

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 131

July 2016



Hazlo! (Do it!)

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17 (NLT)

Our June was bursting with folks who decided to "do it," even if it was something they'd never done, or were afraid to do, or had a hundred excuses not to do (or not do again). We're pleased and thankful to report that it all went well, that they were generous in many ways, and that we were all mutually encouraged and inspired. The teams were:

*Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Youth (GA) (36 pilgrims)

*Michelle Himebook vision team

*Trinity UMC Gainesville/Tallahassee Heights UMC (FL) (36 pilgrims)

*Faith Presbyterian (Tallahassee)/Dirty Feet Missions construction (26 pilgrims)

That's a lot of folks, a lot of logistics, a lot of stories, a lot of everything. In addition to thanking the teams and their supporters, we thank our local Porch workers and volunteers. They feed, house, transport, guide, translate for, clean up behind, explain to (and more), our teams and the folks Porch serves.

We also thank God, and our faithful Porch partners who empower our multi-faceted, year-round ministry with your financial support and your prayers. Please do both!

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



Please do help!

Florinda is four years old; she is the size of a two-year old. She and her eight month-old sister, Ortencia, were brought to one of our free village medical clinics this month. Their parents are hard workers but often lack enough farming work to do. The mother makes \$6.50 per week weaving. They have very little to eat.

Florinda has already been stunted. Still, we will provide milk, protein, vitamins, and more to her and Ortencia to combat their chronic infant

malnutrition. Please contact me if you would like to fund this with your tax-deductible donation of \$60 monthly. Do it--contact me now, please. Gracias! *Lloyd*



(Above, right, and below)

Scenes from Team Christ the Shepherd Youth's excellent week.

We appreciate Randy, Kevin, and all at this faithful Porch partner church.



Ofelia Estela Xep (17) gave birth to a healthy baby boy this month. We met Ofelia in February after she attempted suicide in the fourth month of her pregnancy. She wanted to die because she was single, and living in such poverty left her feeling hopeless.

Since then, Porch has supplied Ofelia with psychological counseling, and we have provided her with food and vitamins as well. We also have plans to construct a small bathroom for her; she does not have a decent one. We hope to provide Ofelia with a school scholarship, in January 2017, so she can have the opportunity to eventually provide for her new son.

We invite sponsors to fund her monthly food (\$60), her new bathroom (\$2,000), and her future school scholarship (\$240). We are hopeful Ofelia's future will be much brighter.

By: Lindsey Newberry Choguaj

Note: Ofelia is about the same age as the Team CTS music leaders shown above--Lloyd

Porch de Salomon dedicated our fifth completed house of 2016 in *Villa Linda*. Juana Cruza Aju and Guillermo's indigenous family was gracious and grateful as a whole bunch of gringos joined them to celebrate the dedication and put the final touches in (beds, *Ecoplancha* woodstove, *Utz Ja* water system, etc). We are thankful for our builders, our short-term teams, donors who fund houses like this, and our local Porch workers and volunteers.

(Right) Noe leads the dedication with Jeydi's help translating into the family's "heart language"—Kaq'chikel.

(Below) It was quite the beehive of activity with Team Trinity United Methodist Church (36) and the Dirty Feet Missions interns on site. The family had stored most all their worldly possessions on the bed and the shelf in the photo's foreground and center. The teams tore down the tin shack that protected their things just before I took this photograph. Lloyd



EDWIN and KEVIN

Edwin has been a Porch friend for years. Cerebral palsy has wracked his young, spastic body, but his mind is sharp. Noe just obtained a tilt-table for him; it may gradually allow him to bear weight on his legs. Teams Faith Presbyterian/Dirty Feet Missions met him and his heroic mother, Vilma.

Likewise, Kevin McDonnell is young Porch friend. He first joined us, years ago, as a doubting 17 year-old. He later lost, among other things, six inches of femur in a motorcycle accident. Through a long course of surgeries, bone growth and therapy, he can walk (God be praised); he rejoined us to work here last month.

Kevin writes:

After assisting with moving the table inside I had to excuse myself and step out to maintain composure. The feelings of the worst years of my life came back; the fear, the pain, the hopelessness, the list goes on and on.

When I returned inside I saw Edwin sit up incorrectly on the table. I immediately corrected his form and hopped into action. My thousands of hours at physical therapy became second nature and I was able to share my experiences. I truly felt like I understood what Edwin was going through. I hope that my experience can bring a bit of relief to his long journey ahead.



Porch welcomes Eugenia as our new, full-time social worker. Eugenia is a single, indigenous, well-educated young woman from Solola. A Kaq'chikel speaker, she will help us with better follow-up with the hundreds of families, and individuals, we serve. She's shown, at right, testing eyes in one of Team Michelle Himebook's vision/eyeglass clinics. Bienvenida Eugenia!



Juan Caxolca (13) is losing his sight due to a form of retinitis pigmentosa. Porch has helped him for years. Last month brought the gift of new, special glasses (a \$600 value-- thank you, Michelle Himebook!) and a new laptop computer (thank you, FSU Audiology). He's a very good student and has an amazing, positive attitude.



Which is better: practicing law or doing what we do in Guatemala? Ask my law partner, Gwen Palmer Adkins, who joined Team Trinity UMC Gainesville/Tally Heights (along with seven of her family members!) last month. It was great to have them down. We appreciate Gwen and the firm's support! *Lloyd*



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