

## Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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\*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 119

June 2015

## OPEN WIDE

by Lloyd

[Jesus] said to him, "Ephphatha!" which means "Be opened"! Mark 7:34  
I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Jesus, at John 4:35

Part of Porch de Salomon's work and outreach involves keeping our eyes and ears open to "see Jesus" (or see his children) in everyone we encounter. We then strive to follow with an open-minded approach to determine how we can best serve them.

In turn, we have nurtured an environment and team experience which can really open our community's and visitors' eyes and minds to the way God is working around us, and how he can best work through them, their time, and their treasure.

We invite your attention to this month's "open" stories and images!

We thank God, and you, for those of you who have generously opened your checkbooks, purses, and computers (on-line giving!), to resource our work in "the fields" Jesus described.

Most of the giving opportunities in last month's edition are still open; please check them out at <http://porchdesalomon.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/May15-PorchTalk.pdf> and contact me if you'd like to get involved; it's easy!



(Left) Children open wide, along with their mother, at one of Team Memorial UMC's free village medical clinics. We appreciate Dr. Don Twiggs!

(Below left) Team leader Linda Twiggs, R.N. and her helpers (wo)man the clinic pharmacy. Each of this team's clinics was across Lake Atitlan!



(Right) Silveria's family (including the new grandchild, Will) is shown on their front porch of their new house, doors open wide, on dedication day. This is Porch's 76<sup>th</sup> completed house!

We appreciate our spring teams which funded and built this house. It is located at the top of a steep, mountain foot trail.



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



## OPENING our next two house projects

Vilma's husband deserted her and their family before their twins were born. SESAN government workers connected us with Vilma (31) when they discovered the twins were severely malnourished; Porch is providing milk for the babies and food for the family now.

This malnourished family's crumbling, leaky adobe two-room house has no beds; they sleep on straw mats on their dirt floor. The woodstove works poorly and pours smoke into the house. They have no table, chairs, or furniture of any kind.

Thanks to our incoming summer teams, and our mission partners, they will receive a new house and more hope for a better life! *Gracias a Dios.*



## RIPE FOR HELP

Porch volunteer David, from our partner church St. Paul's Christian Church (Raleigh NC), said the day we dedicated Silveria's house, and we told Catarina she would receive a new house, was one of the "top ten" best days of his life. He tells Catarina's story well (*below*).....



*I visited Catarina Vicente Yaxon's family with a Porch team to see if they would be a good candidate for a home build. We all agreed that this was one of the poorest families we had seen:*

*father/husband abandoned the family for another woman, no food on site, no water (they tote water from a stream 20 minutes away), leaky roofs, both small buildings (kitchen and sleeping area) flood when it rains, very little income (she works in the corn fields and washes clothes in the river), the list goes on ...*

*After further investigation, Porch decided to provide a home for this family, which parallels my own birth family in so many ways. The children range from 12 year-old Isaías down to the baby. We break ground the beginning of June. I can't wait, and I hope to see the home completed before I HAVE to return to Raleigh.*

*Guatemala is rapidly becoming my NEW home.*

David Osborne, Raleigh NC

## OPEN ARMS

by Lindsey Newberry

I may just be the craziest addition to the Porch de Salomon family. I'm a girl who has a nose ring, lots of tattoos, likes to enjoy a beer from time to time, and occasionally has a bit of a potty mouth. I'm not your typical missionary; in fact, I don't even like the word "missionary." But I believe with all my heart that God uses me and my, at times, crazy personality, to do good work for his Kingdom. God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called, right?

Back in 2009, I was a 22-year-old who had just ended a five-year relationship and was approaching my senior year at Florida State when I spiraled out of control. Drugs, drinking, and guys became my focus. I partied as much as I could, looking to find happiness and self-worth in anything and everything. As my priorities shifted, my grades slipped; I was kicked out of FSU twice.

Through the help of my best friend, and an amazing church community, I slowly started to turn my life around. I began seeking something bigger than myself, and slowly but surely, after being an atheist for ten years, I began to know the man who changed my life forever -- Jesus.

There are, obviously, gaps in this story, but the lack of details does not diminish the richness of God's redemption. The prodigal daughter -- embraced after years of sprinting in the opposite direction; forgiven before ever forgiving herself; showered with love and blessings for simply being her -- that's my story.

In 2011, I came to Pana for the first time on a short-term mission trip with my church, and the connection I felt to Guatemala was something I couldn't explain. I've wanted to live here ever since, and in January of this year, all the details finally came together. Porch de Salomon was looking to incorporate some new things that required my skills and passions, so I came on board as the Field Coordinator -- assisting with our volunteer teams, and working with "our" indigenous families on basic education that can help them live more sustainable lives. Although my bumpy past and crazy personality may be considered "disqualifiers" to some, it is what helps me connect to and minister to the people in this beautiful little town I now call home.

A special thanks to Melanie and Lloyd and the rest of the Porch family for welcoming me with open arms.

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*Lindsey is a Tallahassee gal who eventually graduated from FSU and worked for the state before becoming a full-time Porch volunteer in January 2015. She is a spunky, friendly, smart, asset to us and Porch de Salomon's work; she's doing a great job as our Field Coordinator. Lloyd*



### HELP!

Supporters have pledged \$300 per month for Lindsey's living expenses. She lives simply but needs an additional \$300 each month to continue.

Please contact her, or me, (see contact information page one) if you'd like to join in this effort with your tax-deductible donations.

Thanks! Lloyd



(Above) Team Memorial UMC members, along with volunteers from Indiana University, open up foundation footers at Vilma's new house build.  
(Left): Loreli, Kay, and Ellen build a privacy outhouse around the open latrine at the build site. Good work ladies!



## HARVEST!

Oscar and his mother Candelaria's family is getting a new house, courtesy of our mission partner Dirty Feet Missions' generosity.

*(Left)* Oscar, who lost both hands as a child, amazed last summer's teams as he worked, wide open, shoveling at his aunt's house build.

*(Right)* Candelaria is one of three sisters who, together, bore a total of 16 children to the now-deceased Geronimo in their indigenous village. Porch helps these families with food, school scholarships, and more.



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Improvement for our schizophrenic friend Samuel Par
- A transplant kidney for Mauricio (19)
- Rudy's knee; he cut the tendon with a grinder
- Our plans to purchase a new van to replace "Big Blue!"

\* Our incoming teams—harmony, growth, impact, and safety:

--Team Element 3; house construction and Bible schools (June 6-13)

--Team Centenary/CUMC (CA); medical clinics in the *Boca Costa*, and house construction (June 7-13)

--Teams Waukeelah UMC/Family Burke/Presbyterians (from FL and TX) (35 pilgrims!); house construction and Bible schools (June 13-20)

--Dirty Feet Missions; house construction (June 20-27)

--Team Digisi/Vantage Church; house construction (June 27-July 4)

## *Porch de Salomon*

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

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