornstalk, and tin "house" and despair for her children. How surreal, these "gringos" standing before them and telling them that in four days we were going to tear down the only thing they had....and begin to build a safe, concrete house for them. We held the shovels, posed for the pictures, and completed our duties.

As we were leaving I noticed this drawing in the dirt. The daughter Vanessa's shoes next to it revealed the artist. Until we actually appeared, she could only dream of a new house. Then the hand of God, clothed in the flesh of a few gringos, breathed life into her dream. What a privilege!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE... FULL CIRCLE

The late Dr. Lucas Stevens, DDS, was a great friend of Porch de Salomon and those we serve; after two trips down, and with two more on his calendar, he unexpectedly died in his sleep last year.

We were thrilled that his daughter, Emily (15), joined the Deerlake UMC team last month. She was a trouper; Luke's name came up every day. She is shown holding Lucas Salomon (named after her father and PdS) at his family's new house. As the plaque behind her states, the house was built in Luke's memory.

Luke's friend and DLUMC teamer, Mark Rosser (like Luke, a loyal UF Gator), recruited Larry Pijut, DDS, to join the team to carry on Luke's dental work. Larry, his wife/assistant Patti, and son Adam greatly encouraged us and made a difference for the 108 patients they treated (mostly extractions). Patti writes:

The Guatemalans were the kindest, most cooperative, and thankful people I have ever met.

As our last day ended, the villagers gathered to express their gratitude for our dental service. They gave us beautiful hand-woven baskets as a token of their gratitude.

The village spokesman told us they had questioned why God had not answered their prayers for relief, when so many were suffering. He then emotionally expressed that they now knew our visit was an answer to those prayers. Our hearts were full for the beautiful people we had come to know. We felt very honored to serve them in God's name. *Patti Pijut*



There are so many opportunities for you to help PdS keep making a difference. We depend on your tax-deductible donations and gifts. Please contact dlloydmonroe@gmail.com or Rex 850.933.0344 for more information. *Gracias!*

Porch de Salomon

PO Box 10509

Tallahassee FL 32302-2509

www.porchdesalomon.org

and on 

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

