

Porch de Salomon
Panajachel, Guatemala

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and on 

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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 137

February 2017

REAL LIVE PEOPLE *by Lloyd*

Your people will be my people... Ruth 1:16 (NIV)

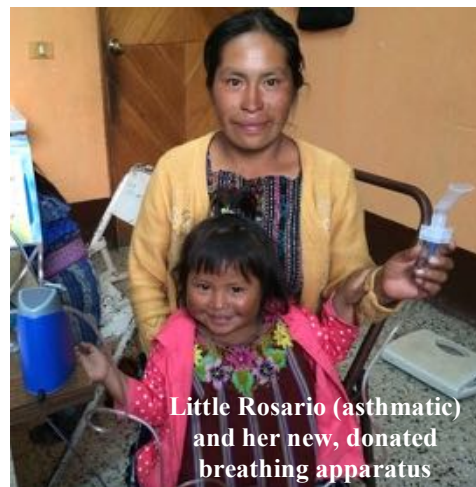
Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"? I Corinthians 1:27 (MSG)

Late last year, I was privileged to attend the dedication of Carmelinda Ben Guarcax's completed house and micro-business. As Porch's work and witness have grown, my administrative work load has increased and our field staff and volunteers' expertise has outstripped mine out in the villages. As a result, I don't often visit the villages (despite Noe urging me to do so!)

I was knocked out by the house dedication ceremony. The well-built house (our 91st, God be praised!) was dedicated to Henry's memory. He was Carmelinda's son who died from respiratory problems caused by living in a moldy, cave-like room (I smelled the mold from outside that room). Carmelinda, the local social worker, and friends cried as they spoke sweet memories of Henry (who told his mother he wanted to live so that he could someday build her a good house) along with the joy that came with a new abode and new micro-business. I didn't have much of a role (fine with me) and just reveled in how so many folks were involved in and impacted by Porch's ministry.

Sometimes the "business/promotion" aspect of Porch, and my and Melanie's role in that, consumes too much of my "mind time." That day, the ceremony and the people jolted me with a renewed realization that Carmelinda, her family, the people featured in this issue, and the thousands of folks positively impacted by Porch de Salomon are *real live people*-- not "cases," not statistics, not stories handy for promotion. "Nobodies" (to some eyes)—often more attuned to Jesus' way than I am.

Thank you for helping us help these folks along. We appreciate our partners' support. Enjoy this month's newsletter!



Little Rosario (asthmatic) and her new, donated breathing apparatus

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

Porch de Salomon recently dedicated Ofelia (18) and little Juan Israel's new bathroom, bedroom (remodel), bed, and micro-business in Jucanya. From a suicide attempt (when she became pregnant and was abandoned)to better sanitation/hygiene, food, hope, and a business opportunity (selling juice, fruit, and tortillas on her busy street front) ...all thanks to our late 2016 teams and mission partners.



Pascuala (afflicted with "fish skin disease") looked so much better when I saw her in December. Even more obvious was how her personality had come to life; I had never seen that in her before.

When I asked if I could take her photo, she just propped her hands on her hips and posed. What a difference it has made for this little girl having a cleaner living environment, proper treatment and hope. Oh, happy day! Melanie

From Lloyd: Please help defray our \$310 monthly expenditures for Pascuala, in whole or part, with a donation.



Melanie and Lloyd's recent furlough/promo presentations and pleas yielded donations for BOTH Juan (left) and Jose's prosthetic legs! These indigenous men need those legs to return to work, as per our year-end *PorchTalk* newsletter.

As Jackie Gleason would exclaim: "How sweet it is!" Thank God and those willing to fund these. (Below) Bluegrass legend Leroy Mac joined us one Sunday!



We had a great turnout at the Christmas party Porch hosted in Monte Mercedes - 280 indigenous kids in all! The town leaders and the clowns helped us make it a big success. I've never seen such well-behaved children. We are thankful for Waukeenah United Methodist Church's \$392 donation (in memory of Candice Ragans) which funded a *chuchito* meal and a small gift for these children. For some, that was the only holiday gift they received. *Lindsey Newberry*

