

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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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 128

April 2016

EVERYDAY PEOPLE

Sometimes I'm right, and I can be wrong.... we got to live together. "Everyday People"
(1968, Sly and the Family Stone)

God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)

Like this scripture and these song lyrics, our March was a mash-up of short-term teams, *Semana Santa's* mix of Catholic processions and "spring break," music, revelry, rehabilitation, smiles, tears, the hot *Boca Costa*, and everyday people/everyday problems/everyday relief and outreach.

We invite you to explore the image and word samples of our March in this issue. We appreciate our everyday people who work with us, allow us to serve them, join teams, and support Porch's everyday work with their financial donations and prayers.

FROM LINDSEY: We build homes for families, provide school scholarships, food, and medical care and dramatically improve the lives of hundreds of families every year. This type of relief, in large, is what Porch de Salomon is known for. But what many people aren't aware of is the help that our humanitarian relief office provides on an *everyday*, year-round basis. Perhaps some of these cases seem less drastic or less noteworthy, but for me, these are the people that really keep me going.

Very recently, there was a tragic "chicken-bus" (refurbished school buses, a primary means of public transportation here) accident in Nahuala; 19 passengers died. One of the surviving families came to our office for help; they were banged up, dirty, and scared.
(Continued on page two)



(Right): Pascuala's family shower features a tiny tub for her.
Read more about the completion of their new house on page two.

(Below) Samuel Par (formerly chained up, outside, for six years) is now receiving everyday, trained care from Luis.
Help defray this \$200 monthly cost please!



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

FROM LINDSEY (continued from page one).

They had already received medical care, stitches mostly, from the hospital and they were sent on their way.

Thanks to all of the groups who help keep our storage *bodega* stocked with clothes, shoes, soap, etc., we were able to take really good care of them. They each took a hot shower, and all of them received new clothes and shoes. The youngest girl received a stuffed animal. Although it was just a shower, a change of clothes, and some bread and juice, I really believe they felt cared for and loved during a very challenging and traumatic time in their lives.

For me, these seemingly little things really impact me because I know God uses our team and our donated supplies to show His love to His children when they need it most. Thank you for partnering with us to help us do what the Lord has called us to do.

Lindsey Newberry, PdS Field Coordinator

Porch de Salomon dedicated a very special house, in the *Boca Costa* region, *Semana Santa* week-- Pascuala's family home (our 84th, God be praised!). This child's *harlequin ichthyosis* (fish skin) looks better; the house gives her and her family hope for a better future (they speak very, very little Spanish). Joyful tears abounded.

It was great to hear indigenous community leaders and social workers (SESAN) speak. It was great to see curious, friendly neighbors checking it all out. Our Porch team enjoyed a road trip (3.5 hours, each way) and "overnighter" (thank God for air conditioning-- it's hot down there!)

We extend special thanks to the donors (from California to Florida) who funded the house (*mas o menos* \$9500), for Tinker/Gallups masonry work, and for our Porch partners who resource our everyday, year-round work.



(Left): Teams Salem UMC (Havana FL) and Flower/Digisi (Tallahassee) celebrate a good day's construction work at Santa's sustainability store site.

(Below): Team Chicago's Lindsay (PA) and translator Magnolia (with Dra. Juana Luisa in the background) in a *Boca Costa* clinic. This busy team saw over 450 patients in three days.



Alejandro, center, needed a financial sponsor; we said "yes."



We finished our month with a boat trip to Casa Tat Loy alcohol/drug rehab. (casatatloy.org). We took a bunch of tamales, our new rock n roll/reggae/blues trio, and high hopes for mutual inspiration and fun. It all happened and it all worked.

This humble center housed 71 men that day, all in a modest building. We hauled one messed up "repeater" over and brought one back, sober. Everyday—one man gets loaded and another sobers up. We are proud to partner with CTL, Tadeo, Bill Peebles, Bill Lange, and all!



