

# Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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and on 

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[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 132

August 2016

## WHICH STORY ARE YOU GOING TO TELL? *By Lloyd*

*Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? Mark 4:30 (NLT)*

This month's title is borrowed from my pastor friend Pat Jobe. He once asked that question of a suicide attempt survivor who somehow had experienced rapturous "oneness with the Divine" during that terrible ordeal. No matter where we are on this globe, or on our journey, we daily have the opportunity to speak either of genuine "kingdom" beauty and hope, or of the ugliness, fear, and despair that often bear down around us.

Porch's July in Guatemala featured more folks, stories, and kingdom moments than we can describe in this issue. *Hallelujah!* We hosted multiple short-term teams who sweated, laughed, built, sang, prayed, hugged, learned, and saw God's kingdom in many diverse ways, people, and places.

We invite you to give this issue a good look for glimpses of such stories. Please pray that we will always focus on those and never on despair.

*Como siempre*, we thank God and our mission partners. Your faithful and generous donations:

- 1) keep our local "ground team" in place, ready to host teams and provide year-round outreach and service to "the lost, the least, and the last" in Guatemala.
- 2) allow us to help turn dark stories of despair into shining examples of hope, divine moments, and light. Thank you!

(Right): Lakeera sends an empty bucket back down the line in Concepsion. She was one of Genia's *Dirty Feet Missions* interns who graced us with six weeks of smiles, hard work, and more.

(Below): Irma watches as Team Sharon Church (GA) raises walls on her family's new house.



It was good to see Porch de Salomon (featuring our Joe and Team Wacissa UMC/Hickory Hammock BC) in "Nuestro Diario." That's one of Guatemala's two primary national newspapers; it's nicknamed *Sangre y Mujeres* ("Blood and Women").

This positive story was a good contrast!

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



## STORY CHANGERS

Santiago (*far right*) was introduced to Porch, as the father of a severely malnourished child, last year. We immediately provided his daughter with vitamins, milk, eggs, and beans as part of our monthly malnourished infant program.

Santiago is now one of our trusted building foremen (*albaniles*). He is shown enjoying a celebratory *tamal* at a recent house dedication. We are thankful that his and his family's stories have turned from tragedy to something much, much better.

Our mission partners and teams help us be "story changers."  
*Gracias!*



Team Flower/Digisi is shown above with Maria and Pablo's family on-site in Concepcion. This boulder-laden home site (see the photo in last month's *PorchTalk*) was a tough one and there were moments of discouragement during the past weeks.

The smiles and the story got better for this team, the Dirty Feet Missions interns, and everyone, when our new jackhammer arrived to help break the rocks down to moveable (and saleable!) size. (*At right*) Our trusted foreman, Macario, tries his hand with the new tool.

We are thankful for "DY's" \$1200 donation; it funded this tool and a much needed *breakthrough* (pun intended!).



Team Wacissa UMC/ Hickory Hammock BC (FL) is shown with Irma's family after making much progress during their team's workweek.

(Above) Team member Dana Jane with happy kids and their handy and fun soap bar/washcloth Bible school craft. The lion's head matched their "Daniel in the Lion's Den" story. Good work!



## SELF-SUSTAINABILITY STORE!

Santa's indigenous family of eight had a story of extreme poverty, abandonment, spousal/father betrayal, indentured servanthood, abuse, hunger, and loss of hope.

Now, thanks to their new house and the opening of their "Mundo de 3" store (like a mini-dollar store), in Chuiquel, the story has changed to one of hope and more. Please pray for their business acumen and the store's success.

Special thanks to Sharon Church/Hope for the Helpless (GA) for vision and funding, and to the Trinity UMC (Tallahassee) Lay Witness Academy for funding the store building.

*Adelante juntos!*

(Below): Georgia horse-trader and auctioneer Wes helps get the storefront ready for the dedication and grand opening.



Santa and Maria Magdalena will be guided by our Porch staff.



We tell the story of Guadalupe's efforts to support her single-mother family making and selling *tamales*. She received an *Ecoplancha* woodstove and everything needed to launch this business last month, courtesy of Team Sharon Church/HFH.

We have other, very affordable micro-business donation opportunities. Please let us know if you'd like to fund one. *Gracias!*



The baby's crib and Sandra's first real bed!



## ANOTHER 13 YEAR-OLD MOTHER STORY

We focus not on the tragedy of this sweet child, Sandra, being raped and impregnated by a village man (who promptly absconded) but rather on "the rest of the story." (Paul Harvey).

The photo shows Noe and our social worker, Eugenia, ensuring Sandra, her family, and SESAN social workers that Porch de Salomon can and will help give Sandra and little Jonathan Daniel hope for a better future; food, milk, a school scholarship, beds, and more. Please pray for them.





### BODEGA STORIES

Melanie is shown amid mounds of vitamins, medicine, shoes, soccer balls, clothes, tooth brushes/toothpaste, and more in our ministry storage room (*bodega*). These valuable items are brought down by short-term team members. Two stories spring to mind:  
\* the story behind each team member and each item getting here  
\* the story of the blessings, joy, and hope each item will bring to its ultimate recipient, many of who live in severe poverty

Porch appreciates Melanie's (and her helpers') faithful and steady work receiving, organizing, and distributing these thousands of donated items

Melanie and Lloyd will be stateside August 4 (for Asa's FSU graduation!) through November 9 (for Hannah and Patrick's wedding!).

We will be speaking, singing, showing, traveling, and telling the best stories to promote and resource Porch de Salomon's outreach and work.

Please contact us for a copy of our schedule, or if you'd like us to speak to you or your group. Thanks!  
dlloydmonroe@gmail.com or 850.688.2076.  
*Gracias!*



### SAMUEL'S STORY

.....continues. Samuel is the schizophrenic father who survived six years of being chained up, outdoors. Porch has ministered to him since early last year (and built him a confinement house).

Samuel, who receives daily anti-psychotic medicine and care, has made noticeable improvement lately. His paid caregiver, Luis, took this photo of Samuel standing, awaiting Luis' arrival (and food!)

Please consider funding a portion of our monthly \$200 caregiver /food cost. Help his story continue to improve. *Please contact me—thanks! Lloyd*

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