

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

porchdesalomon.org

and on 

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Tax-deductible Donations:

Porch de Salomon

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Or on-line

www.porchdesalomon.org

- *Short-term mission/service 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 169

December 2019

PEACE, GOODWILL TOWARD ALL

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward [all]!"
Luke 2:13,14 (KJ21)

Nothing that I can do or say will change the structure of the universe. But maybe, by raising my voice, I can help the greatest of all causes—goodwill among men and peace on earth. *Albert Einstein*

2019 has been a great and impactful year for Porch de Salomon's service and outreach in Guatemala. We will complete our 13th family house of the year by December 31, God willing. Our 36 short-term teams have brought untold help and hope to materially impoverished folk in Guatemala's Western Highlands. Apart from those teams, week in and week out, our dedicated staff serves, encourages, and helps those in need, in the name of the Nazarene carpenter.

Just as Einstein could say or do nothing to change the structure of the universe, there's nothing much we can say or do to change the structure of Guatemala's largely dysfunctional government and social systems. However, Porch's service and outreach are our way of "raising [our] voice" to help the cause of peace and goodwill with all we can. Thank you for helping us do that through your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. Peace and goodwill to you and yours!



(Above) Florinda, illiterate like the shepherds who heard the angels' praise outside Bethlehem, learned the peace sign from Hilda. Here, she flashes that sign while carrying blocks up the long, steep trail to her house-build site.

(Left) Heather works on Florinda's house as part of Team Mark/Sue Williams. She and her husband Chris were generous encouragers—goodwill and peace spreaders!



Please contact me about tax-advantaged donation options: IRA roll-overs and appreciated stock donations! *Lloyd*

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



**PORCH'S
NOVEMBER
TEAMS**

included: Christ the Shepherd Lutheran (GA); Shady Grove UMC (NC); Geist Christian Church (IN); and Mark/Sue Williams (CA, MI, and WV).

From stump removal, to Dr. Seuss, to free village medical clinics, they came in peace and brought plenty of goodwill.



(Below right): Patients at our partner drug/alcohol rehab center Casa Tat Loy provided real muscle, moving building materials up the long, steep trail to Florinda's house-build site. Here, they move a 500-pound pila sink!



SPECIAL GIVING (OR GIFT!) OPPORTUNITIES

Your tax-deductible donations have high impact in Guatemala!

- * One month's protein (eggs, beans, milk, more) for an indigenous family (*shown above left*, \$60)
- * One month's milk and medicine for a severely malnourished infant (\$60)
 - * A multi-purpose, concrete *pila* sink (*shown above*, \$85)
 - * An *Ecofiltro* clean water system for a family (*shown left*, \$90)
 - * One month's in-patient alcohol/drug rehab for an addict (\$100)
 - * An *Ecoplancha* efficient woodstove for an indigenous family (\$195)

It's easy! Please use our donation address or link from page one.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

by Lloyd

Porch de Salomon is a high-impact/low overhead non-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 15th year of full-time service; neither of us receive a salary. We appreciate the work of Porch's Guatemalan staff, our volunteers, and short-term team members. God has blessed Porch and our families by providing for these years of ministry through the generosity of our partner churches, mission partners, and supporters. Thanks be to God--and you. Porch de Salomon's work is only possible through your generous financial support.

Every need Porch de Salomon meets, thereby bringing peace and goodwill, in service, word, or deed, costs money. Our monthly ministry/outreach budget is \$28,000—this money empowers us to deliver efficient, high-impact, life-changing hope, help, and service. Please help us by:

- 1) making a year-end, tax-deductible general support donation or;
- 2) funding one of the special needs featured in this newsletter or scholarships (*below*); or
- 3) making a much-needed monthly/quarterly/annual pledge for 2020.

This will help us deliver a measure of peace and goodwill to the lives of the recipients.

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, or direct IRA roll-overs, both tax-advantaged!

Please provide NEW 2020 SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

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.

Each year since 2006, Porch de Salomon has provided school scholarships through the generosity of our *beca* donors. In 2019, our donors funded 135 scholarships!

Here are two new, 2020 *beca* scholarship candidates (*right*):

Carlos (14), from San Andrés Semetabaj, has a strong desire to continue studying. Seeing how his mother struggled, he began cutting and selling firewood when he was ten. His alcoholic father wastes his meager farming wages on liquor.

Marta Angélica (15) is from Santa María el Tablón, the oldest of six siblings. Her parents are good folk, but saw no need for education beyond sixth grade; together they earn \$140 per month. Angélica wanted to continue studying and, with her parents, came to Porch for help.

We are now inviting donations for the 2020 school year (which runs from January to October). These annual scholarships cost \$240 each. Hilda 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: hilda.son03@gmail.com or call Lloyd at 850.688.2076. *Gracias!*



Porch de Salomon congratulates our ten 2019 *beca* scholarship high school graduates! Shown left are eight of them: Walter, Dulce, Marvin, Jenifer, Jasmine, Idalia, Abraham, and Neyda.

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



Rev. Leigh Bartoli's all-lady team from Shady Grove UMC (NC), was a tremendous boost and help. Their \$4500 (!) in extra funding paid for this truck load of protein/food bags, health clinic supplies, improvements at the local jail, and more. *Y'all come back now, ya hear?*

Best wishes for a blessed and happy holiday season and a prosperous 2020 from our in-country Porch team, Melanie, Lloyd, Pat, and our faithful volunteers Robin, Rex, Richard, and Jayne!

Their jobs with Porch de Salomon/Hotel California/Café support the families of our 14 full-time Guatemalan staffers, as well as part-time workers, and our six contract builders (not shown). Bringing peace and goodwill through your donations and support, you make these jobs and the work and witness of Porch de Salomon possible. *Gracias, y Feliz Navidad!*



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