Porch de Salomon's next house build is for Juana Cruza Aju and Guillermo's family in San Jose Chacaya. This sweet, indigenous family lived in a dirt-floor, two-room shelter made of tarpaulin canvas, with a leaky tin roof. They are cold during the windy season, and wet during the rainy season; they have one light fixture and a corn-stalk outhouse.

Guillermo earns \$80 a month as a corn farmer and mining sand out of the river. Juana earns about \$6 a month washing clothes. We thank the incoming teams, the good Lord, and those who fund such projects. *Adelante juntos!*



Thank you for your support and believing in a bunch of teenagers to work with Porch de Salomon. This week has changed my life and words cannot describe how thankful I am to everyone at the Porch. I hope to be back soon!
Andie Evans (17)

Editor's note: We were blown away and awed by Andie sharing her story of personal tragedy with us all. Go girl!

(right to left: Andie, Team Chicago leader Dave, and Alexandria work pharmacy in our Boca Costa clinic)

I'm writing this as I'm flying back to Chicago, and I've come to the conclusion that there's really no adequate way to thank everyone at Solomon's Porch for what you did for our team this past week and what you do everyday for people of Guatemala.

At the last devotion on Friday, I was one of the few people who didn't share out-- I was so busy crying I don't think I could've gotten two words out. Truthfully, I'm not an overtly religious person. I don't pray every night, I don't go to church on Sundays. However, I do believe in the power of love, the power of hope, and the power of generosity. I like how Abe Lincoln put it: "When I do good, I feel good. When I do bad, I feel bad. That is my religion". I have never felt more "good" than how I felt this week, I had never before felt the same sense of purpose or happiness that being with the people of Guatemala gave me.

I'm one of those people who always has a plan. I make lists, I check things off, I always know what my next step is going to be. What I didn't plan on was how coming to Guatemala made me feel. This week was enough to have a perspective-changing experience, and all I can think about is how much I want to come back. I think it really says something when a place in the middle of a foreign country feels more like home than my actual home.

Que Dios les bendiga,

Alexandria Cahill (17), Team Chicago



(Above): Team Chicago gals tie foundation steel. (Below): Team Salem UMC and Flower/Digisi work the pharmacy in a Porch free village medical clinic.



EVERYDAY, people in the developing world (“third world”), face problems and challenges which many developed-world (“first world”) folks find hard to believe. Generally, there is no relief “safety net,” in contrast to most developed-world systems.

An example: Julio Elias is 11 years old. He suffers from chronic childhood malnutrition and associated problems (stomach, fever, etc). SESAN governmental social workers (who have virtually no resources at hand) brought him to Porch. We helped him with food, milk, medicine, and an enrollment in our monthly



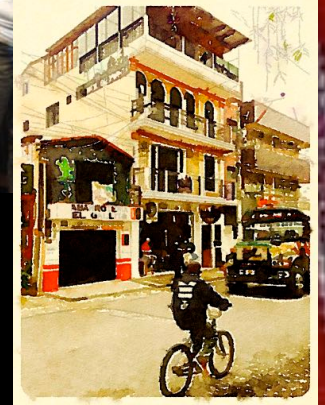
nutrition/protein program (costs \$60 monthly). Porch de Salomon helps scores of children like Elias and families like his.

God be praised for the resources to do this—from our mission partners.

In contrast, Porch de Salomon has faced “first-world ‘ish” problems: 1) our kitchen staff preparing hundreds of breakfasts, lunches, and dinners in a 10’ x 10’ hot kitchen; 2) our five-person humanitarian relief office operating in a rented, 10’ x 15’ space; 3) we’ve no place to park our ministry vans, and; 4) our café (where we stage teams) having only one small restroom.

We are excited to announce we have purchased a contiguous property/house in Pana, for a fair price, which will allow us to rectify these problems and expand a bit. It is located behind Solomon’s Porch/Hotel California. We plan to proceed quickly, and debt-free, in phases.

Please pray for this exciting opportunity, and the opportunity to help Julio Elias, and let us know if you’d like to be involved in funding either effort. We need and invite your help. *Gracias!*



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