

Porch de Salomon
Panajachel, Guatemala

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

⌘ PorchTalk

Volume 148

February 2018

MILESTONES AND MILLSTONES

Mark the milestones of your mercy and love, God; Rebuild the ancient landmarks! *Psalm 25:6 (MSG)*



Porch celebrated the milestone of our 100TH COMPLETED HOUSE on December 30. The courageous Cristina Ajcalon Coj and her four boys moved from dirt to a concrete floor, straw mats to beds, an open cook-fire to an *Ecoplancha* stove, latrine to flush toilet, \$40-a-month hand-washing clothes to bookkeeper school, and more.

We are thankful for our fall teams' funding and sweat, for our faithful indigenous builders, our Porch staff, and for our mission partners for helping us remove millstones from the lives of families like Cristina's.

Hola a todos—hello all! We are excited how Porch de Salomon's 2017 ended, and how our 2018 has begun, as per the examples of *milestones and millstones* in this issue.

From Lindsey's healthy baby girl, to our 100th completed house, we praise God for such recent milestones. We ended 2017 with strong donations (thank you generous and faithful donors!) and entered 2018 with a good head of financial steam.

What's the "millstone" part about? The first part of the definition ("*something that grinds or crushes*") describes the lives of many of Guatemala's indigenous people, especially women and children. Examples of that include suffering from the world's tenth-worst chronic malnutrition rate and being ranked as the world's sixth-worst country for women.

The second part of the definition ("*a heavy burden*") applies to our 13-year effort to rescue those Guatemalans from grinding poverty and crushing despair, in Jesus' name. Thank you for helping us bear that burden with your time, talents, and treasures. We invite everyone reading this newsletter to share your treasure, your money, with Porch's work in 2018. Please contact me if you're ready. *Lloyd*

Millstone:
a: something that grinds or crushes
b: a heavy burden
(*Merriam-Webster dictionary*)



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

MILESTONE: our first new house build of 2018! Juan Isidrio, Juana, and their six children sleep in one room on two different beds. Juana earns \$35 per month hand-washing clothes. Juan earns \$160 monthly farming corn and selling firewood.

Their tiny wooden, dirt-floor house becomes muddy during the rainy season, and dusty during the dry season.

Our indigenous social worker Eugenia states: "This humble family deserves a dignified home."

Porch's incoming short-term teams will work on this house.



MILLSTONES removed: Our second house build will be for Micaela and Ricardo's family (at left, and below). This humble, hard-working indigenous family lives in a lamina ("tin") room which is cold in the rainy season and hot in the dry season.

The room has no running water and the family's sanitation/hygiene options are abysmal. These "millstones" adversely affect their family's health, especially the children.



(Left) We are thrilled that: 1) Birma, Carmen, Patricia, and Mirna can now prepare meals in Solomon's Porch Cafe's new, ample kitchen, and; 2) Our patrons and team members will have TWO restrooms at their service. We thank God, Mirna for managing, and for our mission partners and generous donors who made this expansion possible.

(Right) All four new Hotel California rooms will be in service by February 28, God willing.



One December morning, outside Solomon's Porch café, I saw Henry Garay, half-drunk and dirty, and invited him over. Breakfast helped him focus. We persistently debunked his excuses for not accepting our offer of paid in-patient detox and rehab at Casa Tat Loy. When he agreed, one of our Porch vans made the one-hour journey with him, right then.

(Below) These photos reflect Henry's milestone of one month's sobriety! God be with him, those like him, and their loved ones as they struggle with the millstone of addiction. We appreciate our mission partners who help fund our outreach to addicted brothers and Casa Tat Loy (casatatloy.org). Lloyd



A MILESTONE FOR JORGE AND MICAELA: they received enough materials to build their own family home! Jorge has faithfully served Porch as one of our contract builders for years. We thank the two generous Chicago-area donors whose combined \$3500 donation will change this young family's life.

Update on 2018 BECA SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

In Guatemala, over 50% of indigenous teenagers have not completed third grade. Indigenous Guatemalan women average only 3.5 years of school. Grinding poverty is the predominant cause of this problem; families simply cannot afford school as they struggle to put food on the table each day.

Each year since 2006, Porch de Salomon has provided school scholarships through the generosity of our *beca* donors. In 2018, we aim to fund 165 scholarships!

There's still time to donate for the 2018 school year (which runs from January to October). These annual scholarships cost \$240 each. Lindsey will match donors with a recipient! Please consider funding one or more of these life-changing gifts. Contact us directly with your "Yes" or your questions; dlloydmonroe@gmail.com or 850.688.2076. *Gracias!*

(Below, left): Lilian Andrea Yach is an eight year-old third grader. She likes to draw and her favorite class is math. Her dad struggles with degenerative osteoarthritis, kidney, and vision problems; it is very difficult for him to find work.

Lilian's mother earns \$4 daily as a domestic. Lilian is a sweet girl who is very well behaved and excited for the opportunity to go to school. Lindsey

(Below, right): Many of our 165 *beca* scholarship candidates for 2018.





The “flashback” photo below (Rev. Sarah Renfro of December’s Geist Christian Church team) foreshadows the arrival of our February teams:

Outtatown/CMU (Winnipeg): Jan. 26-- Feb. 2
 Team *Moza*: February 3--10
 Hughson UMC (CA) and Heritage UMC (KS): February 10--17
 FSU Audiology: February 24--March 3
 Please pray for them, all of us, and everyone mentioned in this issue!



Lindsey and Edgar welcomed the newest member of our Porch family on December 19. Mila Katherine arrived in beautiful shape, at seven pounds. We thank and praise God for this little *Mila-stone* !

Lindsey writes: I have a newfound respect for the single moms we work with. Even with a helpful husband, and his family close by, I couldn't imagine raising Mila alone.



Good news!

A generous family has donated \$7500 to fund a house for Maria Socorro Yaxon (*above*).

Our readers may recall her as a single-mother of three children whose ex-husband abandoned them, after infecting Maria with HIV. *Gracias!*

Porch has them in our care, and we look forward to helping remove more of their millstones.

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