

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

porchdesalomon.org

and on  facebook

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Tax-deductible Donations:
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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 123

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PRESSING ON

by Lloyd

I'm pressing on, the upward way; new heights I'm gaining everyday. From "Higher Ground"
(Oatman/Gabriel hymn)

In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day... Jesus at Luke 13 (NIV)

During our ten-year ministry anniversary "furlough/promo," (which ends October 15) Melanie and I have visited numerous mission partners and churches in Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, and California. We lived a bit like gypsies; "on the road," out of a suitcase, and inviting folks to "throw money" in our direction. It has been tiring but great; we have enjoyed beautiful times, beautiful sights, humble and generous donations, and the hospitality of beautiful people. Our theme, during our live presentations, has been *Pressing On* (taken from the lyrics and scripture quoted above).

One of our closest relatives (and great supporter) says of our promotion: "I'd hate doing what y'all do." Like the work of our Panajachel "team" (some of who get up at 4:30 a.m. to prepare breakfast for our teams and others who work in difficult and frustrating situations), "mission fatigue" indeed sets in at times. Yet, with the help of God's spirit and great mission partners, we are strongly led to keep pressing on as Porch enters its second decade of service and outreach.

Part of what motivates us, and our Porch team, are folks like Pascuala and Oscar, and their families (see photos below and stories inside). The work of Porch de Salomon has been a lifeline of hope for them and has helped them achieve things they never dreamed possible.

We thank those of you who are helping Porch de Salomon press on! Please contact me if you'd like to do more or wish get involved, in a tangible way, for the first time, or in a long time! *Adelante!*



Hannah
joined us
in song
one
Sunday!



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

TRIPLETS AND TRIPLE HOUSES

Marta Salazar Salazar and her husband Ventura are the surprised parents of triplets! They now have nine children in the indigenous village of Concepcion.

The government agency SESAN brought the family to Porch to help these babies, and the other children, avoid chronic malnutrition. Guatemala continues to suffer from the world's fourth worst chronic malnutrition rate, especially in infants. Sadly, the government social workers have no resources to give this family; no money, no milk, no food.

As we always do, Porch has stepped out in faith to fund:
* formula and vitamins for the triplets (@ \$40 per month, per baby);

* Eggs, milk, and beans for the family (@ \$60 per month)

Please help us press on and help these children with your lump-sum or monthly donations -- contact us now! Gracias.



(Left): Antonia Vicente Yaxon and her children have received their new house in Chuiquel. This humble, single-mother family (whose members have suffered terrible things previously) joins us in thanking our summer teams for funding and building this life-changing gift.

(Below): We are pleased to report that Catarina Vicente Yaxon's house has been completed and dedicated in Chuiquel. This heart-stealing family is enjoying their new digs and having running water for the first time ever. They say "Matiox" ("thank you" in Kaq'chikel) to all who helped provide this abode and new hope for their family.



(Left): Candelaria/Oscar's family house is our 11th completed house of 2015. Years ago, we met Oscar as he begged on Pana's streets. Later, we saw these children kneeling and praying, on their own, when their father, outlaw though he was, was killed by vigilantes. It's been a "long, strange trip." We are pleased and proud to have partnered with Genia Padgett O'Neal and Dirty Feet Missions to bless these folks, who by opening up their lives, bless us back.

PASCUALA

by Melanie

Earlier this year, our long-distance medical teams treated Pascuala (3) in the underserved *Boca Costa* region. This indigenous child suffers from *harlequin ichthyosis* (“fish skin disease”). She was frightened when her mother handed her to me (at left). Her skin is so tight that she cannot even blink her eyes. It’s tough to say it, but she resembles a little monster. While there is no cure, she’s doing better with the cream and treatment regime our medical folks have provided her.

I went with Noe to visit her sweet, humble family’s “house.” We walked the long, muddy footpath in and were shocked at the thatch/plastic sheeting room they call home (see below). We want to help them by building them a good house, even though they live too far away to send short-term building teams.

From Lloyd: We can use our foremen, and family and local labor, to build Pascuala’s family house. We have presented this giving opportunity during our recent travels and, God be praised, have raised \$4000 of the \$7000 we need. We invite you to help us press on and close this gap with a tax-deductible donation. Please let us hear from you!



Their “kitchen”



... and flashing back

Our last teams (not shown in previous issues) hailed from Olive Branch Church, Akron Church (both IN), and Providence Christian Church (KY).

Thanks for sharing your week, your work, your smiles, your encouragement, and much more. You helped us get those triple houses done!





Pardon us for using a happy photo of Linda Lopez to bring sad and bad news; after a month of illness, Linda's kidneys failed in late August. Linda (30) worked with our teams, and sold weavings to them, for years and was everyone's favorite; she is like a daughter to Melanie

Linda's family has not responded well to our, or anyone else's, efforts to save Linda from kidney failure. She underwent dialysis several times, with good results. Unfortunately, discussions of transplant options fell on deaf ears. What surfaced was belief that Linda had been cursed, that there was shame, that the afterlife would be better, that her kidneys had not failed, and so on. Linda, always the obedient daughter, followed her parents' lead on this and has declined further treatment.

We are shocked, sad, and, at times, angry about this. Linda's last dialysis was on September 21; Lindsey, Noe, Dra. Juana Luisa, Jeydi, Lucia, and Mirna have tried everything they can think of to turn the tide with her family. Even visits from Linda's school classmates yielded nothing. Thank you six for your patience, unyielding efforts, tears, and concern.

Thank you, Facebook friends and others, whose swift and generous donations paid for Linda's medical care/dialysis and gave Porch the confidence we could fund a transplant. It's a blessing that money was not the issue. God be with Linda, her family, our Porch community, and you all.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- * Linda, her family, and our Porch community, far and wide.
- * Team Trinity UMC Tallahassee Oct. 17-24: Medical clinics in the Boca Costa and house construction
 - * Funding for Pascuala's family house
 - * Donations to cover the triplets' milk and for food for Marta and Ventura's family
- * Better lives for the three families who have received their completed houses and for Oscar's leadership in his family
 - * The partnership "seeds" that the Monroe's planted in their travels to eventually bear great fruit

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