

## Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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

and on [facebook](#)

Lloyd and Melanie Monroe

Founders/Directors

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

011.502.4249.9410

Lindsey Newberry

Field Coordinator

[newberry.lindsey@gmail.com](mailto:newberry.lindsey@gmail.com)

011.502.5410.6638

Rex Ware

Stateside Support Team

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

850.933.0344

Fred Thomson, Rebekah Aman

Treasurers

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

850.559.5960

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

850.510.1955

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 and others

\*Solomon's Porch  
Café ministry

\*Live music outreach

\* Helping transform churches  
and individuals



# PorchTalk

Volume 118

May 2015

## SACRED, SHELTER, SELF-SUFFICIENCY

*He will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. Psalm 27:5 (NIV)*

Our April began with *Semana Santa* (Holy Week), its Catholic processions (*sacred*) and more. That week is also a “party week” for many; Panajachel was packed and every hotel room was taken (*shelter*). Perhaps it was like that in Jesus’ time; Passover pilgrims packed Jerusalem, while some folks just wanted to frolic. God and his people, all mixed in, and some mixed up---“*could it be that everything’s sacred?*” (*Caedmon’s Call*).

We invite you to check out this issue’s examples of sacred, shelter, and self-sufficiency. We are thankful for our mission partners and supporters whose donations make Porch de Salomon’s multi-faceted work possible.

Please consider responding to several special giving opportunities we present in this issue. Our work depends on your help.

Don’t miss our update on Samuel Par (his chains are off!), on page two, and see how you can join the sacred work of helping us help him. *Gracias!*



(Counterclockwise, from left):  
\*Melanie snapped this shot of two *Semana Santa* procession participants keeping their candles lit

\*Some of “our” indigenous women learned to make shampoo, to sell, during our recent self-sufficiency training class

\* Moises and Melchora’s family beamed as we dedicated their new house in Tzan’chaj. Thanks to “Team Moza” and its supporters!



“For the lost, the least, and the last”



## SHELTER FOR SAMUEL

...and he's unchained! As you may recall from last month's issue, Samuel's family chained him up, in the open, for six years—they didn't know what else to do when he went berserk as a result of schizophrenia.

Our visiting Centenary/CUMC (CA) team built him a confinement shelter/house. Samuel (26) is responding well to his increased psychotropic medications, physical contact, and clothing. Please continue to pray for him, his family, and Porch as we help him.

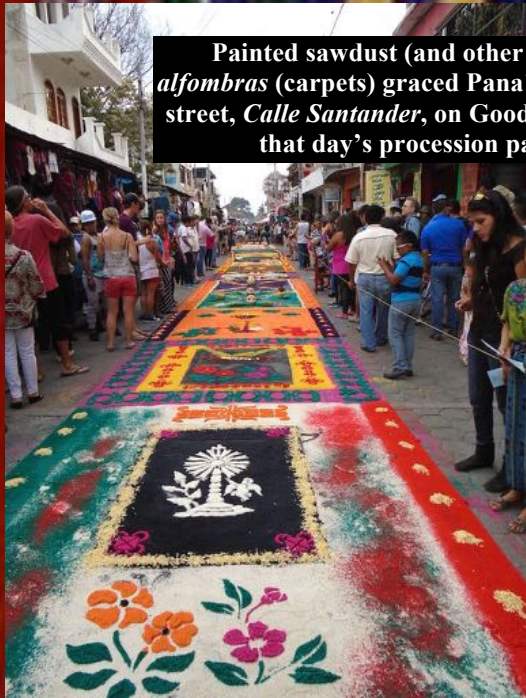


## HELP US HELP SAMUEL

...with your tax-deductible donation, which will provide:

- \* His psychotropic medicine: \$125 per month
  - \* Food for Samuel: \$50 per month
  - \* His hygiene/health items : \$20 per month
  - \* Utz Jay clean water filter for him and his family: \$90
- Please contact Lloyd (see page one) for more information.

Painted sawdust (and other material) alfombras (carpets) graced Pana's main tourist street, *Calle Santander*, on Good Friday, until that day's procession passed.



*(Above and left):* Team members from Centenary/CUMC (California) funded, and helped build, Samuel's shelter in *Los Encuentros*



## SELF-SUFFICIENCY TRAINING by Lindsey Newberry



We continue in our efforts to encourage self-sufficiency and sustainability with “our” Porch de Salomon families; some receive monthly protein (eggs, milk, and beans), or school scholarships, and some have received houses. We have begun giving these indigenous women the opportunity to learn skills that can help them start home-based businesses. During our recent first class, our ladies learned how to bake cakes without an oven (these families do not have ovens, only wood stoves). They also learned to make shampoo, using local plants. Both the cakes and shampoo can be sold in their villages.

Maria (*far left*) is a business-savvy indigenous woman who we hired to teach these classes, which are held in both Kaq’chikel and Spanish. We are excited to announce that several of the women from our first class have already started practicing their skills by making cakes and shampoo, and they have dreams and plans to start selling these products in the near future.

Juliana (*below*) is a sweet lady who was so excited to share with us that she had successfully made a cake on her own. As she shared the details with us, you could see by the glow in her face that she was very proud of herself — proof that these classes are empowering the women as we had hoped.

We have other women (*see left*), however, who have the desire to get started, but have no money to purchase the pans, measuring cups, and other necessary materials. You can sponsor one of these families with a one-time donation of \$40 per family. PLEASE CONSIDER AND LET US KNOW!



**HELP SUSTAIN** these families, and our efforts to help them be self-sufficient, with a tax- deductible donation of:

- \$250 for the cost of a self-sufficiency training session (teacher, raw materials, lunch, transportation)
- \$40 for start-up baking equipment

Please contact Lindsey or Lloyd (see page one) for more information. *Gracias!*



**LETICIA** (2, shown right, with her parents) suffers from VACTERL disorder. This devastating malady caused, among other things, her spine to not connect to her pelvis (*see her X-rays, at left*). She is paraplegic.

Joe and Laura built her this special bed, in the Porch woodshop!

**HELP SUSTAIN** our aid to Leticia, with a tax-deductible donation of:

\*\$90 for the cost of materials and mattress for her bed

\*\$40 monthly cost of her milk

\*\$40 monthly cost of her medicines

Please contact Lloyd (see page one) for more information. *Gracias!*







Porch de Salomon's recent team from Trinity UMC (Gainesville, FL) worked well on house builds in Xequel and Panajachel. We appreciate them, their leader Ted Grueser, and this partner church.

Teamer Alex Ciullo (16, from Chicago, at left, second from left) wrote:  
To everyone involved with Porch/Hotel California:

*Thank you all so much for an amazing week! The hotel was great, the view from the balcony beautiful, the food was absolutely amazing, and the staff was all so welcoming and helpful.*

*I wasn't sure what to expect on this trip; I arrived a bit nervous. However, this trip has changed my life. I fell in love with Panajachel, its people, and the work we were doing. While I felt heartbroken to leave, I will most definitely be back next year. Thank you all so much for everything you do.*



## ***Porch de Salomon***

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