

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala
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and on 

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- *Short-term service/mission teams in Guatemala
- *Humanitarian relief for indigenous families and others
- *Café Hotel California/Solomon's Porch ministry
- *Self-sustainable micro-businesses
- *Helping transform churches and individuals

PorchTalk

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FULFILLMENT OF A PROMISE Porch de Salomon's 20th Anniversary By Lloyd Monroe

"In Hebrew, the letter Kaph (the number 20) symbolizes strength, provision, blessings, [or] the fulfillment of promises." — *Richard Kagan, pastor*
The LORD ... said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go... I will bless you... and you will be a blessing to others."
— *Genesis 12: 1-2*

"It was 20 years ago today...." (Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band). On August 18, 2005, Melanie and I boarded a jet with Daniel, Asa, eight suitcases, a guitar/mandolin/banjo, and moved to Panajachel, Guatemala. Our intrepid Hannah stayed behind, readying to start college in Maryville, TN, two weeks later.

Early the next morning, I ran down Calle Santander (the main tourist street) all the way to the shore of Lake Atitlan for exercise. My lakeside conversation with God was something like this: Well, God, we did it. It's unsettling and somewhat scary. We left our country home, our kin, our law firm, and much of life as we know it. We've put a lot of stock in Genesis 12's promise to the ancient country-leavers Abram and Sarai of being blessed and being a blessing. I sure hope you were behind it, and that it's not some midlife crisis or flight of fancy. Please keep us all safe, provide for us all, and bless the work of Porch de Salomon. How embarrassing 'twill be if it flops—time will tell. Help us, Jesus. Amen.

Blessed: While, naturally, there have been trials and tribulations, we are thankful that our family and Porch were blessed, and the problems were not too daunting. We have so many stories, and many of them ended well. The divine can and probably did work through those that didn't seem to end well, often in ways we can't fathom.

Blessing: As I stood there that morning, Porch de Salomon was more an idea than a reality, but the reality has blossomed beautifully with adventure, risk, fun, and service. True to the promise of Genesis 12, the ministry has been a blessing to thousands of folks. Those folks range from people in terrible or very humble circumstances to those who are materially prosperous; many of the latter have expressed how "the Porch experience" changed and enriched other parts of their lives and their journeys. I am thankful to God for all of this and for what lies ahead under the McGahas' and the board's leadership.

We are also thankful for people being divine instruments of blessing with their gifts of time, talents, and treasures. Porch de Salomon could not have done what it did, and still does, without our mission partners and donors. We received, utilized, and deployed much more than "a little help from our friends" (Also from Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band).
God bless you all. *Adelante juntos!*



Our family, May 2025

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



Asa (14) and Daniel (17) moving into our Villa Monterossa 2 BR/1 BA apartment, late September 2005. A new friend, Luis, helped them.

Highlights of God's provision from Porch de Salomon's 20th year in Guatemala:



provided free medical clinics serving 2,248 patients and improved vision for 240 people



supplied free dental clinics serving 290 patients



served over 200 people with FSU's audiology department, attending to both returning patients and fitting 115 new patients with hearing devices



offered Bible schools



hosted 42 short-term service/mission teams which helped provide homes for indigenous families and local jobs for Guatemalans

We are grateful to God for His provisions. We thank our volunteers, staff, and mission partners for their support and dedication. Your generous donations have enabled us to provide our services for 20 years. Thank you for your continued support!



181st House Dedication

Porch de Salomon celebrates the Méndez Tax family of San Andrés—Isabel, Emanuel, Ingri, and José!

Despite health challenges and limited income, they worked hard to provide for their children but lacked safe housing. Now, with a new home and two small businesses, the family begins a fresh chapter filled with hope. They expressed heartfelt gratitude—first to God, then to the volunteers and donors who made this dream possible.



In addition to building homes, Porch launched 14 micro-businesses for indigenous families, including the chicken and weaving businesses (above) for Isabel and Emanuel, empowering them with the resources and support needed to create sustainable livelihoods.



So far this year, Porch built 13 new furnished homes for Indigenous families with Ecofiltro water purification systems and Ecoplancha wood-efficient stoves. We hope to dedicate two more by the end of the calendar year!

Highlights continued...

- **Trained women in self-sustainability**
- **Passed out Christmas gifts to children**
- **Provided ever-expanding humanitarian relief: weekly food bags, clothing/shoes, infant formula, medicine, medical care, prenatal care, surgery, physical therapy, and more**
- **Operated our Café Hotel California/Hotel California facility for daily service, community fundraisers, and entertainment**
- **Gathered for weekly worship at our café**
- **Aided alcohol and drug recovery through AA chapters, food, jobs, detox, encouragement, and partnerships with Casa Tat Loy, Casa Ixoqi', and Ánimo rehab centers**
- **Supported Golden Years, a senior center in San José Chacayá, Guatemala, that offers meals, activities, and community for local elders**
- **Partnered with and supported Casa Feliz, a local orphanage**
- **Hosted interns and volunteers for mission work and global service experience**
- **Continued partnerships with stateside congregations to encourage transformation and mission locally, nationally, cross-culturally, and globally**



Porch funded 220 school scholarships and one college scholarship this year for Indigenous children and youth.

Faithfulness Across Generations



Above: Liam Smith at Lake Atitlan, fall 2005. Liam was Porch co-founder Suzanne Monroe Smith's son and lived in Panajachel for several years as an infant.



Below: Liam (21) joined "Team Roger" this summer and helped build an indigenous family house.

In August and September, we traveled to connect with Porch supporters across the states. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet new and familiar faces, deepen our relationships, and share our vision.



We would love to continue this momentum and connect with you, your church, or your group the next time we're stateside. Don't hesitate to reach out—let's create more meaningful connections together.

Greg and Rachael

(Porch friends in Crested Butte, Colorado)

WE INVITE YOU, on Porch's 20th anniversary, to advance Porch de Salomon's high-impact work with monthly tax-deductible auto-donations in whatever multiple of "20" you choose. \$40, \$60, \$80, or \$100 monthly will help us make a difference in the lives of many. Of course, we welcome \$200 and \$2000 (or whatever!) lump-sum donations as well.

Porch de Salomon

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