

## Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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### Tax-deductible Donations:

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Or on-line

[www.porchdesalomon.org](http://www.porchdesalomon.org)

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



# PorchTalk

Volume 110

August 2014

## ENLARGE and STRETCH by Lloyd

*Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left. Isaiah 54:2-3*

Recently, the governmental agency SESAN pleaded with our humanitarian relief director, Noe, for Porch de Salomon to conduct village medical clinics in the Boca Costa region. For a variety of reasons, chiefly extremely poor roads and extreme poverty, the people of this area have very little access to health care; many of them have never seen a doctor. The Boca Costa clinics would be at least four hours from Panajachel, near the hot Pacific coast.

Melanie and I were initially dubious and thought "we have to draw a line somewhere, don't we?" However, upon learning more and seeing the needs and the passion of the social workers, and Noe, we decided to give our incoming Trinity UMC (Gainesville FL) and St. Paul's Christian Church (Raleigh NC) this option. Praise God for leaders like Ted and Diane, and teams like theirs, who said "we'll go where you want us to go."

These July clinics were smashing successes, God be praised. Both newbies like Thomas (see below) and seasoned veterans like Jayne returned with stories of tremendous impact. (continued on page two)



Thomas Sinodis described his first day in a Boca Costa clinic as follows; *I don't have words to describe what today was like... I cried a lot and saw some of the most beautiful and strong people I will ever encounter. We were able to see 200 patients... [and] hopefully made some impact!*

(Left) Porch medical liaison Jayne Mittan accompanied Team St. Paul's CC to the second Boca Costa clinic. She said this patient's foot was "beyond bad."



Tom



This two-year old's severe, untreated skin condition brought tears to our team's eyes

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



## ENLARGE AND STRETCH *(continued from page one)*

July brought a new team to serve with Porch de Salomon each week—just like June did! As you can imagine, this stretched thin our human resources and staff and, at times, everyone's patience. However, these volunteers brought energy, resources, fun, and hope to us and the folks we serve. All told, we greatly appreciate the July contributions of:

- \* Team Trinity UMC (Gainesville, FL) and the Upthegrove/Cappellino family team
- \* Team Dirty Feet Missions and Nancy Digisi, Sarah G., Lisa/Kathleen Duke, and Elda L. Martinko
- \* Team Sharon Church youth (McDonough, GA)
- \* St. Paul's Christian Church (Raleigh, NC)

Porch de Salomon's year-round work and outreach impacts hundreds of folks and requires a substantial amount of money to do so. God calls us, as in the verse from Isaiah 54, to lengthen our [tent] cords and strengthen our [tent] stakes as we follow his command to enlarge, stretch, and "not hold back." In other words, to do what we can, from a common sense perspective, to support the enlargement. To me, that lengthening and strengthening involves inviting our mission partners to continue to generously resource our work with their donations and to seek new mission partners who will do the same.

You're invited!

We thank those of you who already do this. Again, we invite those of you who haven't yet taken that step, or haven't done so recently, to make a tax-deductible donation now. It's easy to get started or get back on board. Please contact me with your ideas, questions, or comments and we'll get you started (*see donation and contact info, page one*). Gracias! Lloyd

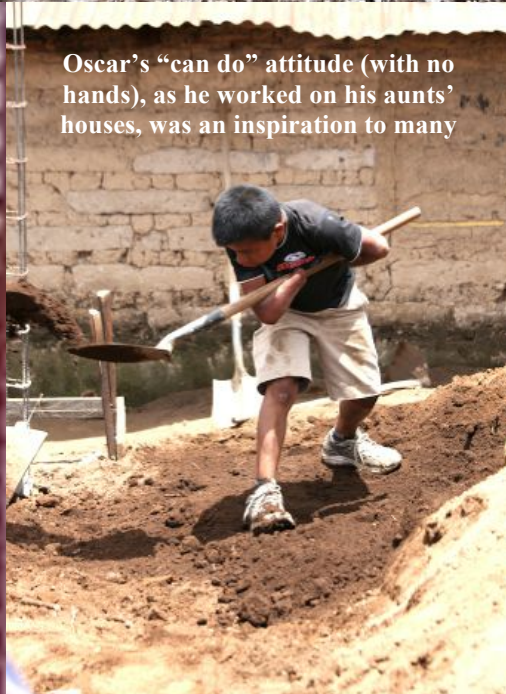


(At left): Trinity UMC member Ralph in his Rambo stance; he was tireless!

(Below): Sharon Church youth teamer Emma photographs indigenous kids at a Bible school. For many, the photo they received was their first!



