

## Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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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

This issue is in loving memory of:

ESTRELLA GUTIERREZ  
14 May 1959-- 26 April 2014



# PorchTalk

Volume 107

May 2014

## THE FIRST AND THE SECOND by Lloyd

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " Matthew 22:37-39

I love the way Jesus confirmed select Old Testament commandments and then taught his followers, and us, what truly loving our neighbors as ourselves should look like. We continue to progressively proclaim these truths in Panajachel; with steady actions and service and, when appropriate, with words (e.g. in our weekly worship gatherings).

April was a great month for the outreach and work of Porch de Salomon. (yet ended sadly with our friend and translator Estrella's death on 26 April). Among our highlights were:

\* The completion and dedication of the first and second houses our Spring 2014 teams have funded and built (all under indigenous supervision) for:

- 1) Catarino and Santos' family (including their twins) in Concepcion. Their twin baby girls are now doing well, with the milk we provide.
- 2) Jose and Maria's family of nine in Chuaxic.

Both these families offered us hospitality, with the traditional celebratory meal of wash tub-cooked *pulik*, at our dedication ceremonies. We work with them to understand that our neighbors are not just those who live next to us or are like us.

\* Ana's (36) first twin, Estefany, was born healthy but the second, Kevin, entered this world with a cleft palate. Porch de Salomon has enrolled this family in our cleft palate program (milk, special bottle, education, and eventual surgery); we continue to partner with *Evelyn's Baskets of Love* and *Clinica Caris* to help children and families such as these.

*(continued on page two)*



*(Clockwise, from above):*

\* Jose and Maria's family on their new house's dedication day

\* Gloria (4), one of Catarino and Santos' children, in her first real bed

\* Ana Lucretia with Estefany (left) and Kevin

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

## THE FIRST AND SECOND (cont'd from page one)

\* Maria Isabel was a frightened, malnourished, epileptic indigenous girl when we first met her three years ago. This smart girl's untreated seizures made it impossible for her to attend school. Her single-mother led family received a new house, hope, medicine for Maria Isabel, and more. Last month, we were privileged to attend her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in their spotless home. Maria is now seizure-free and able to attend school. It was a blessing to give her a brand-new laptop computer – she's among the first in her village to own a computer.

As always, we are grateful to God and you, our mission partners, who provide the support, money, and resources needed to keep Porch de Salomon in the loving God and serving our neighbor "business." *Gracias a todos!*



(Above): Team Centenary/CUMC/River Oak UMC (CA) helped us dedicate Catarino and Santos' house. Special thanks to team leader Claudia!

April saw *Semana Santa* (Holy Week) crowds and ceremony; part spring break crazy, part Catholic pomp. Above: beautiful, colored sawdust "carpets" on our *Calle Santander* tourist street.

We were thrilled to distribute \$3764 in spring 2014 team tips to the 30 folks who work, often behind the scenes, to help our teams have a great and productive experience here in Guatemala.

(Right): Our *albaniles/ayudantes* (builders) celebrated this with a fun lunch cook-out; together with our teams, they help us build and give away 11 or so houses each year. Most of these men (including Lonnie, not shown) would have little work were it not for this! **BIG THANKS** to all our team leaders, teamers, their supporters, these 30 workers, God, our local team, and our mission partners back stateside!



## SEASONS *by Lloyd*

Estrella Gutierrez, our long-time friend and translator, continued her journey, and died quietly, on April 26<sup>th</sup>, following a long illness. Her sons Jonathan and Yamil were with her. The Porch and Pana communities were crushed by this loss.

A jewelry-maker and masseuse, she left behind virtually no possessions. The scores of mourner/celebrants who attended that evening's informal wake/celebration of life at Solomon's Porch attested to a richness in her life that transcended wealth.

Melanie and I had the privilege to speak and sing at the following day's interment. It was a pleasure to recall her as a friend who indeed loved God (first commandment). Moreover, it was even sweeter to commend her as someone who lived out the second (love our neighbor as ourselves) better than about anyone I have ever known. It is wonderful that God allows us flawed folks to love him and do his work. *Descanse en paz, querida hermana!*



*Melanie writes:* I'm so overwhelmed with all the stories people are sharing about what Estrella was like and what she meant to them. Things like:

Fun-loving; she accepted me; very forgiving; her home was always open to folks in need; our free-spirit hippie; she had an infectious laugh and a great energy; creative; a loving single mother who raised two fine boys; so generous with what little she had and with love for whomever she met.

The stories go on and on. We should all feel blessed and honored to have known her and been a part of her life; a life full and rich and well-lived, just too short. Our Estrella (star) is now shining brightly in the heavens. Rest in peace my dear friend, we'll all miss you.

**Please contact me for further information or if you would like to make a donation in Estrella's memory. She was particularly involved in our work with disadvantaged women and children. [dlloydmonroe@gmail.com](mailto:dlloydmonroe@gmail.com) or 850.688.2076 (May 5-29)**



*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die.*  
*Ecclesiastes 3*

### .....TO BE BORN

Will Deeds says:

Please welcome our newest Porch volunteer!

Salem Forrest Deeds; born 11:59 p.m., 28 April 2014, weight 8 lbs, 3 ounces. Mother Amber, siblings Abra and Ezra, and Amber's visiting mother, Julie Burns, are all doing well.

Amber delivered little Salem in our bedroom in Panajachel, with the help of a wonderful midwife, Daniela. We are so grateful for this healthy new life. God bless us everyone!



**PRAYERS:**

- Yamil, Jonathan, Melanie, Mirna, and all who grieve Estrella's death
- A time of refreshing for our local Porch team and workers, before our next round of short-term teams
  - Discernment for Noe as he selects our next house-build projects
- Melanie and Lloyd's May 5-29 trip stateside. This includes a May 10-17 trip to their sister church in Cifuentes, Cuba (their first in a decade) to help deliver funds for a house-church building purchase (along with Bill Peebles). Contact us: 850.688.2076, email or Facebook!
- Betty Conley, R.N.'s, move back to *Salud y Paz*; thanks for your faithful volunteer service to PdS, Betty!
  - Continued blessings for little Salem and the Deeds family
- Continued resourcing of Porch's year-round work by our faithful mission partners



Noe has us working more and more with a humble "adult day care" (Golden Years) in a nearby indigenous village. Porch was pleased to sponsor a short boat trip on Lake Atitlan last month. Many of these humble folk had never cruised the lake.

***Porch de Salomon***

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