

## 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)

(stateside) 850.688.2076

011.502.7762.0460

[melanietmonroe@gmail.com](mailto:melanietmonroe@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

Lindsey Newberry

Field Coordinator

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

011.502.5410.6638

Rex Ware

Stateside Support Team

[rex@radeylaw.com](mailto:rex@radeylaw.com)

850.933.0344

Fred Thomson, Rebekah A. Griffin

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 124

November 2015

## DOORS OPENED

*For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.* Jesus of Nazareth at Matthew 7:8 (NIV)

*Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door.* Bob Dylan

Rain from the pre-Hurricane Patricia weather system greeted our incoming Trinity UMC (Tallahassee) team and caused us all to pause in mid-October. We planned to send the medical part of this team to the remote *Boca Costa* region. This region (three-plus hours from Pana) is grossly underserved, in part because of terrible road conditions.

They gamely traveled on and arrived well. As the doors were opened on the school building where clinics were to be held, no one knew whether the indigenous would brave the rain and mud, on foot, to reach the clinic. In a testament to this oppressed people group's grit, they came out, despite the conditions, to "ask, seek, and knock." For some, it was their first time seeing a medical professional. The rain cleared later in the week and the team, including the construction and Bible school components, had a great week and blessed hundreds of people. A little heaven on earth, perhaps?

As always, we thank those of you who open doors and respond to our asking, seeking, and knocking to support Porch de Salomon's work with your encouragement, prayers and financial support.



*Readers: How many doors can you find in this month's edition?*

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

# SANTA'S STORY

by Lindsey Newberry

Porch de Salomon is excited to present our newest house-build project for a sweet family of eight in the village of Chuiquel. Single mom, Santa Chumil Vicente, is a delightful indigenous woman and a loving mom to her four daughters and her three sons. After abandoning their family numerous times, her husband deserted the family once and for all three years ago, leaving the family with a mortgage debt and in a grave state of impoverished living.

We learned that this family only had tortillas and salt to eat when we first met them earlier this year. We enrolled them in our monthly feeding program. A bit later, Greg McGaha and Sharon Church provided an *Ecoplancha* wood stove and beds for the family; this group also raised enough money to pay off the mortgage debt!

The family burst into tears when our Jeydi told them, in their heart language of Kaq'chikel, that the debt would be taken care of by these folks from Georgia.

The debt satisfaction allowed the two oldest daughters to return home to live with their family, after years of working as indentured maids in Guatemala City. Maria Magdalena (16) and Claudia (15) had been working in physically and emotionally abusive environments to help their mother pay off the loan and provide food for the rest of their siblings.

Trinity UMC's Lay Academy (Tallahassee) has donated \$2000 for the family to buy a corn grinder (*molino*) which will provide sustainable, small business income. They are also receiving a new house through the generosity and labor of our fall teams and Sharon Church. What a new beginning for this family—wonderful doors have opened for them!



Santa's two oldest daughters wowed the Trinity team with their construction energy. Here, Maria Magdalena works with teamer Chris.



We were thrilled to finally dedicate Isabel's family house, with Team Trinity UMC in attendance. This tiny, 3.5 m x 3.5 m (built lot-line to lot-line), three-story house was completed and occupied just as Isabel's 19 year-old son Mauricio died from renal failure in late August. Waiting has allowed that pain to subside and for our medical liaison Jayne Mittan (*shown left*, who funded the dialysis and more) to attend. It was a touching ceremony.

Mega-thanks to Don, Kristie, Haley, and Morgan May for funding much of the construction costs and to all who labored on it.

We were thrilled that Dr. Beverly Helms joined team Trinity UMC. She was able to meet Edison Fernando (*below*, 7). For years, Bev's faithful monthly donations have helped this cleft palate child with surgery, milk, food, clothes and now, speech therapy. Sensational Bev!



(Above and below): Scenes from the Boca Costa clinics



Holly Mitchell brought letters (in KD green) for our ministry's new Toyota van. This van is hauling teams and helping us help many.

The bus is dedicated to the memory of Becky Wells who died, way too young, from cancer. Donations from her sorority sisters and friends brought this useful memorial to bear!



## UPDATE ON PASCUALA!

By Lloyd

Team Trinity UMC again treated Pascuala (3) at a *Boca Costa* clinic. Our readers may recall her as the indigenous child who suffers from *harlequin ichthyosis* ("fish skin"). We featured her story in last month's *PorchTalk*.

Jayne Mittan, PA, reported: *Pascuala is suffering with bilateral lower lid ectropions. Her lower conjunctiva are fire red and her eyes tear constantly. The skin around her eyes has tightened to the point that it is pulling her lids back. I am concerned about corneal damage if this is not surgically released. I have given her artificial tears to help in the interim.*

We are seeking surgical options for Pascuala. Also, we are just \$3000 short of the \$10,000 we need to build her sweet family a house; they live in a thatch hut. Please contact me if you'd like to help or have questions. Pardon me for underestimating this cost in last month's issue!



## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Early November will see Porch provide two life skills/sustainability seminars in Chuiquel to 40 indigenous women. Many of them are single mothers with no real income, who live in the world's fifth worst country to be a woman (Guatemala). Our goal is to teach them to make saleable products to help support their families.

In addition to specialized instruction, Porch will provide transportation, basic start-up material, lunch, and such. The photo at left shows some of the participants at a recent interest meeting. They have decided to focus on cake and marmalade making, especially as the holiday season approaches.

Our total cost for the seminars will be \$535. Please consider funding (or co-funding) them with a tax-deductible donation. Please feel free to contact Lindsey for more information.

*Gracias!*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- \* Teams: Christ the Shepherd Lutheran (GA), Nov. 7-14--medical/house construction/Bible School, and Stillpoint; Center for Spiritual Development (NV), Nov. 14-21—house construction
- \* Funding for Pascuala's family house (see page three!)
- \* Donations to cover Marta Salazar's triplets' milk and food

\* Joe and Laura's furlough/promo stateside Nov. 7—January 9. They'd love to visit you. Call: (260) 704-1872

\* Lindsey Newberry's engagement to Edgar Choguaj and her Nov. 10—Dec. 26 furlough/promo stateside. She'd love to visit you as well!

\* Linda Lopez (renal failure), her family, and our Porch community. Linda is alive and in fair condition. Porch has wound down our involvement, as per her family's wishes.

## *Porch de Salomon*

PO Box 10509  
Tallahassee FL 32302-2509  
[www.porchdesalomon.org](http://www.porchdesalomon.org)

and on 

NON-PROFIT  
STANDARD  
POSTAGE & FEES  
PAID  
WACISSA FL  
Permit #1

