

## Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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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 114

December 2014

## FINISHING WITH FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

*Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.  
I Cor. 13:13*

2014 has been an eventful and high-impact year for Porch de Salomon. We are thankful for the support of our mission partners (churches and individuals) who provide the money that funds our year-round humanitarian relief and outreach in Guatemala. While, frankly, our bank balance has shrunk, as our work expands under Noe's leadership, we have faith that God will provide the resources necessary through his people (like you!) at year's end. Here are three stories, among our many, of *faith, hope, and love!*

**FAITH:** Albino supported himself and his mother selling snacks on public buses at a busy highway intersection in *Los Encuentros*. That ended when he was run over by two cars; he was not expected to live but, after eight operations and seven months of hospitalization, he survived. He testifies, in his Kaq'chikel language, that he never gave up his faith in God or for help for his family. Now, he and his mother will receive our final building project of 2014--a decent kitchen and bathroom (wheelchair accessible).

**HOPE:** In Jackelin Elizabeth Cumes' (12, *below left*) own words: *I am in the sixth grade in Panajachel; it is my hope and dream to some day be a teacher who can help children. My parents have been in prison for drug trafficking since I was three years old. I live with relatives but they do not have enough money to pay for my schooling. I am thankful for a Porch de Salomon "Beca" scholarship which now provides for my schooling. May God bless and help those who are helping me.*

(Continued on page two)



(Above) Albino outside his and his mother's latrine; this is the only bathroom they have.  
(Left) His mother joins Albino and part of our Porch local team to break ground for their new kitchen/bathroom.

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

## FINISHING WITH FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

(Cont'd from page one)

*LOVE:* Kenia's father abandoned her and her young indigenous mother, Vilma, when Kenia was born with a cleft palate. Undeterred, Vilma's love and care for her daughter, with the help of Porch de Salomon's cleft-palate nutrition/surgery program, has been a beautiful thing to see. While Kenia's recent corrective surgery was a success, she will need at least two more operations.

Again, *muchas gracias!* Please contact us if you would like to help us continue to meet needs like these: [dlloydmonroe@gmail.com](mailto:dlloydmonroe@gmail.com) or 850.688.2076



We hosted combined teams from our long-time partner church Christ the Shepherd Lutheran (GA) and our new partner—Union Congregational Church (CO)-- in November. These folk ran village medical and vision clinics as well as construction projects and Bible schools. (At left) Rev. Kelly Jo and teamer Emily taking a break (Below, left) R.N. Mike, in the center, handles triage with the help of Jezer's translation

(Below): Lonny "photo bombs" concrete mixers up in Xecotoj!



Dr. Joel (third from right, with his wife Scarlet and Noe), trained Pana's EMT's on proper usage of the defibrillators donated by Eddie Upthegrove and Sarah Nelson. Porch has provided the only AED's in our area.



Teamers Yvonne and Jennifer work a vision clinic



## WE NEED YOUR HELP

by Lloyd

Porch de Salomon is a small, inter-denominational not-for-profit which demonstrates God's love, expressed best through the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, to "the lost, the least, and the last" and others. 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 partner churches.

Melanie and I continue in our tenth year of full-time service. We appreciate the sacrifices our volunteers Will, Amber, Joe, and Laura 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. Porch de Salomon's work 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, costs money. Our base monthly ministry budget is \$11,000—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/quarterly/annual pledge for 2015. "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 [dlloydmonroe@gmail.com](mailto:dlloydmonroe@gmail.com) (or 850.688.2076) for more information. We welcome appreciated stock donations (tax-advantaged!) as well.*



\$50 will provide one month's formula for Leticia. She suffers from VACTERL disorder.

Among other things, her pelvis is disconnected from her spinal column.

### SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Your tax-deductible donations have high impact in Guatemala!

- \*Two weeks' formula for cleft palate baby (\$25)
- \*One month's swim therapy for a spina bifida child (\$40)
- \*One week's coffee for 65 men at Casa Tat Loy alcohol/drug rehab center (\$40)
- \*One-half *Utz Jay* 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 protein (eggs, beans, and milk) for an indigenous family (\$60)
- \*One month's milk and medicine for a SESAN severely malnourished infant (\$60)
- \*One month's temporary housing for an indigenous Guatemalan family (\$100)
- \*One month's in-patient alcohol/drug rehabilitation for an addicted person (\$125)
- \*Chicken coop (with chicks, feed, and more) for an indigenous family (\$200)

### Please provide NEW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2015

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 as they struggle to put food on the table each day. For example, Jackelin (*see page one*) will not be able to attend school next year without our help.

Flora (9, *top right*) has suffered the death of her mother (alcohol poisoning) and an unsettled life due to her father's alcoholism. Now in the custody of her aunt (in a Porch project house!), Flora and her indigenous sisters are "behind" in school but are making progress through the help of Porch scholarships.

Alfonso (12, *lower right*) and his indigenous single-mother family (his father died six years ago from alcohol addiction) are hard-working people who live in Chipop. Porch scholarships have allowed him to make it to sixth grade---farther than anyone else in his family.

Each year since 2006, Porch de Salomon has provided school scholarships ("*Becas*") through the generosity of our *Beca* donors. In 2014, our donors funded over 70 scholarships! We are now inviting and accepting donations for the 2015 school year (which runs from January to October)!

These annual scholarships cost **\$240 each**. Please consider funding one or more of these life-changing gifts. Please contact us directly with your questions or to say "Yes" -- [dlloydmonroe@gmail.com](mailto:dlloydmonroe@gmail.com) or call 850.688.2076, by December 30 if possible.



**PRAYERS for:**

- \* Team Olive Branch Church, Nov. 29—Dec. 6: work on Albino's construction project
- \*Porch's alternative market booths at John Wesley UMC (Dec. 6,7) and Christ Presbyterian (Dec. 12,13) (both Tallahassee)
- \* Generous year-end general and special donations/pledges, especially support for our 2015 *Beca* school scholarships
- \* Swift completion of our four pending building projects
- \* An impactful 2015 for Porch de Salomon and our ministry

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

Melanie and Lloyd are stateside, through January 27. We'd love to meet with you, (call us!) or for you to join us:  
Dec. 21-- First Presb. Ch. Monticello FL  
Dec. 28 -- Wacissa UMC  
Jan. 7 -- St. Francis Epis. (KY)  
Jan. 11 -- First Christian Ch (Clarkesville TN)  
Jan. 18-- Trinity UMC (Gainesville FL)  
Jan. 25-- Memorial UMC (FL)

Best wishes for a blessed and happy holiday season and a prosperous 2015 from our in-country Porch team!  
*(From Left): Melanie, Jeydi, Mirna, Birma, Lloyd, Noe, Carmen, Nik, Abra, Amber, Ezra, Salem, Will and (inset) Joe and Laura*

\*Their work, with Porch de Salomon, supports the families of our six full-time Guatemalan staffers (as well as part-time workers and our 11 contract builders, who are not shown). Your donations and support make the work and witness of Porch de Salomon possible.  
*Gracias, y Feliz Navidad!*



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and on 

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