

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

porchdesalomon.org

and on [facebook](#)

Lloyd and Melanie Monroe
Founders/Directors

dlloydmonroe@gmail.com

011.502.7762.0460

(stateside) 850.688.2076

melanietmonroe@gmail.com

011.502.5285.7812

Mirna Recinos Aceituno

Solomon's Porch/Hotel California

mirnarecinos2003@gmail.com

011.502.7762.0793

Noe Benjamin Perez

Humanitarian Relief Director

noebenjaminperez@gmail.com

011.502.5945.1313

Lindsey Newberry Choguaj

Field Coordinator

newberry.lindsey@gmail.com

011.502.5410.6638

Rex Ware

Stateside Support Team

rex@radeylaw.com

850.524.7583

Fred Thomson, Robin Bateman

Treasurers

fredt@tbc-cpa.com

850.559.5960

treasurerpds@gmail.com

850.321.8243

Tax-deductible Donations:

Porch de Salomon

PO Box 10509

Tallahassee FL 32302-2509

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

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NEW BEGINNINGS

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness... Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)*

In a sense, Porch de Salomon is in the new beginning "business." Guatemala, which suffers from the world's fourth-worst chronic malnutrition rate, and which is ranked as the world's fifth-worst country for women and girls, offers ample, often pitiful, candidates who need help to start anew.

Their new beginning (*the "way in the wilderness"*) may be food/Pediasure for a girl like Diana, or a new house and furnishings for single-mother families like Ana's, Irma's, or Carmelinda's, or a chance to go to school for their children, or a laptop for a young man like Jonathan, or a chance for sobriety for someone like Lonny. It may be the hope offered in Isaiah, and exemplified in the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, for materially-poor developing world folks or spiritually-poor North Americans who yearn for something more satisfying than more comfort, more leisure, more possessions, and more control. (Remember, for the price of granite countertops, you can fund construction of a complete new house for an indigenous family!)

As always, we are thankful for God's provision through our faithful and generous mission partners. Our being able to offer new beginnings depends on you. For others, please let us know if you'd like to begin, or begin anew, supporting Porch's work with your resources.

A NEW BEGINNING FOR DIANA

by Lindsey Newberry



Sometimes "God works in mysterious ways," as is true for sweet, little Diana Roxana Yax Ajcalon, a 12 year-old who nearly died recently of severe malnutrition.

Several months ago, a man who had lost his leg asked Porch for help. But when Eugenia, our social worker, went to visit him, he felt he needed to introduce her to

Diana because she needed more help than he did.

Together, they took the 20-minute hike through the mountains to Diana's house. What Eugenia found was shocking.

Diana's father had been injured in a motorcycle accident, making it difficult for

him to work. Because of their extremely remote location, it became increasingly difficult to feed his family; they had little to no food. Diana had become ill, and the father didn't know what to do other than to pray for her. God must have sent Eugenia at just the right time, because we are fairly certain Diana would have died without Porch's help and intervention.

(Continued on page three)



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

Porch de Salomon dedicated another completed house project last month; one for Ana Maria Chumil Saloj's family in Chuiquel. Our seventh house of 2016, it brings this single-mother family a measure of comfort and safety, and a whole lotta hope. Part of that hope is a sustainable mini-chicken/egg business.

Big thanks to our generous project donors, our summer short-term building teams, our PdS staff and builders, and our faithful ministry partners who keep PdS rocking.



**NEW HOUSES
COMPLETED PROVIDE
NEW BEGINNINGS!**

Porch de Salomon dedicated our 88th quality, completed family house in *Monte Mercedes* on Guatemala's Independence Day, September 15 (*below and at right*). Irma Estela Pablo Chiroy's life has been wracked with poverty, physical challenges, injustice, and danger. Her new, secure house, fruit trees, and a small chicken/egg sustainability project give this sweet family a chance to be more independent and healthy. We thank our generous donors, mission partners, short-term teams, builders, workers, and volunteers who help us provide such new beginnings. *Gracias!*



FLASH BACK!

Our final summer teams were St. Paul's Christian Church (Raleigh, NC) and Jim Thompson's "Papermaker" group.



We enjoyed them and appreciate their faithful support and encouragement.

(At left) Chuck, at age 84, again proves there is no age limit to serve !

