

Porch de Salomon

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Tax-deductible Donations:

Porch de Salomon

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Or on-line

www.porchdesalomon.org

- *Short-term mission teams in Guatemala
- *Humanitarian relief for indigenous families
- *Solomon's Porch café ministry
- *Live music outreach
- *Helping transform churches



PorchTalk

Volume 94

March 2013

FEATS DON'T FAIL ME NOW

Our February has been "crazy busy" and productive; two house builds underway, a different short-term team each week (they stay in the ministry's new hotel!), our regular humanitarian relief work, live music outreach and moving our Solomon's Porch café to its new location by month's end. "Feet don't fail [us] now!" Here is a little story by our new assistant director:

BEAUTIFUL FEET

by Will Deeds

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation. ~ Isaiah 52:7.

Earlier this month God brought this verse to life for me. I also came away with an expanded view of its meaning. I've always pictured the feet of missionaries walking so that they could talk to people about the love of Christ. I still think this is a piece of this verse. However, I got to see different sets of feet carrying good news to an indigenous highland village in Guatemala called Chuaxic.

Our first 2013 short-term team (Brandon/Roper/Shalley) decided to bring shoes to the family we were building the house for. Pretty soon that decision, and the good news, were both spreading. The team eventually fitted and bought shoes for 300 people on the mountain! The children of Chuaxic ended up having the feet that spread the good news.

Many of these children don't even have shoes; they just go barefoot. The shoes which other children wore were in pitiful shape. Two of the ladies on the team did foot tracings so that shoes were bought in the proper size. These beautiful, often dirty children received new shoes that week and spread the good news! Indeed, how beautiful are the feet of those who spread good news on the mountains!



*(Right):
"Team Gina"
member
Tiffany (17)
with one of
Guadalupe's
children in
San Andres*

"For the lost, the least and the last"

MORE FEBRUARY FEET (and feats!)

Cheer up! On your feet! [Jesus] is calling you.”
Mark 10:49



THANKS for an amazing week Melanie, Lloyd, Will, Guatemala Joe, Mirna and kitchen ladies, Noe, Nik and construction crew and all the wonderful people who serve through the Porch. We are blessed to call you friends and even more blessed to call you brothers and sisters in Christ. Keep up the Kingdom work y'all!!!
Team leader Gina Gravatt, Ione CA



Our friends at Casa Tat Loy drug/alcohol rehabilitation were very happy (even though they don't look it in this photo!) to receive our treasured Solomon's Porch billiard table as a donation. There is no room for it in our new location....



Melanie's paint scheme for the new Solomon's Porch. We launch there March 1!



(Above): Lloyd and Melanie at the Mardi Gras school fundraiser. MarcoTrio Electric 's music moved many dance feet!



Chris

FOOTERS

by Chris Holley

I was one of four rookies on Team Brandon/Roper/Shalley (known in the evenings as "Team Moza"). What a blessing it was to be part of the team and to experience God's love as shared through the work of Porch de Salomon! We dug house foundation "footers," hand mixed concrete and distributed over 300 pairs of shoes to barefoot village folk. Each morning, our devotionals challenged us, brought us closer as a team and helped strengthen our faith.

We were privileged to be the first team to stay in the recently purchased "Hotel California" and see (and hear!) the remodeling of the "new Porch" underneath. The entire local Porch team showed us so much hospitality.

This was my first global mission trip; it was the most spiritually invigorating experience of my life. Helping Santos and Francisco's family, and experiencing their deep gratitude, opened my eyes to mission work. I thank God and everyone involved for this experience.

Chris is a husband, father, executive director of the Florida Association of Counties and church officer in Tallahassee, FL. -- Editor

HOUSES AND TEAMS

Santos and Francisco's family (*left*) lives in one crumbling adobe room (*below*) which belongs to Francisco's mother. All 11 family members share two board beds or sleep on feed sacks on the dirt floor. They cook outside on an open fire. All of Francisco's \$6.50 daily wage goes for food. We thank Team Brandon/Roper/Shalley for funding and helping build a new house for them up in Chuaxic. The children now have shoes as well!



We proudly hosted Tallahassee Heights UMC's first Porch team. They were with us for the Mardi Gras fundraiser as well as for Ash Wednesday. *Above:* teamer feet on the wall above Guadalupe's foundation in San Andres. *Below:* Teamers Ana, Amanda and Andrea (and Kristen) working the "pharmacy" during one of this team's village medical clinics in Chuaxic.



(Above): "Team Moza" hand mixing and passing concrete for Santos and Francisco's floor. Their family blessed the team with a rare white "Pulik" farewell lunch.



PRAISES:

- *Our faithful and generous mission partners whose financial support makes all our work possible
- *Leila's return to our Porch community with 13 months sobriety
 - * Noe Benjamin's great start as our relief director
 - * Our February teams' encouragement, service, safety and generosity

Please **PRAY FOR:**

- * March 9-16: Team's UGA women's soccer and Team Burke (TX); house construction and soccer clinics
- * March 15-22: Outtatown CMU small team: house construction
- * March individual volunteers; Wisconsinites and Bill Kenbeek
- * Grace and favor for Solomon's Porch café in our new location
- * Continued resourcing for our ministry and families



Gela and her mother post-surgery

SPECIAL FEET

by Betty Conley, R.N.

During one of our Porch village medical clinics last year, indigenous Erika (17) brought in her two-month old baby, Gela. Erika removed the blanket from the baby and displayed her little terribly malformed feet. I had to work hard to keep smiling.

During the next six months, after multiple trips in the "Porchmobile" and with the help of medical specialists, we learned Gela suffered from Amniotic Banding, a condition where band-like tissues attach around an extremity. The band does not expand and eventually her feet would be amputated.

Gela's surgery last month went great. All 13 of the family came after surgery to touch, feel, give thanks for everything (including their new house built by Trinity UMC, Tallahassee, last fall). Gela will never have toes but the surgeons have promised she WILL WALK someday.

I feel so very blessed and thankful to have played a little part in all this. Our Porch mission partners and donors played a role in this as well—thank you!

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