

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

porchdesalomon.org

and on 

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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

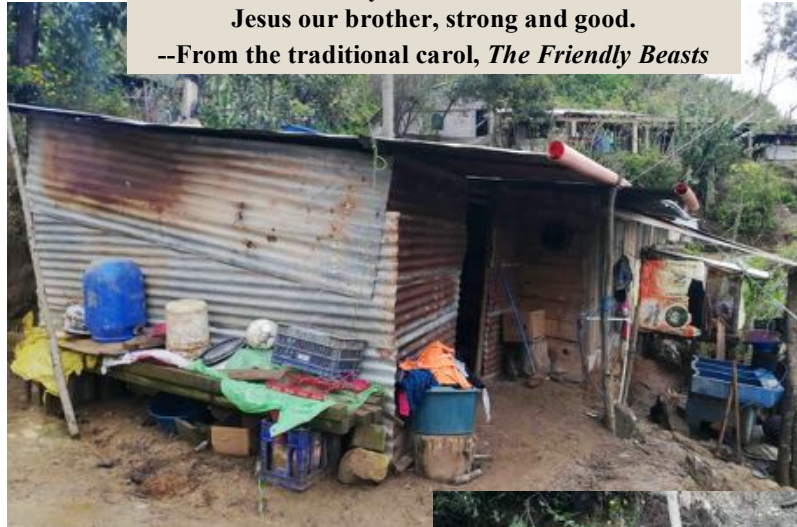
Volume 180

December 2020

HUMBLY BORN

Jesus our brother, strong and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude.
And the friendly beasts around him stood.
Jesus our brother, strong and good.

--From the traditional carol, *The Friendly Beasts*



2020 has been a year which has humbled much of the world. It was born with such great promise. Then, the pandemic transformed it into a strange and challenging time. It has been a hard year for many of Guatemala's indigenous people, and for Panajachel's tourism-based economy.

We at Porch de Salomon are humbled and thankful to have been able to press on in impactful ways despite the pandemic and the cancellation of so many short-term team visits. You, our "strong and good" mission partners, have provided the funds and encouragement to do that. Thank you and may God bless you all.



Mayra and Ezequiel's family life was first disrupted by his alcoholism (he's been sober for years now!) and then the pandemic. When there's work:

--Mayra (with a second-grade education) earns \$2 per day sewing.

--Ezequiel (with a sixth-grade education) earns \$4 per day as a baker.

These photos depict their very humble abode.

Porch will build them a new house, God be praised, in their village. Please consider funding it (\$7800) in honor or memory of a loved one.

Gracias!



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



Porch's relief staff distributed Christmas gifts in various indigenous villages the past two years. For many of the children, this was the only gift they received. This project is the brain child of our Hilda, Jeydi, and Eugenia, themselves indigenous.
Might you make a tax-deductible donation to cover our \$800 cost, in whole or part?
(Left) This little girl received a doll to replace her headless one last year.



TAX HELP TO YOU
Please contact me about:
* Tax-advantaged donation options: IRA roll-overs and appreciated stock donations!
* Planned giving through your will or trust.
Lloyd



***Please provide* NEW 2021 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. This was the case pre-pandemic.

Our beca scholarship director Hilda writes:
The pandemic year has left many Guatemalans jobless. If Porch's scholarship students weren't blessed with their sponsors, many would not have attended school in 2020.

Each year since 2006, Porch de Salomon has provided school scholarships through the generosity of our *beca* donors. In 2020, our donors funded 135 scholarships!

Here are two new, 2021 *beca* scholarship candidates *(right)*:

Yesica (17) will be in the 11th grade next year; she was the top student in her class this year. Her father's work injuries render him unable to work and her mother's monthly \$60 earnings don't go far. Yesica works hard to overcome chronic health issues and would like to make a difference for her family in the future.

Carlos (20) is the youngest of four children from a farm family. He is the only family member who has reached sixth grade. He works hard and gives half his monthly earnings to his family. He uses the other half to pay for his education. This money is insufficient to pay for his further education.

We are now inviting donations for the 2021 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!*

(At right) Our 2020 scholarship program high school graduates:
(seated) Evelyn, Estefany, Mayra, and Cristina.
(standing) Kevin and William.



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 16th 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, in service, word, or deed, costs money. Our monthly ministry/outreach budget is \$31,000—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 2021.

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!



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

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





CERTIFIED SAFE AND CLEAN

Our facility manager Mirna displays government certificates for our Hotel California/Café. Mirna and her staff have worked hard to follow the pandemic protocols this required.

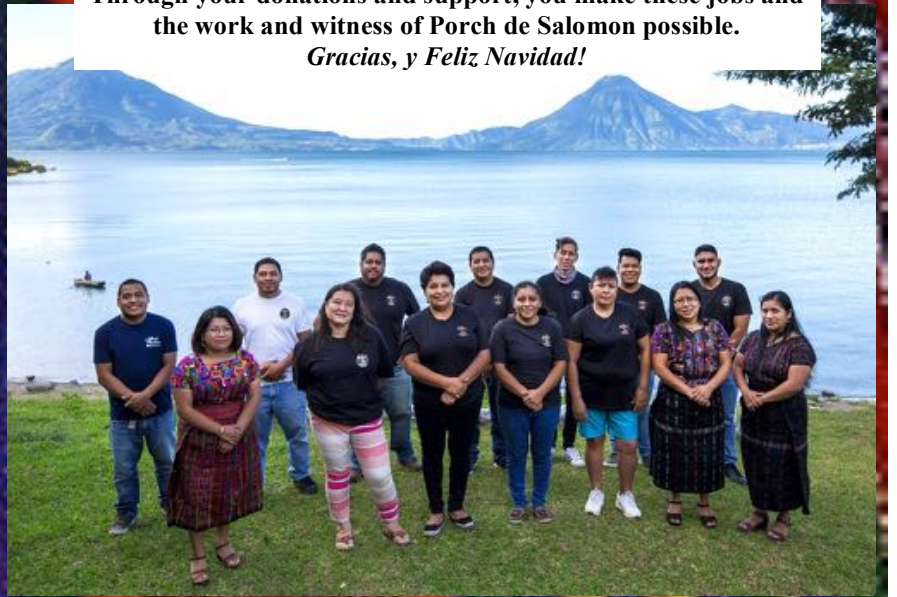
We hope and pray:

- * tourism can rebound to again provide revenue when our teams aren't there.
- * we can again host short-terms teams starting June 2021.

Best wishes and prayers for a blessed and happy holiday season and a prosperous 2021 from our in-country Porch team (below), Melanie, Lloyd, and our faithful volunteers Robin, Rex, Brian, Richard, Jayne, Will, and Mark!

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 contract builders (not shown). 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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