(At right, from left) A preacher, a Montagnard (Vietnam), and a poet dig in and help make it happen



A NEW BEGINNING FOR DIANA *(continued from page one)*

Eugenia sent Diana to the nearest health center, where she was diagnosed with chronic malnutrition and anemia. Her serious breathing problems and skin lesions were the result of malnutrition, nothing more. Porch de Salomon provided Diana with vitamins, food, and *Pediasure*. We are happy to report that she is doing much better and now has more energy. She is excited at the possibility of returning to school in January.

Please consider sponsoring Diana as she works towards a healthier and brighter future:

- *\$60 per month will provide food for her family
- * \$40 per month will cover the cost of more *Pediasure*
- * \$240 will allow Diana to return to sixth grade in January.

Diana's dreams are to become a teacher or a doctor so she can help other children in similar situations. She also dreams of learning how to use a computer someday. Please help us make Diana's dreams, and these new beginnings, a reality. Thank you for your consideration. *Lindsey Newberry*

Lloyd's father, Danny, joined us on "Daddy Sang Bass," once more, at the Jefferson County, FL, Farm Bureau banquet. He still "has it," at age 86!

Our efforts resulted in a love offering which put \$456 worth of wind in Porch's sails!

Porch's in-country Guatemala folks are hosting short-term teams in our absence. It's great that can happen!



Melanie and Lloyd's summer furlough/promo "tour" continues:

- October 5: Monticello First UMC
- October 8: Waukeenah UMC Fall Festival
- October 9: Good Samaritan UMC (Tallahassee, FL)
- October 10: Faith Presbyterian Witness Comm. (Tallahassee, FL)
- October 19: Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church (Augusta, GA)
- October 25: Killern UMC Mission Comm. (Tallahassee, FL)

Join us if you can! We'd love to see you.

And, most importantly.... we look forward to our daughter Hannah's November 5 wedding at our homestead in Waukeenah, FL!

AN OLD NEW BEGINNING

by Jonathan Emanuel Mendoza Martínez

In 2008, I was the first person in my family to go to college. My major was computer science. The difficult part was that, despite working part time, I had no money to buy a computer. Neither did my parents who were both pastors. I could not sleep at night; every option seemed closed.

My mother heard about Porch de Salomon's work in our community, Panajachel. I was skeptical. Why would Americans who did not know us help us? At the end our visit, I was surprised. Lloyd listened to my mother, was friendly and in the end gave me a good, used laptop! I could not believe it. Someone had done something really great for me, and it was a complete stranger!

With this computer I managed to:

- 1) continue college.
- 2) Develop and sell several software programs.
- 3) Secure a job with a software development start-up company.

This work allowed me to help my family fund the studies of my younger sister and brother. Both finished high school; my sister is studying at the university and my brother is studying English to expand their opportunities. Currently, I am working for an internationally recognized company. My family's story continues to unfold.

My new beginning started when Porch de Salomon trusted me with a computer. I can't imagine what my family would have done without it. This gift changed my life, the life of my siblings, and our family's life. I'm very grateful for this help. I visited Panajachel recently to express my gratitude, and to reconnect, in person. *Gracias a todos!*





Purgatory
 By Hunt Scarritt
*Your son died
 two months ago today
 His name was Henry
 He was a good boy
 but the damp and dark won
 The white walls sweat
 the smell of your leaving
 the waiting for
 the wooden door
 to open
 sound of your steps
 taking it all
 away*

ONE LAST NEW BEGINNING

Porch de Salomon is very pleased to have broken ground on our latest house-build project. This one's for Carmelinda Ben Guarcax's family.

After her husband abandoned the family a year ago, Carmelinda had no choice but to move to a dank and dark room owned by her uncle.

Sadly, these living conditions caused or contributed to her older son Henry's pneumonia and tuberculosis; he died two months ago.

Camelinda earns only \$53 a month as a domestic,



and her uncle wants to rent the room out.

We are thankful for our incoming fall teams and donors who make such life-changing, new-beginning projects possible. *Adelante juntos!*

Our performance artist friend Hunt, living in San Francisco, graced this event with a short poem.

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 P.O. BOX 10509
 Tallahassee FL 32302-2509
 www.porchdesalomon.org
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