

## Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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[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

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## TASTE AND SEE

*Taste and see that the Lord is good. Psalm 34:8*

Porch de Salomon's June was bursting with back-to-back short term teams and volunteers who tasted much: House building alongside indigenous families, medical clinics in the remote *Boca Costa* region, fun village Bible schools, a bit of Panajachel's music and night life, Porch's progressive flavor, box lunches "in the field," and great food at Solomon's Porch Café, Irene's house, and other eateries. These teams included:

- Element3 (Tallahassee FL)
- Centenary UMC/CUMC (CA)
- Waukeenah UMC (FL)/Burke Family (TX), First Presbyterian Fort Walton Beach, FL/Legacy Presbyterian (Frisco TX) (35 folks in total!); and
- Team Dirty Feet Missions

For most, if not all of them, and for us, the month was indeed savory with God's goodness. We are thankful for these teams and for those of you whose faithful financial support powers Porch's multi-faceted work and outreach, year-round. Gracias!

(Right) WUMC team member Wesley Roy was a great dental hygiene instructor in Chuiquel. (Below) Fellow team member Pat Monge in the block line, flanked by team leader Geoff Monge



Fransiska (above, right) attended our sustainability class a few months ago and learned how to bake cakes on her woodstove. She lives near our house-build site in Chuiquel. One day, on her own, she appeared with a cake she had baked to share with our team. I presented her to the group and shared her story with them, and then everyone got a piece of cake. She was visibly pleased with this tasty accomplishment.

I'm so proud of Fransiska and I was happy to celebrate with her. She wants to learn more and, some day, have her own bakery. She also wants to take what she's learned and teach the women in her village. She's a single mother and is proactive, hard working, positive, humble, and has big dreams.

*Lindsey Newberry*

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

## GOOD DOSE OF *BOCA COSTA*

Our intrepid Centenary/CUMC (CA) team traveled (three hours from Pana) to this grossly underserved coastal region to conduct three days of village medical clinics—they treated 490 patients! Some of these patients had never seen a health care provider before.

(At right): One of the team's vans gets stuck, despite local efforts to fill in ruts with rocks from a truck which preceded the vans.

(Below) Nancy Fisher, R.N. works triage.



(Below) Rich Fisher, M.D. with Antonio (18) and his mother at one of the *Boca Costa* clinics. Part of this stunted young man's problem is a history of chronic malnutrition.



Robin and Elizabeth in Team Element3's bucket line

See last month's CNN story on Guatemala's "Invisible Crisis"—chronic child malnutrition, at: <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/06/04/world/iyw-guatemala-stunted-children/> and let us know if you'd like to **help Porch counter this problem** with a \$60 donation—monthly or one-time. This will provide a family, like Antonio's, with protein-rich food!

New folks—from Legacy Presbyterian Church in Frisco, TX, get a good taste of new skills. (Below) Dana Liska, DVM, received tortilla lessons from Vilma while Dana's daughters and Carmen work on rebar for the foundation of Vilma's new house in Panuca.



# A CHANGE OF TASTE

by Michael Bateman, Team Element3

I never felt “called” to the global mission field. Even hearty encouragement by experienced people fell on deaf ears. Things like “making of new friends” and “having a real connection with the indigenous people” and “making a difference to the children” seemed pretty unlikely to happen with me. I’m just not that kind of person. I don’t deal well with new people, never mind the foreign culture and language barriers. Engaging with children is WAY outside of my comfort zone. No, the mission thing was for someone else.

There were too many unknowns. How do we build a house when I’m not an experienced builder, and with my bad back? Would my talents be wasted or unappreciated? Will the work actually help the situation, or will it be despised as charity from the wealthy Americans? How is the whole thing accomplished? What if I don’t know what to do or have control over the situation. No, the mission thing was definitely for someone else.

Upon arrival in Guatemala, very little felt familiar, and I was already pretty sure that this would be my LAST time doing this. However, after our first day’s work, and after meeting the single mother of five children we were helping, my heart began to melt. People of different cultures are pretty much the same, and verbal communication might be over-rated. I was overwhelmed with the love and open arms of the families we served. Each morning began with hugs and genuine smiles from each and every family member. We were building these people a better place to live and grow their family, and they really appreciated our help. After several days, our mission team, the local workers and the families were less like strangers and more like friends. We truly felt the presence of God, and could see a tangible result of the body-of-Christ in action. There are really no words to describe the experience.

My wife and I treasure our time in Guatemala, serving with Porch de Salomon. I cannot adequately express the feelings that well up in me when I look back on the experience. I have never been stretched in such a good way, and have never felt closer to God. We are already looking ahead to our next trip. I guess this mission thing is for me!

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*Michael, an engineer, is a great example of how folks who have resisted (men especially!) “tasting” something new can really benefit from giving it a try. We appreciate his candor and cooperative spirit and look forward to being part of his journey forward. Lloyd*



(Clockwise, from right)

- \* Asa Burke joined his family from Rockwall, TX
- \* Team Dirty Feet Missions (and interns) demolished Oscar’s family’s decrepit adobe abode
- \* Team WUMC with Catarina’s family
- \* Levi Case and his father Eric (Team E3) with Bible school kids





### TASTING WITHOUT TOTING

Catarina's family is receiving a new house and has won the hearts of our teams. For years, this single mother toted her family's water, from a creek, up a steep trail (15 minutes) on her head. (Left) Catarina's family now has running water for the first time ever!



#### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

-- Our incoming teams—harmony, growth, impact, and safety:

- Team Digisi/Vantage Church; house construction (June 27-July 4)
- Team Maxwell St. Presbyterian Youth (KY); house construction (July 4-11)
  - Team Sharon Church (GA) Youth and Wacissa UMC/Tinker; house construction (July 11-18)
- \* Team Killearn UMC (FL)/Sullivan (GA) and Resavage (FL); village medical and vision clinics, house construction (July 18-25)
- \* Team Olive Branch Church/Akron UMC (IN); house construction (July 25-Aug. 1)
  - A kidney for Mauricio (19)
  - Joe and Laura's July 19 marriage!
- Monroe's as they move into their unfinished house, in Panajachel, July 15
- Continued improvement for Samuel Par (schizophrenic)
- Deeds family as they discern their plans for the next "chapter" of their ministry

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