

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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and on 

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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 129

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SIMPLE

Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God's law and prophets and this is what you get. Jesus of Nazareth at Matthew 7:12 (MSJ)

'Tis the gift to be simple... from "Simple Gifts" (song by Elder Joseph Brackett, 1848)

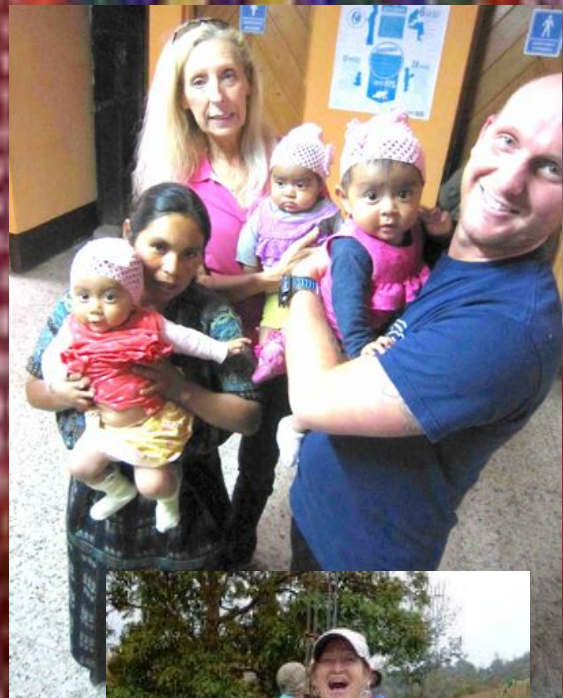
We had a great April in Guatemala as we hosted seven short-term work teams for house construction, medical clinics, and a bit of Bible school. As you might imagine, the logistics involved are anything but simple. On the other hand, the material relief that these teams help us provide often involve relatively simple things, at least from a "developed world" perspective: decent shelter, basic medical care, milk/food for babies otherwise destined to be chronically malnourished, clothing and shoes, and such.

These simple things make huge quality-of-life impact on the indigenous families we serve and partner with. In turn, many team members witness this impact, and the gratitude and grace with which it is received, and are forever changed. They go back home with a new understanding of Jesus' "Golden Rule" (*above*), ready to do more. *Mission accomplished!*

We thank our mission partners who provide the financial resources and donations which empower Porch de Salomon's year-round work and outreach. Bless you all.

(Right) Ellen and Joshua with Marta Salazar and her triplet girls. These babies have avoided chronic malnutrition (as the seventh, eighth, and ninth children in their family) by receiving milk, food, and vitamins from Porch. *Simple gifts!*

(Below); Wendy helps out at a self-sustainability women's seminar funded by her church, Olive Branch (IN). (Bottom right): Melanie takes on the seemingly simple (not!) task of laying blocks in San Jose Chacaya.



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

Our first teams of last month, Amador Co./Ione/Jackson (CA) and Olive Branch Church (IN) pose in front of Juana and Guillermo's house in San Jose Chacaya, with the family, and then commence to rip down the tarpaulin walls. Construction of their new house is proceeding apace!



Our medical liaison, Jayne Mittan (PA), removes a nasty keratoacanthoma tumor from this long-suffering indigenous woman's forearm during one of our free village medical clinics. Our medical teams saw over 1000 patients during last month's clinics. Many of them suffer from relatively simple maladies which have been completely untreated.



Team Memorial UMC (Fernandina Beach, FL) purchased new commercial-size pots and pans for the beleaguered Solola public hospital's kitchen. The cookware they replaced was simply pitiful.

Also, teams Amador Co/Ione/Jackson (CA) and Olive Branch Church (IN) brought many suitcases full of simple, but necessary, medical items like gloves, gauze, needles, basic medicine, etc.

Guatemala's public hospitals are in woeful, unfunded shape. We are thankful to be able, through our teams and partners, to provide material to help them help their patients.

SIMPLE, STURDY HOUSES

Raul, Zoila, and Marta Lidia's (the youngest mother in Solola department last year) family of 11 received Porch de Salomon's newest completed house last month, in the indigenous village of Pampojila. This family is amazingly warm and open; our time together has been sweet.

We are excited about hope and a future for them. *(Right):* Teams Northstar Church (FL) and Union CC (CO) were there with us and helped put the finishing touches on it all (Ecoplancha stove, moving earth, *Utz Ja* water filter, assembling beds, and such). This is Porch's 86th completed house!



We had the privilege of dedicating Isabel Cuc and Juan Diego's new house in Pujujil with Teams Olive BC and Amador/Ione/Jackson in tow. This quality house, our third of the year, gives this sweet lady (she has personality plus) and her son a shot at their dream of a better life.

They plan to use their new chicken/egg micro-business for sustainability (thanks Claudia, Fred, y todos); the second room on the house will be their store, and it's located on a high-traffic footpath to a school. We thank all our early 2016 short-term teams and donors who made this possible.

Dream on!

(Above left, center) Isabel beams, inside her new kitchen, after she and her extended family prepared an indigenous "Pulik" lunch for us all on dedication day. The women are used to kneeling when they eat (no tables).



IT'S A SIMPLE FACT; everything Porch de Salomon does, from the gift of a cup of clean water, to our most complicated relief/outreach project, costs money. It was mostly that way in Jesus' time as well!

We invite you to get involved and help, with tax-deductible donations, especially if you've not done so recently. C'mon, it's easy and you'll feel simply great about pitching in. Contact me now, please. Thanks! *Lloyd*



(Above) Team St. Francis in-the-Fields Episcopal (KY) hand mixes concrete on site. Fr. Bob Coon (yellow shirt) has been a superb liaison for Porch's work for years now—thank you, once more Bob, for yet another new partner church connection!

APRIL 25 NEWS FLASH from volunteer Laura Weaver: I never thought this day would come, but it is finally here! I have officially lost 100 POUNDS. I would like to thank God, Luis C., Tony M., my husband Joe, and many others for the support, encouragement, wisdom, and prayers in my journey. I never thought I would see these numbers on the scale again. Woohoo!!!!

Below: Laura (background) and Northstar Church member Jennifer assembling new beds for Raul and Zoila's new house. Editor: Laura is simply wonderful managing our carpentry shop and guiding/driving our teams. Gracias!



Melanie and Lloyd will be stateside, through June 1, for a short furlough. While our focus will be on family, we would love to connect with you. We invite you to contact us (see page one) if you'd like for us to pay you a call. *Gracias!*

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