

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

porchdesalomon.org

and on 

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Or on-line

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 127

March 2016

OYE!

(Oye means, "Hey, listen" in Spanish)

Jesus replied, "... Listen... love the Lord ... love your neighbor as yourself." Mark 12 (NLT)
Oye como va, mi ritmo? (in English: "Listen to how my rhythm goes.") From Tito Puente's
Oye Como Va (covered by Santana)

Porch's February rhythm was full, fun, musical, and impactful; we hosted "double teams" every week! We are thankful for the teams' safety, sacrifices, good health, good attitudes, and growth. We also appreciate the openness and warmth of the materially-needy, indigenous Guatemalans we serve, and who work along side our staff and teams. It's easy to love most of these "neighbors."

We are also thankful for you, our mission partners and supporters, who listen, look, and pay attention to our work and respond with the financial support/donations which resource our year-round work. *Gracias!* Please contact us if you'd like to get involved or do more.



Team FSU Audiology returned with 42 donated, new devices (valued at \$69K) and conducted hearing clinics in Solola.

This fun, young, energetic, and encouraging group was great. We thank leaders Dr. Halle Van Oss (left), Dr. Selena Snowden (right) and all.



Ana Marisol Yaxon (8) is a mute indigenous girl from Chuiquel. While it's unclear exactly what caused this, she is responding well to speech therapy sessions. Please consider funding these, at \$90 per month, with tax-deductible donations. *Contact me! Lloyd*

Porch de Salomon's humanitarian relief leaders listened and spoke to 80 indigenous village leaders. They gathered in the city building in Solola.

Our mutual goal is to better reach the neediest of the materially-needy in ways that are village-friendly, sustainable, and culturally sensitive.



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



(Clockwise, from left):

- *Team Centenary/CUMC (CA) built houses and largely funded a chicken/egg business for Isabel Cuc's family. Dream fulfilled—please pray for success !
- * Team Heritage UMC (KS) member Harish Ponnuru, M.D., works our free village clinic.
- * Team Hughson UMC (CA) at work on Raul and Zoila's family house. *Go bling gals!*

(not shown) Our month started off with 24 hard-working Outtatown/Canadian Mennonite University students . We appreciate our long-standing partnership with this university.



Porch de Salomon was honored to again partner with Dirty Feet Missions (FL). Genia (DFM founder) brought equipment and a team of firefighters from Jacksonville, FL to train, teach, and support local volunteer fire/EMT departments.

At right, the locals are trained in proper use of donated extrication equipment.



(Above) Team Moza (Brandon/Roper) again helped us start our year with well-funded construction efforts and lots of testosterone!

(Right) Team Heritage UMC (KS) and some of the "Mozans" joined our annual Mardi Gras/Carnival efforts to raise money for PCI school. We were honored that PCI used this photo of those folks for their post-event media cover!



THE LIGHT SHINES

by Vivian Lees, Crossroads UMC

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1. In his book *Everything Belongs*, Richard Rohr says, "We cannot attain the presence of God because we're already totally in the presence of God. What's absent is our awareness."

When Doug and I came to the Porch to work in February 2014, I was in a dark place in my life. I had recently lost my sister to a heart attack as we traveled together. She died in her sleep in our motel room; I found her the next morning when I tried to wake her. I struggled with the darkness of her sudden death, with the loss, with my own guilt for not hearing her and seeking help. I could escape it in my busy days, but the darkness would creep in like a shadow in the evenings. I could not find peace, even though I prayed for it everyday.

Then our trip to Panajachel came. As we worked to build Jose and Maria Quisquina's house, we were surrounded everyday with smiling faces of their curious children. We were met with the family's hugs each day. I remember a moment when we were having Bible school with the children in that community. I sat in the grass with little bright-eyed, happy kids smothering me with their touch, from head to toe, to show me their crafts and listen for my *muy bueno*. It was as if God was bathing me in the warmth of his light as I felt the touch of these little hands, belonging to those I had come to help. By the end of our week in Pana, experiencing the care of the Porch's wonderful staff, this dear indigenous family, and all that we encountered, I felt that I was the patient and God had brought me to this place of his light for my own healing. The shadows disappeared in the awareness of life and the light of Christ in all people, in all places.

We have returned to Pana each February since. We have had the opportunity to continue to serve a community with unfathomable need, but always come away with deeper knowledge and awareness of God's presence in all things.

(At left): Viv, Joe, and part of that week's team engage at "My Golden Years" adult day-care.



I am still glowing with all the love shown to me in beautiful Guatemala. My relationship with Marta Lidia (14) and her precious baby, Jordani, grew so quickly in the three short days I was with them. I will help Marta go to school.

It was a wonderful trip; I'll never forget it! I pray the Lord will keep me healthy and strong so I can come again next year.

*Much love to you all,
Betty Schweiker (81, Team Heritage
UMC, KS)*



Porch de Salomon was very pleased to dedicate our first new, completed house project of 2016 last month. Our own, dear Porch chef Birma Quinones and her family lost their house in Hurricane Stan's destruction (2005) and were strapped with rent payments. *Ya no mas!*

Birma has prepared thousands of delicious meals for our teams, volunteers, Solomon's Porch clients, and others during the past six years. She never complains, always smiles, and is quite the witty jokester. *Felicidades Birma, Sergio, y familia!*

LISTENING FOR THE LAST ONE

Team FSU Audiology was down to one last hearing device and desperately wanted to help each of the 30 Mayan people who were left to be seen in our final clinic.

Maria Sacquic is a member of the indigenous population of Solola. Like so many others, she is materially impoverished, physically worn down, and battling many medical impairments. The team noted the profound level of Maria's hearing loss and also noticed that Maria's eyes were diseased, likely with cataracts.

Dr. Selena and Dr. Halle discussed the matter, sought divine guidance, and decided that Maria would receive this last, coveted device. They reasoned Maria would lose her sight completely in the near future and that her ability to hear would offer her improved quality of life by helping compensate for her probable blindness.



This decision affected many people that day. Our student team members tearfully realized some folks would be turned away that day. Maria's appreciation was evident in the countless hugs that she gave to the doctors and staff members. The smile on the faces of Maria and her family confirmed that she was an excellent choice to receive the device.

By Ryan Snowden, team member



Ofelia (16) tried to commit suicide after she became pregnant and was rejected by her boyfriend's family. She connected with Porch's programs and has become a very touching "project," especially for Lindsey.

(Above) She received new, typical clothing ("traje") courtesy of several team members. Porch is also helping give her and her baby hope, counseling, and options for the future.

We are thankful for this sweet girl and for the support that allows us to "be here" for folks like her, year-round.

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