

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

porchdesalomon.org

and on 

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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 170

February 2020

OPEN THE DOOR (let 'em in)

Someone's knockin' at the door... open the door, and let 'em in.

Paul McCartney and Wings (1976)

...knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. *Matthew 7*

2019 was perhaps Porch's most impactful year ever. We hope and pray that 2020 will be great as well. Divine providence, hard work, preparation, and generous mission partners/donors undergird it all. We are thankful.

It is a pleasure to be able to open doors, both literally and figuratively, to those who have often been shut out of opportunity and hope.

Despite their best efforts, the lack of opportunity relegates too many families to subsistence. They struggle for "daily bread" in the country suffering from the world's 10th worst chronic malnutrition rate. Thank you for helping us help them.



(Above) Florinda Quino opens the door to her house, Porch's 124th. The steep and long foot trail (all materials hand-carried up) was a challenge.

(Above, left) Her family is excited about their chicken/egg micro-business as well. We thank God, our donors, mission partners, teams, and staff who make such projects possible.



Porch opened a door by hosting a new group, Seyquoyah Hills PC (TN), earlier in January than is our custom. Good things happened during their medical clinics! (Right) Our Jayne, a team member, and Dr. Juana Luisa examine Alberto (9) who suffered a seizure in clinic; he has had those, untreated, for five years. Please pray for his care and exams.



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



Let 'em In
 ...after their houses were completed.
 (Below) Florinda, Jose, Rosa, and Blanca in their new kitchen.



Porch de Salomon completed and dedicated our 12th house of 2019 in December . Gustavo de Leon's father, Juan, spoke at length in Kaq'chikel during the moving dedication ceremony; his dream for a better house for Gustavo (cerebral palsy and Down Syndrome) has now been realized, thanks to folks who were strangers a mere six months ago. We greatly appreciate this family's warmth, openness, cooperation, and more.



Keeping a Door Open for Service
 (Above, three photos) Team Outatown/Canadian Mennonite Un., 41 strong, served at Santos and Rafael's house site in Xejuyu II. The family worked right alongside our team. Big teams make shorter work of hand-carrying building materials up long mountain foot trails. This is Outatown's ninth annual service trip with Porch. We are glad to let 'em in!



We joyfully launched our first team house-build project of 2020, in Xejuyu II. Santos and Rafael are hard workers, with Santos supplementing Rafael's meager income with a Porch/Sharon Church micro-business grant. Their dirt-floor, tin-roof, tin walled house is cold in the rainy season, and hot in the dry season. They have no pila sink and no electricity.





Opening our Doors for Local Schools

Porch de Salomon was pleased to host a Friday afternoon social hour for faculty from four Panajachel schools recently. Our fourth-floor facility terrace is a great space and our kitchen staff provided great hors d'oeuvres and beverage service.

School director Sarah wrote: *Thank you to Hotel California and Porch de Salomon for organizing and hosting a wonderful event for all the teachers and staff of AMA, LIFE School, Atitlán Music School, and PCI! We all truly appreciated the opportunity to build stronger relationships between our schools.*



Porch's relief staff distributed Christmas gifts in various indigenous villages. 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.

When I questioned whether we should use Porch resources for this, Hilda proceeded to "sell" it to me. She related last year's story of watching a boy's face light up, under his work load of corn stalks, when our Porch truck stopped for him. In her words: "What a blessing to see the happy faces of each of these folks, who deserve a little peace and happiness at Christmas."

We thank the donors who ponied up \$800 to fund the toys, and our mission partners whose donations empower our work. *Lloyd*



Now, her doll has a head.



Felicidades (congratulations) to our administrative assistant Jeydi and our friend and former construction *albanil* Leonel on their January 4 marriage. They met through Porch!

Check out Recent Porch Media Articles:

We appreciate the good publicity and thank those who made it possible.

<https://www.flumc.org/newsdetail/trinity-umc-helps-make-a-difference-one-person-at-a-time-13130677>

<https://www.tallahassee.com/story/life/faith/2019/12/28/solomons-porch-reaches-out-families-guatemala/2748482001/?fbclid=IwAR0AT7-P4ucZTvHuFqZat2LKW9pa6ofQ2jeHco6sHRgV-x4VG22Ea2XT9vg>

2020 School Scholarship Update!

Porch de Salomon thanks those who have provided 2020 *beca* scholarship donations. Hilda reports we have 138 students this year.

Please consider donating a \$240 scholarship for unfunded students like these:

Estela (15) is an indigenous girl from Pujujil. She had to quit school after 6th grade, because her parents couldn't afford further education. With her perseverance and Porch's support she is in 8th grade, hoping one day she can graduate and help support her family.

Bryan (16) is in the 10th grade. He dreams of graduating, then working to help support his mother and younger brother. The boys' father abandoned the family long ago.



Donations to Open Doors in 2020

We are pleased to report that Porch de Salomon ended 2019 in strong financial shape, thanks in part to generous year-end donations from mission partners. Gracias donors, y gracias a Dios!

(Above) 2019 donation tax-receipt letters have been mailed, thanks to our volunteer treasurer, Robin.

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

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