

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

porchdesalomon.org

and on  facebook

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Tax-deductible Donations:

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Or on-line

www.porchdesalomon.org

*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 125

December 2015

SAY A SIMPLE YES

Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' (Jesus of Nazareth, Matthew 5:37, NLT)

As we approach the end of a great 2015, we are thankful for the “yes’s” Porch de Salomon has received, and will receive, from our ministry partners this year. Your affirmative replies to the ministry opportunities we present allow us to, in turn, say “yes” and meet many of the needs we see in Guatemala. The indigenous people of this beautiful country continue to suffer from the world’s fourth-worst chronic malnutrition rate. Women and girls suffer unspeakable harm and indignities in what is rated as the world’s fifth-worst country for females. Sad stories abound.

Here are a few of our recent “yes’s”:

* Santa Chumil’s family, only recently reunited due to relief from Porch partners, now has running water, for the first time ever, thanks to a November short-term team member’s \$700 donation.

* Lazaro’s family (he and his wife have six daughters!) will soon move into their self-funded house. Lloyd writes: *Lazaro has served faithfully, for years, as one of our construction supervisors. He has worked well with scores of teams and until recently, never asked for anything. He asked Noe and me, at a job site last month, for \$2000 to purchase doors and windows to complete his house. Within minutes, we said “Yes, Porch will gladly help you with this in honor of your faithful work.”*

* Vilma Nimijay (31) is a single mother whose sweet family received a house, and milk/food from Porch this year. Last month, the public hospital essentially sent one of her one-year twins, Selso, home to die from pneumonia. She then visited Noe, who gave her an immediate “Yes, we’ll pay for private hospitalization for this child, right now.” God be praised, Selso has fully recovered (and generous folk funded this, in response to our Facebook posting).

We invite you to review the giving opportunities in this issue. Please contact us with your “Yes!” *Gracias!!*



First running water for
Santa’s family



Lazaro



Selso

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

NOVEMBER TEAMS!



Working with Santa's family, I was beyond amazed at the myriad of feelings and emotions I had, the connections I made, and the bonds I formed with very few words spoken. I will never forget the laughter, smiles, genuinely warm hugs, and sheer love I felt from people so impoverished, so simple, so proud, and yet so very kind and thankful. I am forever changed and am grateful to God, as well as to Porch de Salomon, for this invaluable experience. Shannon McBeath (Las Vegas) (below, second row, left, with dark glasses)



(Clockwise, from above)

- * Team Christ the Shepherd Lutheran (GA) once again conducted eyeglass vision clinics along with free village medical clinics
- * Team CTS building in Chuiquel
- * Dr. Rhett is welcome back anytime!
- * Team Stillpoint: Center for Spiritual Development (Las Vegas, NV), with Santa's family. This inter-faith team was fun and open to it all.

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Your tax-deductible donations have high impact in Guatemala!

- * One month's physical or speech therapy for a special needs Guatemalan child (\$50)
- * One month's protein (eggs, beans, and milk) for an indigenous family (\$60)
- * One month's milk and medicine for a SESAN severely malnourished infant (\$60)
- * *Utz Jay* clean water system for a family (w/ replacement filter) \$90
- * One month's in-patient alcohol/drug rehabilitation for an addicted person (\$125)
- * An *Ecoplancha* efficient/clean woodstove for an indigenous family (\$175)
- * Chicken coop start-up (with chicks, feed, and more) for an indigenous family (\$200)
- * Self-sustainability seminar/material for an indigenous women's group (\$275)



Porch was thrilled to provide two self-sustainability seminars last month. Indigenous women, like these shown above, formed small cooperative groups to bake cakes (on top of woodstoves!) to sell during the holidays.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

by Lloyd

Porch de Salomon is a small not-for-profit which demonstrates God's love, expressed best through the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, to "the lost, the least, and the last" and others. We strive to do this through creative, "right risk-taking" service and outreach: from the streets and bars of Panajachel, to the incredibly poor shacks of the indigenous villages of Guatemala's Lake Atitlan Basin, to the air-conditioned, padded-pew comfort of our stateside partner churches.

Melanie and I continue in our eleventh year of full-time service. We appreciate the sacrifices our volunteers Lindsey, Joe, and Laura have made to be a part of the work (as well as our paid Guatemalan workers!) God has blessed Porch and our families by providing for these years of ministry through the generosity of our stateside partner churches and supporters.

Thanks be to Him--and you. Porch de Salomon's work is only possible through your generous financial support.

Every need we meet, most everything we do, every "yes," costs money. Our monthly ministry/outreach budget is \$12,000—while this is sizeable, it allows us to deliver efficient, high-impact, life-changing hope, help, and service. Please consider:

- 1) making a year-end, tax-deductible general support donation or;
- 2) funding one of the special needs (*page two*) or scholarships (*below*) or;
- 3) making a much-needed monthly/quarterly/annual pledge for 2015.

Your "yes" to these will allow us to continue saying "yes" in Guatemala.

Thank you! See page one for donation instructions or contact me at dlloydmonroe@gmail.com (or 850.688.2076) for more information. We welcome appreciated stock donations (tax-advantaged!) as well.

Please provide NEW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2016

In Guatemala, over 50% of indigenous teenagers have not completed third grade. On average, indigenous Guatemalan women have 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. For example, Brenda (*below*) will not be able to attend school next year without our help.

