

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

porchdesalomon.org

and on 

Lloyd and Melanie Monroe

Founders/Directors

dlloydmonroe@gmail.com

melanietmonroe@gmail.com

850.688.2076 or 4373

Mirna Recinos Aceituno

Facility/Hotel/Finance

mirnarecinos2003@gmail.com

011.502.7762.0793

Humanitarian Relief

Co-Directors:

Noe Benjamin Perez

noebenjaminperez@gmail.com

011.502.5945.1313

Hilda Mux Son

hilda.son03@gmail.com

011.502.4214.8501

Robin Bateman

Treasurer

treasurerpds@gmail.com

850.321.8243

Rex Ware

Assistant Treasurer/Legal

rexware@floridasalestax.com

850.933.0344

Jayne Mittan, P.A.

Medical Liaison

jaynemittan@gmail.com

850.212.6593

Tax-deductible Donations:

Porch de Salomon

PO Box 10509

Tallahassee FL 32302-2509

Or on-line

www.porchdesalomon.org

*Short-term service/mission teams
in Guatemala

*Humanitarian relief for
indigenous families and others

*Café Hotel California/
Solomon's Porch ministry

*Live music outreach

* Helping transform churches
and individuals

PorchTalk

Volume 176

August 2020

ONLY WHAT YOU DO by Lloyd

Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

From poem by C.T. Studd

I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—
fruit that will last..." *Jesus of Nazareth at John 15: 16 (NIV)*

Hauling pecan tree debris in hot Waukeelah, Florida on July 30, my truck radio, tuned to NPR, reminded me that U.S. Representative John Lewis's funeral was in progress in Atlanta. I caught the last part of Jenn Holliday's rendition of the Raymond Rasberry song "Only What You Do for Christ Will Last." I had not pondered that truth in too long a time. The thought and solemnity of it all, including Congressman Lewis' example, brought a tear to my eye.

Porch de Salomon continues its service and outreach in the pandemic. We do it in Jesus of Nazareth's name. It motivates us to know that such work bears fruit that will last, even in ways we do not yet understand.

Porch thanks our faithful mission partners and donors who continue to give generously, supporting the work. Thanks to you, we have not yet needed to touch our reserve/"rainy day" funds. Please know that your donation "work" will bear lasting fruit. May God bless you all.

Christina (right) and her daughter Marta (14) joyfully accept their staple foodstuffs from Porch.

Marta, the oldest of six children, was told she must quit school, after sixth grade, in order to help her farming family survive. She is very happy and grateful that a Porch *beca* scholarship has allowed her to continue with her schooling.



Maria Nimajay Ixcaya (75) is a paraplegic with no family. Porch is providing food, a bed, and adult diapers for her.

A \$120 donation will fund her new bed (not shown). \$95 per month will fund her food and diapers. Please donate to fund this lasting, fruit-bearing work.

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

STATUS REPORT!

* While Guatemala's borders remain closed, the government is now experimenting with a moderate, 15-day loosening of travel restrictions and curfews.

* There are 51,542 known Covid 19 cases in the entire country.

* The pandemic caused cancellation of Porch de Salomon's remaining 25 teams. The direct financial impact/lost resources of our 2020 team cancellations exceeds \$200,000.

* All Porch staff are receiving full pay, and benefits, and continue to work and serve.

* Melanie and I remain unable, because of the pandemic, to make our customary promotion and fundraising visits.

Your continued generous donations are helping fill the financial void created by team cancellations and avoid a deficit caused by no in-person promotion. Your donations continue to help Porch de Salomon do things which have eternal value, things that will last. *Gracias! Lloyd*



(Above) Featured in our previous two *PorchTalk* issues, Melvin is shown with his wife following successful knee surgery. A motorcycle accident seriously injured his knee as he traveled to weld to supplement his part-time pastor salary.

Two generous \$1000 donations (*Gracias!*) allowed us to fund the surgery in partnership with his family. Melvin and his family are very thankful for Porch de Salomon and our donors and partners.



TRANSPORTATION THAT LASTS *by Hilda*

One of the Guatemalan government's first responses to the pandemic was to ban public transportation. Most Guatemalans depend on these buses and pick-ups; they don't own automobiles. Renal/kidney patients who needed to travel four hours to Guatemala City for their weekly kidney dialysis were put in danger.

