

## 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, Robin Bateman  
Treasurers  
[fredt@tbc-cpa.com](mailto:fredt@tbc-cpa.com)  
850.559.5960  
[treasurerpds@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerpds@gmail.com)  
850.321.8243

**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 126

February 2016

## A CHANCE FOR EVERYBODY

*"Then who has any chance at all?" the others asked. "No chance at all," Jesus said, "if you think you can pull it off by yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it. "*

Luke 18:26-28 (MSG)

Porch de Salomon is in the chance-providing "business." Every time we can, we provide the support or resourcing necessary to give all sorts of folks a chance at a better, more abundant, life. We do what we can, as best we can, and trust God for provision and the results.

This month's newsletter theme comes from the mouth of our Panajachel friend Lonny Raymond Mitchell. We are excited to debut "Lonny's Story," a five-minute video wherein Lonny says "There's a chance for everybody" after discussing how his life has changed.

We invite you to view "Lonny's Story" at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzTMy7Ra8Y4&feature=youtu.be>. We also invite you to see other examples of new chances in this issue.

Our ministry finished 2015 with strong year-end donations; as a result, we are poised for an exciting and impactful 2016. THANK YOU to all who faithfully support Porch de Salomon's work with your money and more. God be praised for you!

For those of you who haven't yet partnered with us this way, don't miss this chance to provide such support. We have lots of ways to donate (even \$30 a month helps!)

and will gladly answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration.



Raul and Zoila's indigenous family now has a chance for a better life. Our teams will begin building them a new house this month. This family of 11 lives in a dirt-floor, three-room "house" made of tin, poles, and wooden planks. They have no electricity, running water, or bathroom. We met them when Raul contacted Porch for milk for the children.

Marta (13, seated) gave birth to a son, Jordani, in October. She became pregnant, at the age of 12, from the sexual assault of a 17 year-old indigenous youth. Marta is the youngest mother in the entire Department (state) of Solola. She has a third grade education; she'd like to continue her studies in the future.



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

## OTHER EVERYBODY'S.....

Ana Lidia Pablo Queju (2 months old) is the most recent malnourished baby brought to Porch de Salomon by the underfunded SESAN governmental relief department. Her indigenous, malnourished parents were unable to provide her milk, food, or medicine. Ana was also suffering from pneumonia. Thanks to our baby nourishment, and family feeding programs (and money for medicine), she now has a chance to survive and perhaps thrive.

Faithful Porch partner/donors provide funding for these critical programs (each for \$60 per month), and funds for medicine. Please contact us if you'd like to help with these efforts. We also ask everyone to pray for Ana and her family.



**SALVADORE** (right), a long-time "project person," recently accepted his chance for sobriety by letting us place him in our partner rehabilitation facility, Casa Tat Loy, at Porch's cost. He's doing well, as per the photo!

As is often the case, his wife, children, and grandchildren suffered greatly from his alcoholism. He squandered all they had.

Our facility manager, Mirna, has been a great help to Salvadore's family. She made sure they had good food and that the grandchildren (below) received Christmas presents. *Gracias Mirna!*



## A CHANCE FOR CARE

With Guatemala's governments, both national and local, in flux at year's end, the already-beleaguered Solola public hospital completely ran out of basic medical supplies: bandages, syringes, needles, antiseptic and such. The hospital contacted Porch to provide such supplies.

(Below) Hospital representative Francisca with the first of several suitcases of supplies we provided. We appreciate our teams and donors who supplied and paid for these!



## Update NEW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2016

We are pleased to report that year-end donations (combined with earlier donations) will fund 95 of these life-changing annual scholarships (@ \$240 each, per year). We thank everyone who donated! If you didn't, here's your chance—we still have seven unfunded candidates. The January–Oct. term is just beginning.

Please contact Lloyd ([dlloydmonroe@gmail.com](mailto:dlloydmonroe@gmail.com)) or Rex 850.933.0344 to help us provide the chance at a better life, through education.

Mishel (13, at right) is in the sixth grade in Panajachel. She is smart and makes almost all A's. Without a *beca* scholarship, she would not be able to continue school. Her hard-working, indigenous family's economic situation has been difficult due to her father's poor health and diabetes.



## AND MORE CHANCES

God be praised, Porch broke ground on Pascuala's family's house in the remote *Boca Costa* region in early January! She's the three year-old who suffers from harlequin ichthyosis ("fish skin disease").

We thank the generous donors, from California to Florida, who accepted the chance to donate the \$10,000 needed to fund this house, far from Panajachel.

Pascuala will have surgery to release the pressure on her eyes (her skin is too tight) soon.



**TAKING A CHANCE**, Randy and Teresa Tinker, and Brandon and Parker Gallups, expert masons all, became our first construction team to ever work in the *Boca Costa* region in January. (At right) the walls on Pascuala's family house went up quickly with these block layers on task. We thank them and those who supported them!



Porch de Salomon just started our second house construction project of 2016 for Isabel Cuc Saminez, in Pujujil.

This widow and her son Juan live in a dirt-floor, tin "house": it's dusty in the dry season and muddy in the rainy season. They have no bed, electricity, running water, or bathroom.



With no woodstove, Isabel cooked on a fire built on the ground. They had no food when Noe, Nik, and Jeydi first visited them.

(Above) Isabel and Juan beam with the good groceries Nik delivered to them December 23.

That, coupled with news that they would receive a new house, gave them a chance for a great Christmas and hope for a better future. Isabel's dream is to have a chicken business.

## IN MEMORIAM

Drew Norman (58) died in an automobile accident in Florida on January 4. Drew was a simple, uneducated man, with many friends. Through his efforts, and the support of his family and church, he had the chance to serve with Porch de Salomon, in Guatemala, on three trips. He felt a special freedom, sense of purpose, and connection to the people there.

Written in preparation for a post-trip presentation, Drew's notes reflected:

*What did I get out of my Guatemala trip? For one thing, I have too much. For another, I need to help more. I need to pray a lot more. I worked hard and cried a lot. We helped a lot of people there.*

*I saw things that were hard to look at. Babies were sick. I saw a lot of feet; no socks and sometimes no shoes. By my third day, looking at all the feet made me think of Jesus washing the people's feet.*

\*\*\*

Gail Christy-Jones, who organized teams at Drew's church, said Drew was already encouraging the church to plan a 2016 trip back. *Vaya con Dios, Drew! We'll all miss you.*



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- \* Team Outtatown/Canadian Mennonite University, January 29-February 5; house construction
- \* Team Roper/Brandon/"Moza," February 6-13; house construction
- \* Heritage UMC (KS) February 6-13; village medical clinics and house construction
- \* Team Amador County/Gina (CA), Feb. 13-20; house construction

- \* Team Dirty Feet Missions, Feb. 13-20; EMT/Firefighter training
- \* Team Centenary UMC (CA), Feb. 20-27; village medical clinics and house construction
- \* Team Crossroads UMC (VA), Feb. 20-27; house construction
- \* Team FSU Audiology, Feb. 27-March 5; village audiology/hearing aid clinics
- \* Lindsey Newberry's marriage engagement to Edgar Juracan. They'll be married in May!

## *Porch de Salomon*

PO Box 10509  
Tallahassee FL 32302-2509  
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