

porchdesalomon.org

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



## BOTH/AND

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer... a mustard seed ... yeast ... a treasure ... a merchant ... a fishing net.  
*Jesus of Nazareth in Matthew 13.*

***BOTH/AND:** A type of logic used in decision-making that allows for a greater variety and scope of outcomes than a rigid “either/or” decision-making process.  
([www.businessdictionary.com](http://www.businessdictionary.com))*

Among other things, Porch de Salomon is a “both/and” ministry. As in Jesus’s use of a variety of similes to describe God’s kingdom in Matthew 13 (above), we strive to avoid rigid, “either/or” decision-making or actions. Some examples are:

- Our partnering with both conservative and liberal churches and individuals
  - Our balancing radical generosity (“yes’s”) with thrift and efficiency
    - Relying on faith, yet taking action (as in James 2)
- Our teams working under indigenous supervision, with the former honoring the latter’s ideas, and vice versa
  - Melanie and Lloyd’s presence in both Guatemala and stateside (1/3 year)
    - Providing pure charity (“handouts”) and self-sustainable projects
  - Our partnering with other non-profits (see four examples in this issue!) in mutually beneficial, non-territorial, ways.
- Trusting in God’s provision to support Porch’s work, yet actively presenting and promoting Porch’s need for financial support as the opportunity arises. We thank our donors and mission partners who respond to both types of “nudges”!

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*(Above) Celestina Cotjin Cortez (38) and her children live in a crumbling adobe room with dirt floors, no electricity, and no running water. Celestina, twice widowed, earns only \$30 per month as a seamstress.*

*Even worse than their house, the foot trail there is remote, dark, and unsafe. Sadly, one of her daughters suffered sexual assault on this path.*

*Partnering with La Casa de la Paz (Panajachel) and its donors, we purchased a home site in a different, safer location (with the beautiful view shown above!) Construction begins June 7. Both/and!*

**“For the lost, the least, and the last”**

This month, Porch de Salomon had the privilege of partnering with the "Pageant of Hope" to host an inner-beauty pageant for over 50 young people with special needs. Pageant of Hope, based in Atlanta, Georgia, has hosted these events worldwide, and it was an honor to have them here in Guatemala for the very first time.

We also worked side-by-side with two local organizations, *Mundis* and the Solola Municipal Office, which really helped this event achieve excellence.

The pageant celebrated both the inner and outer beauty of over 50 participants, ranging in age from four to 32. Each participant was given special hair, makeup, and nail treatments to help them feel like kings and queens for the day. In the end, every participant won an award along with a crown and sash.

It was amazing to watch the transformation of self-esteem happen right before our eyes. These kids felt seen, heard, loved, and cared for! The genuine smiles at the end of the day helped us all realize how impactful this event truly was.

A special thank you to Matt Ferguson for putting together this group and helping us make a difference here in Guatemala.

*By Lindsey Newberry*

## BOTH/AND: INNER/OUTER BEAUTY



This was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The people and children of Guatemala are by far some of the most grateful and appreciative people I've ever had the pleasure of meeting. I will remember this trip forever and how each person touched my heart more than they know.

Having worked with Pageant of Hope for years, I thought I understood humility, gratitude, and love. This trip showed me that each of those can be taken to greater lengths.

THANK YOU to the people I met, the kids I saw, the ones I held, those I saw in the streets, those I haven't met yet, and the folks I was so fortunate to come along side of through this experience.

Until next time! *Caite Upton*



Marta Julia Velasquez (31) and her daughters, Wendy and Sandra, live in a 3-meter x 3-meter, dirt-floor shack made of scrap wood and cardboard. It's dusty in the dry season and muddy in the rainy season.

Marta Julia works as a domestic, when there's work, earning \$60 per month. This single mother can take pride in the fact her daughters are very well-behaved and sweet. Construction of their new house begins the first week of June.

**BOTH/AND!** Once more, Dirty Feet Missions and its *Para Servir* internship program ([www.dirtyfeetmissions.org](http://www.dirtyfeetmissions.org)) are partnering with Porch to provide a life-changing quality house to this indigenous family.

We are thankful for this partnership and for the generous donor who purchased a good home site for this family's new house.



(At left) 2016 Dirty Feet Missions/Para Servir intern Madison Messman builds and laughs with Micaela, whose family received a new house, and new hope, through this same Porch/Dirty Feet Missions/Para Servir partnership.

(Above) DFM founder Genia cracks the whip!



## SELF-SUSTAINABLE RELIEF

As mentioned on page one, we honor Jesus' command to give and help those in need; thank you for helping us do that. We also seek ways to install self-sustaining relief systems (micro-businesses) when we can. Both/and!

Both Lidia Ester Can's juice/fruit stand (at right) and Manuela Mendoza Cuc's "Tres Mundo" variety store (at left) are thriving and providing income to these women and their families.



## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR JUNE SHORT-TERM TEAMS:

June 10-17: Team Vantage Church and Team Dirty Feet Missions (FL)  
June 17-24: Team Reid Memorial Presbyterian Youth (GA)  
June 24-July 1: Team Faith Presbyterian Church and Team Flower/Digisi (FL)  
... as well as the *Para Servir* interns who will serve June 2 through July 14

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