Porch's Poncho (Alvaro) himself depends on dialysis, although he is able to do most of his at home in Panajachel. He worked to combine all the local patients' appointments to Mondays and Fridays. Poncho and our Jezer share the driving duty and disinfect our "Becky Bus" for each trip. Poncho feels that this was the purpose of all that he went through, and he feels honored and blessed to help more people suffering from kidney failure, and with his own experience be able to guide them.

Norma Elda Arreaga (56), her family, and her father are very grateful for this Porch project. She has tearfully told us that her father, Francisco Evelio Arreaga (80), owes his life to Porch de Salomon.

Porch has spent \$2000 (excluding salaries) on these trips since the pandemic struck in March. The trips will continue, we trust. We invite you to donate all or part of that cost; that can be your part of this lasting work! *Lloyd*

(Immediately above) Poncho in one of the pre-dawn departures from Pana.

(Above) Norma and her father Francisco are shown third and fourth from right, respectively.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JAYNE MITTAN'S LASTING WORK

After being interested in global mission work for decades, the trip I finally took with my church to serve with Porch de Salomon in 2011 changed my life. I was “all in.” Providing medical care to the indigenous people, as a physician’s assistant, was so fulfilling! I was doing what God gave me the skills to do.

Then, my world was turned upside down in 2013. My husband of 32 years was killed in a car accident. There was no chance to say one more “I love you” or good-bye. All of our plans, hopes, and dreams were gone. I was in a very dark place for what seems like an eternity. Later, lying in bed, I heard the voice of God, as clearly as if he was standing in the room. He asked “Are you going to spend the rest of your life in misery, or are you going to get up and do what I created you to do?” As I received a wrongful death settlement, the light bulb went off; I retired after 20 years of practice as a nurse and 13 as a PA. *(continued at right).*



Over dinner, with Lloyd and Melanie, I told them that I wanted to be more involved. They were kind enough to engage me as Porch’s Medical Liaison for medical teams. I help the teams prepare, and help expectations match. Traveling to Guatemala more often, I met so many incredible people on medical teams, and amazing patients. I had found my true calling; this volunteer work allowed me to get outside of myself and my grief and back on the road to walking with God.

I look forward to getting back soon. I admire Porch de Salomon’s commitment during this pandemic. I am proud and honored to be associated with this Christ-centered ministry.

Jayne is a kind, patient, and lovely work-horse. Her medical liaison service is a tremendous help. She is also a faithful and generous monthly donor to Porch. She has truly helped us do work which will last. *Lloyd*



Porch is currently building a house for Paty and her family. Contact me if you’d like to help fund this lasting work. *Lloyd*

Patricia “Paty” Pleytez (*far right, at a 2019 Porch staff social*) supported her three children, as a single mother, by traveling out-of-town to work each week for 20 years. She has raised three responsible, kind young adults—
“fruit that will last.”

Mirna and Porch provided Paty with an alternative to that work. She has faithfully served, in friendly fashion, cleaning our Café Hotel California (nee Solomon’s Porch) and helping in the kitchen for the past three years.

Paty (50) was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer eight weeks ago. Porch is funding her hospitalization and radiation/chemo treatment in Guatemala City. Please join us in praying for her, her family, and her medical providers. Donations to help fund our efforts are most welcomed.





Panajachel's tourism-driven economy has been stilled for almost five months. Government assistance has been little. Porch continues our twice-weekly, take-out lunch program, feeding about 175 souls each day. Your \$135 donation will fund one day's lunches. With previous months funded, we now seek donations to cover July and August.

(Photos, left to right)
 * Porch facility manager/comptroller Mirna on lunch duty.
 * Chef Birma laughs as her assistant Carmen takes to a chair to stir the pot.
 * Assistant facility manager Alejandro, with folks lined up the street for their lunch.



Porch de Salomon
 P.O. BOX 10509
 Tallahassee FL 32302-2509
 www.porchdesalomon.org
 and on 

NON-PROFIT STANDARD
 POSTAGE & FEES
 PAID
 WACISSA FL
 Permit #1