Oscar's "can do" attitude (with no hands), as he worked on his aunts' houses, was an inspiration to many



Sharon Church team leader Greg and Velanie work on house foundation steel



Many of this issue's photos were taken by Will Deeds—thanks!



## WILD THINGS

by Emily Rutledge

Today, I experienced one of the coolest things ever in my life. Last night when we arrived, we were introduced to Lloyd and Melanie Monroe. We are staying in their hotel, Hotel California, which is attached to their restaurant and, yes, bar (parents don't freak, it isn't a party bar, they just serve alcohol), Solomon's Porch. The Monroe's are doing something that is very unheard of. They aren't only talking like Jesus, but walking like Jesus. They are reaching out to their community by not condemning them for drinking (or other activities typically frowned upon by most Christians), but rather drawing them in.

As we sat through their worship service today, I could not help but think of the lyrics of one of my favorite songs, *Wild Things*, by Andy Mineo. The lyrics say, "If you catch me in a bar where the wild things are with my pastor and the entourage who loves God, please don't think that it's odd. We kick it round broken hearts, fishing for men, surrounded by sin." These lyrics never seemed real to me until today. We saw people not only speaking God's will, but living it out. Walking like Christ, not reaching out to those who already attend church--but reaching out to those who wouldn't come into a church for the fear of being judged. This is one of the coolest ministries I have ever witnessed. I encourage you to pray for Porch de Salomon.

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*Emily was a member of the Sharon Church Youth team and posted this on Facebook on her second day in Panajachel.*

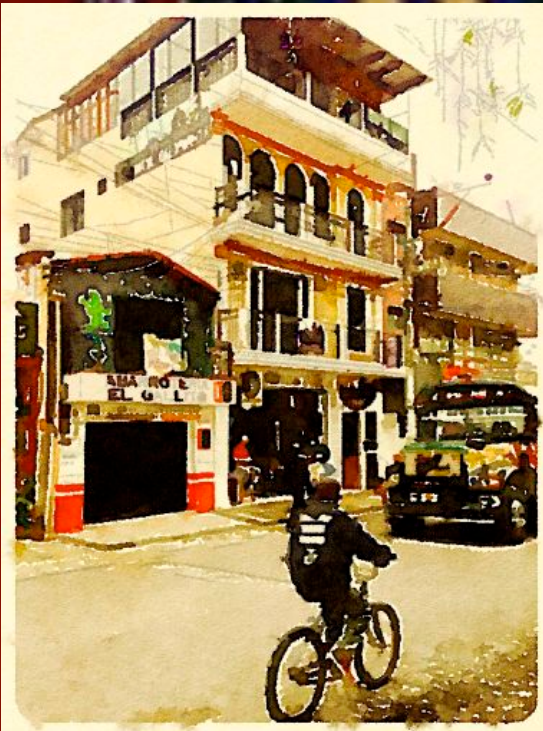


Photo of Solomon's Porch/Hotel California (with Waterlogue application) by Mary Jessie Proffitt (TN).

(Below) St. Paul's CC teamers work their new steel-tying skills.

Team leader, Rev. Diane Faires (head down, center) posted: "If anyone is looking for a great overseas organization to partner with, check out Porch de Solomon. They're organized, compassionate, and seek to empower local people." Thank you Diane!

(Right) Long-time Porch supporter families, the Cappellinos and Upthegroves, go at it!  
(Below) Seth returned to serve with Team Trinity UMC Gainesville



Vantage Church pastor, and DFM team member, Vic Robinson reflects in an adult day care Bible school





## PRAYERS and PRAISES

- \* Our tenth (and final summer) team week with Christ Presbyterian (Tallahassee) and “extras”—Aug. 2-9; construction!
- \* Our August 9 “Justice for our Children” musical benefit at Solomon’s Porch (helping a child abuse prosecution)
- \* Plans: Deeds’ and Monroe’s upcoming furlough/promos

- \* Funding for our eight remaining (of 18) SESAN severely malnourished infant cases (\$60 per month)
- \* Renewal for our local staff and workers after Aug. 9
  - \* Partnership progress with our “new” summer team churches
- \* For old and new mission partner/donors to help Porch de Salomon carry on, and enlarge where we should, through generous financial support



*(Left):* Retired surgeon Paul Deaton, M.D., stretched his medical experience, in his 80’s, by serving in the Boca Costa along with his wife Jackie (shown below) and Team St. Paul’s CC.



*(Right)* We were honored that Team Dirty Feet leader/founder Genia’s husband, Eddie, chose to enlarge his “tent” and join a DFM team, and us, in Guatemala!



## *Porch de Salomon*

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