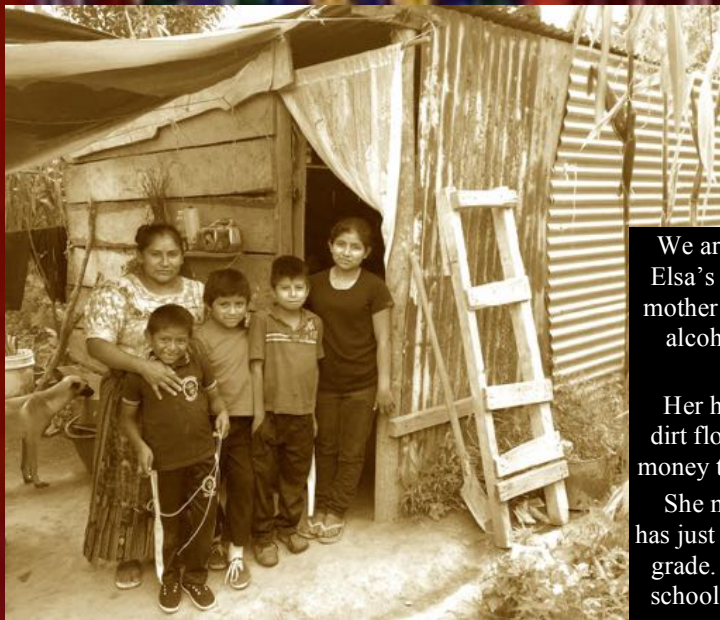
REAL LIVE NEW HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Porch de Salomon just “broke ground” on our first new house-build project of 2017, for Natalia Cos Gonzales and her daughter. Natalia is an indigenous single mother with severe arthritis (*please note her walking stick in the photo*).

One of her children died from dysentery and another drowned at 1.5 years of age. Natalia is unable to work. She will be able to rent out one or two bedrooms in her new house, for a measure of income.

They live in a tiny wooden shack, with a dirt floor and no bathroom. Hearty volunteer students from Canadian Mennonite University (Winnipeg) started work on this one January 30.

Thanks to a generous donation, this house will be dedicated to the memory of a generous donor’s parents. Contact Lloyd if you’d like to discuss making a similar tax-deductible, memorial or honorary donation.



We are thrilled that our February teams will start building Elsa’s family house. Elsa Marina Ruiz Alvarado is a single mother of five children whose former husband was a violent alcoholic. She earns \$60 per month washing clothes and selling snacks at the nearby school.

Her humble indigenous family lives in a tiny tin house with dirt floors, no electricity, no running water. Elsa borrowed money to buy her home site in the village of *Xejuyu Primero*.

She never had money for her sons to attend school. Porch has just enrolled Isac (9), Ezequias (8), and Moises (7) in first grade. Please let us know if you’d like to fund one of their school scholarships this year (\$240). That would be a help and a blessing.

Juana, a 31-year-old indigenous woman who was eight months pregnant, sought our help. She felt that something was wrong. It turned out her placenta matured too early and was drying up.

Lindsey intervened, obtained Ob/Gyn care for Juana and was able to persuade Juana, over the objections of Juana’s mother, to proceed with a Cesarean section rather than wait. Doctors confirmed that the 4 lb., 10 oz. boy would probably not have survived a wait. Lindsey, who herself miscarried last year, is little Anderson’s godmother.

Please let us know if you’d like to provide real life help covering all or part of the \$950 we spent to save this infant’s life.

Porch’s year-end donations were strong, God be praised! We thank those of you who contributed to this effort, and those of you who donated earlier in the year (or every month, via easy auto-deductions). You encourage us!

“God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7



PLEASE PRAY for our February short-term teams. All are building and some are providing free medical clinics.

Jan. 27-Feb. 3: Outtatown/CMU (Winnipeg)

Feb. 4-11: Team Moza
Northstar Church (FL)

Feb. 11-18: Team Gina/Hughson UMC (CA)
Crossroads UMC (VA)

(cont'd)

Feb. 18-25: Heritage UMC/Family Brown (KS)

Feb. 25-March 4: Team Burke/Texas

Please also pray: *For everyone mentioned in this issue
*That Guatemala will not impose a tax on international wire transfers (our primary mode of moving our donations there)

IN MEMORIAM

Porch de Salomon celebrates the life and legacy of our friend Claudia Parrish (Modesto CA) who died late last year. Claudia led teams, raised money, and more for us.

She spearheaded her 2016 team's effort to provide a chicken business for Isabel Cuc. Even now, Claudia provided a legacy donation for Porch in her trust.
Vaya, amiga.... you will be missed!

Please contact Rex or Lloyd (page one) if you would like to discuss making a similar provision in your will (or with your IRA) to help Porch continue with our help and witness to *real live people*.



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