#### Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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\*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 175

**July 2020** 

#### LOVE IN THE TIME OF [COVID 19]

Remember that everything that is good, whatever its origin, comes from the holy spirit. *Gabriel Garcia Marquez*, <u>Love in the Time of Cholera</u> If you <u>love</u> me, keep my commands. *Jesus of Nazareth, John 14 (NIV)* Jesus said, "Feed my lambs...Take care of my sheep." John 21 (NIV)



<u>Take care of, too</u>: (Below) Our care for the folks of Golden Years adult day care continues, with financial support and more. Here, Victorino holds his Parkinson's medicine. The pandemic continues to largely paralyze Panajachel and the nearby indigenous villages Porch de Salomon serves. Following Jesus's command to love him by keeping and obeying his commands, the month of June saw us:

<u>Feed</u>: (*Left*) Maria Socorro's daughter Matilde happily receives their food pack. This single mother family has suffered much, but is doing much better with our assistance.

<u>Take care of:</u> (Below) Rosa Tzay is happy to receive good clothing for her growing boy. They are thriving in their Barrio Norte house Porch built.





OUR MISSION PARTNERS' LOVE for Jesus, Porch de Salomon, and those we serve was

beautifully expressed through generous June financial donations, including some which really surprised us.

These donations helped us not need to tap our emergency reserve funds, God be praised. All our employees remain on the payroll and are serving where they can. <u>Thank you!</u>

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



*Hilda reports:* We were glad to do another beca scholarship family-focused food distribution, thanks to two stateside donors. With many villages allowing no one in, the families met us at the village entrance.

We feel honored to help these families who depend on Porch de Salomon; the government support hasn't come yet, even after three months of curfews and closing roads. When they tell us "We don't know how to thank you", we feel satisfied.

Some of the recipients were near tears receiving their food. The grandmother in the photograph, at right, was tearfully thanking and blessing all the people involved. She told us the food will be shared. She prays for all of us at Porch, that God will keep us healthy and safe.



TWO LADS are among the 175 people receiving a nutritious takeout lunch every Tuesday and Thursday at our facility.

A generous donor family funded groceries for these lunches for May and June—we are thankful!

We welcome <u>your</u> donations to fund these groceries at \$135 per day as we continue.

#### **STATUS REPORT!**

\* Guatemala's borders remain closed and the country on virtual lock-down, with curfews enforced.

\*There are over 19,000 known Covid 19 cases in the entire country. Panajachel now has two confirmed cases.

\* Porch's busy July/August team schedule was cancelled. It is unlikely we will be able to host teams in the fall.

\* Melanie and I remain unable to make our customary promotion and fundraising visits.

<u>Your generous donations</u> 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 provide "love in the time of [Covid 19]." Gracias! *Lloyd* 

LOSS IN THE TIME OF [COVID 19] Ines Rosa Maria Pablo died, at age 11 months, from chronic infant malnutrition. Her parents brought her to our partner SESAN social workers, who referred her to Porch, one day before she died.

The family is from the remote *Boca Costa* region, with extremely limited resources. Porch purchased Ines a casket and will continue to combat chronic malnutrition where we can. May God rest Ines' soul and grant her family peace.

### LOVE IN TWO BUILDINGS

#1: We are thrilled to have completed a new carpentry shop and house for Porch use in Barrio Norte. This allowed us to move out of the third-floor level (!) previous shop/apartment which we have rented for years.

The project provided scarce jobs during the pandemic; builders families were fed. (Above) Our contract builders Edras, Santos, and Macario in the new woodshop. Noe's presence will reduce the chance of burglary.

Noe writes: I thank Porch for providing me this beautiful and dignified place to live with my children. When the pandemic passes, we will send a photo of all of us.

I thank the ministry with all my heart for always thinking of and supporting its staff but especially my family and me. God bless you.





#2: Porch de Salomon completed and dedicated our 128th house on June 12. Noe says: "In a simple but very emotional ceremony, we dedicated Marta Sotoy's house-- they were very happy. Shedding tears, daughter Ingrid said finally they will have their own place; no one will tell them to move anymore.

Our builder Santos thanks everyone who helped with the house in the middle of the pandemic and especially those who believed and shared love and hope to her."

We thank our mission partners who are continuing to support Porch de Salomon's constant service and outreach.



## LITTLE LOVES (in the time of Covid 19)

(Left) Of all the superb donations Porch received last month, few were more touching than the \$100 Lindsay Gaster (8), from Winston-Salem, NC, raised from her lemonade stand. She said: "I wanted to earn enough money to buy a mermaid tail for the pool and with the extra money I wanted to help the kids in Guatemala to go to school and have a house." Gracias, Lindsay!

(*Right*) Porch administrative assistant Jeydi and husband Leonel are proud parents of a little girl born June 27. As of yet unnamed, the wee lass weighed a robust 7 pounds, 11 ounces. God's blessings on her and her sweet family.



*Praise:* Melvin's knee surgery has been funded! He and his family were shown in our May and June issues.

*Prayers, please:* Porch facility housekeeper Paty is undergoing surgery and treatment for advanced ovarian cancer. The hospital situation is worse than usual due to the pandemic. OUR THREE-MINUTE YouTube video well captures Porch de Salomon's service during the pandemic. Don't miss it! <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rW-</u> vDiFuntc&t=32s&fbclid=IwAR1z\_UtL4C3zULhMT5BENLiMUf2DM UBrnthQ83CwZKjIu1oEXk48yZfyqF4

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