Here are three more of our current scholarship candidates (*photos at right*):

*Edwin (10) is an orphan who lives with his aunt. Edwin is a deaf mute and can read lips well. He completed second grade this year. He has to walk one hour, each way, to school in a different village. He will be able to attend school in his village, Chuiquel, if his aunt can pay the \$130 school construction fee.

*Fatima (15) is from Honduras. She moved to Panajachel to live with her aunt one year ago. She left Honduras to escape eight years of sexual abuse by her step-father, a gang leader there. She would like to be educated so that she can someday return and rescue her siblings. With a scholarship, she can enter the eighth grade this school year.

*Marta's family had no money for her to continue her studies last year; she began working in a local diner. There, she suffered third-degree burns in a propane explosion. She always wears a sweater to cover her scars and to avoid stares and worse.

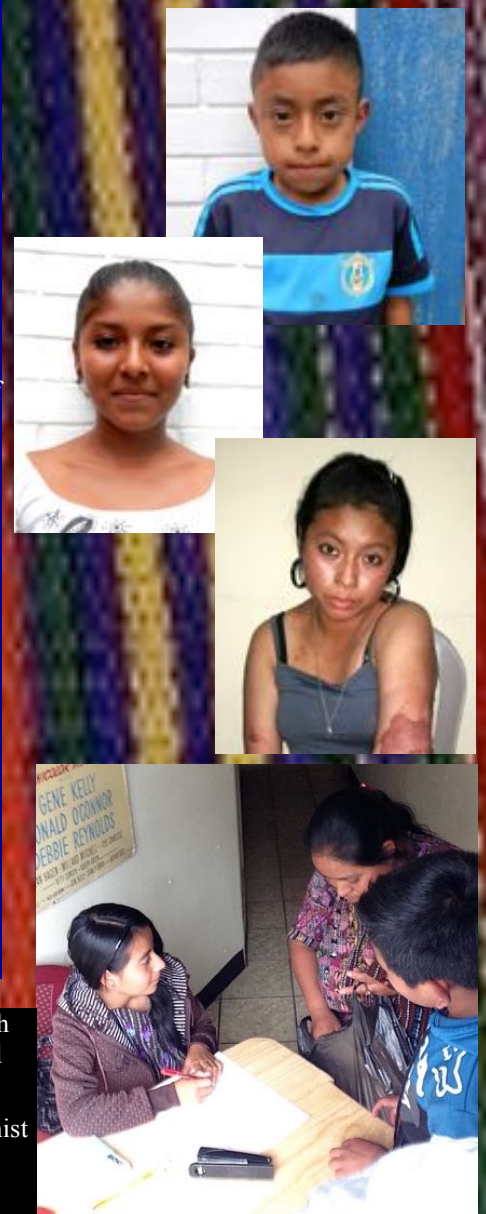
Marta (18) wants a scholarship so that she can complete her final year of high school and pursue her dream to be a teacher.

Each year since 2006, Porch de Salomon has provided school scholarships ("Becas") through the generosity of our *Beca* donors. In 2015, our donors funded over 100 scholarships! We are now inviting and accepting donations for the 2016 school year (which runs from January to October).

These annual scholarships cost **\$240 each**. Please consider funding one or more of these life-changing gifts. Please contact us directly with your questions or to say "Yes" -- dlloydmonroe@gmail.com or call 850.933.0344, by December 30 if possible.

Four years ago, Brenda and her siblings hid out in a cornfield, in fear, when our Porch team first visited their crumbling adobe shack. This indigenous family has benefited greatly from a good house, food, scholarships, and medicine from Porch.

It was a wonderful surprise to see Brenda (15, *at right*) serving as a volunteer receptionist during the recent scholarship "reckoning" day organized by Noe and Jeydi. It did me good to see Brenda empowered! Lloyd





Best wishes for a blessed and happy holiday season and a prosperous 2016 from our in-country Porch team!

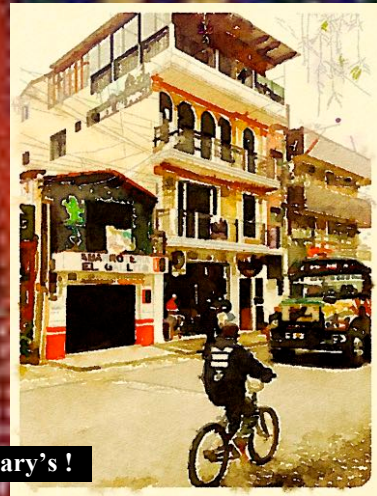
Their jobs with Porch de Salomon/Hotel California/Solomon's Porch Cafe support the families of our seven full-time Guatemalan staffers, as well as part-time workers and our 11 contract builders (the latter of whom are not shown).

Your donations and support make the work and witness of Porch de Salomon possible.

Gracias, y Feliz Navidad!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- * Every person mentioned in this newsletter
- * Generous year-end general and special donations/pledges, especially support for our 2016 *Beca* school scholarships
- * The leaders of the new, third AA/NA chapter Porch hosts on site
- * An impactful 2016 for Porch de Salomon and our ministry
- * Melanie and Lloyd's January 6—Feb. 4 furlough/promo stateside. We'd love to share our vision with you, your church, or group.



SAVE (and share!) THIS ISSUE... our next *PorchTalk* will be February's!

Porch de Salomon

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and on 

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