

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 138

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STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND

[Jesus] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored. Luke 6:10 NIV

Our February in Guatemala was packed with short-term teams who served with gusto and joy; building houses, staffing free village medical clinics, building beds, and more. We frequently hear, especially from first-timers, that the team members' week with Porch de Salomon was a life-changing event. That experience requires many of them to stretch their comfort zone, their bank account, and their willingness to ask for support, as well as extending their hands in direct service.

For the indigenous families we serve, and who work right alongside our teams and contract builders, receiving a quality house (gratis) is one of the most impactful experiences of their lives. They find it hard to believe that strangers will give up their vacation time, spend their money, and work so hard to help complete strangers. Our staff reminds them that our teams, and Porch, work in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. He offers restoration and hope to those who will stretch out their hands in faith, service, or in receiving help.

For our stateside mission partners, stretching out your hands to write a check, or make an on-line donation is essential to Porch's work and outreach. We thank you for your faithful and generous financial support which makes it all possible.

(Right): Maria (18) is our second *harlequin ichthyosis* (fish skin) patient. She wants to continue with school, despite her deformed face, so that she can help others. Porch is glad to help her with that, as well as medical care and Aquaphor lotion.



Look for the outstretched hands and arms in this month's issue!



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



FEBRUARY TEAMS

included
(left) Debbie and Mark Johnson
 from Team Burke/Texas
(right) Kari from Team Heritage
 UMC /Brown Family (KS)

It is a blessing that all these teams exceeded our expectations and blew us away with their generosity and “buy in” to Porch’s ministry vision.



As in the past seven years, energetic students from Outatown/Canadian Mennonite Un. (Winnipeg) launched our short-term team year with their smiles and hard work. Gracias Deanna y todos!



Team Brandon/Roper (*Team Moza* to many!) extended their streak of annual Super Bowl week visits. They stretch out, donate, and raise money from their families, friends, and career contacts—a bunch of money! God be praised for that and them.

(left): Elsa Marina Ruiz Alvarado and family joined that team for breakfast at Solomon’s Porch to learn that a portion of those funds will pay off their home site mortgage!

Team Northstar Church lays ‘em down



Heritage UMC/Family Brown (KS) team members building beds and providing medical care at our partner recovery ministry *Casa Tat Loy* (casatatloy.org)



Porch de Salomon broke ground on Santos Albina Chumil's (*shown right*) new house build in Las Minas. Santos' husband abandoned her and their daughters five years ago. They live in a dirt floor, *lamina* (tin) shack; one wall is the mountainside, covered by a piece of nylon. Their bed consists of springs and wooden slats. They have no running water or bathroom. We are excited for them!

Santos (26) works as a domestic when there is work to be had. She dreams of furthering her education; she only reached sixth grade.

Porch *beca* scholarships will allow her daughters (Cefora, 8, and Melany 5) to attend school this year.

(*below*) Team Burke/Texas (26 strong) dug footers and carried sand, gravel, blocks, steel, and more down the long trail to Santos' building site.



"Jewelry Gina" and Tim Gravatt (*below*) led Team Hughson UMC (CA). This family has been a feature of our Februarys for years now!



Help Porch continue funding this adult day care's monthly transportation and utility costs (\$510) with your designated, tax-deductible donations. 45 indigenous seniors receive meals and a higher quality of life through the *Golden Years* senior center. *Gracias!*



Yesterday was my favorite day in Guatemala ever! I have served here several times. Our Northstar Church team was a part of several beautiful and emotion-filled moments:

- *We felt the genuine generosity of a group of great guys (*Team Moza*) who blessed Elsa's family by paying off their home site mortgage.
- *We said "goodbye" to Natalia's family. We have been building their house and the appreciation shown by Natalia brought us all to tears.
- *We visited the senior center and my heart was (still is) overflowing. I have never experienced the joy and happiness that we did with the people at that senior center; I can't wait to come back and visit them.

I cried multiple times today and also smiled so much my face hurt! Thank you, Lord.
Megan Miller Etheridge, team leader, February 10, 2017

Construction of Porch's much-needed facility expansion continues.

(At right):

*The foreground shows the café/kitchen/bathroom expansion. Two floors directly above this will add four hotel rooms for short-term teams.

*The simple building, with the rusty roof, will be renovated and become our humanitarian relief center. No more rent!

*The area in the background will be for parking and client assembly

Last month, we received several generous donations to help fund this project, God be praised. We are very thankful to the donors who stretched out their hands to help. There's a ways to go, still, and we have great honorary or memorial donation opportunities available. Please contact us! *Lloyd*



Our indigenous social worker Eugenia reports:

Isabel Cuc's chicken/egg business, in Pujujil, has been a success! She is selling chickens and eggs to local families.

With this business she managed to buy a pig and turkeys. The business has been a blessing to Isabel and her family. *Gracias!*

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