

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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Or on-line

www.porchdesalomon.org

*Short-term mission teams
in Guatemala

*Humanitarian relief for
indigenous families and others

*Solomon's Porch
Café ministry

*Live music outreach

* Helping transform churches
and individuals



PorchTalk

Volume 149

March 2018

HELP YOURSELF

by Lloyd

“...help yourself to the water they have drawn from the well.” Ruth 2:9 NLT
“If you only knew the gift God has for you ... you would ask me, and I would give you living water.” Jesus at John 4:10 NLT

“God helps those who help themselves.” Jesus at Mark 17. *

This issue, chronicling Porch de Salomon's busy and impactful February, reflects:

- 1) folks helping themselves to what Jesus called “living water”:
 - God's grace and spirit, available to all for motivation and more.
 - the growth, joy, and sense of abundance which follows service and generosity to others, whether in Guatemala or elsewhere.
 - humble folks opening up their lives, even their poverty, to strangers.
- 2) Guatemalans doing their hard-working best to help themselves better their lives and Porch de Salomon's continuing efforts to empower them with resources like self-sustainability projects.

* *This saying, which is often correct, is not contained in the Bible; it is rightly attributed to Algernon Sidney. Further, there is no Mark 17. ;)*

We are thankful for each person shown or mentioned in this issue. As always, we are thankful to God and our faithful and generous mission partners/donors whose donations resource and empower Porch's multi-faceted service and outreach.

Please contact me if you'd like to join that effort or would like to do more. *Gracias!*

(Right) Micaela's efforts here exemplify the side-by-side work of our house-recipient families. It is exciting for them and our teams.



(Left) Bree (11) was a spunky part of Team Hughson UMC (CA). She is shown bending thick steel wire for use in the house's steel-reinforced foundation and “frame.”

“For the lost, the least, and the last”



SELF-HELP

Last month, I taught 12 indigenous ladies to make two food items that they can sell to have a little more income:

1. *Rellenitos*—made of plantains, with bean filling
2. *Doblados*— bread dough, stuffed with vegetables and meat

They were happy to learn how to prepare these two products, and are highly motivated to be financially independent and have a better future. They are also very interested in continuing with other self-sustainability workshops since these are of great benefit to them. *Eugenia Chiroy, Porch social worker*



HELPING families help themselves, Porch de Salomon continues funding, installing, and monitoring self-sustainability projects, with the help of our mission partners. *(Above)* a \$1200 chicken/egg business. *(Above, right)* a \$1200 pig business.



HEARING HELP

Porch de Salomon welcomed Team FSU Audiology for a fourth consecutive year, 21 strong. *Go Noles!* Selena Brown Snowden, Halle Lyons Van Oss, Ryan Snowden, and their folks garnered, bought, and brought \$90,000 worth of hearing aids this trip !! They needed discernment and wisdom to determine which clinic patients needed the devices the most.

Our busy and impactful February included folks from Team Hughson UMC (CA) and Team Heritage UMC (KS) (shown right).

(Below left) Warren joined Team Moza for the first time. (Below right) Dan was a Team Moza leader in raising money to boost Porch past the new year's "winter famine" (so called because donations tend to diminish for a spell). We appreciate team leaders Jason Roper and Mike Brandon's faithful, year-in-and-year-out leadership.



B



Regina, of the Heritage UMC (KS) team, has wanted to join a mission team since she was 15 years old. Now, a good number of years and 11 grandkids later, she was able to live out her dream. *Que bueno!*



We dedicated Solomon's Porch's bar/beverage area (part of our facility expansion) to the late Mike Roper's memory in a moving ceremony, replete with Iris Dement's "After You're Gone" and "Will the Circle Be Unbroken," done live. Generous memorial donations from Mike's family and friends helped us close the gap on the expansion funding.

(At left) Jayme and Jason Roper with the memorial plaque.



Our enlarged café area has worked out nicely, and is serving our team devotional/meeting times (at right) and our Sunday worship gatherings well. Thank you donors!



(At right) Team Moza members Tex, Jeff, and Erica lay blocks. Team member Will Van Dyke wrote: There are NO WORDS to describe what happened today. We mixed SO much concrete, dug septic trenches, and set lots of blocks. Nothing compares to the heartbreak of saying “goodbye” to Micaela and Ricardo’s wonderful family.

I have shed so many tears over the last few days. God continues to amaze me in new and marvelous ways. Our Lord is ALIVE and he works through each of us every day.



Alan and Kati Moran McCurley help themselves to honest, hard work at Micaela’s house-build. It will be dedicated to Kati’s grandparents’ memory.



**Grateful for this year’s experiences, connections, friendships, and love, I left a part of my heart in Panajachel. Amazing people! I pray that God will watch over our sweet Guatemalan families.
Julie Meyers (Team Hughson UMC)
(Left) Julie with Marta Julia’s family.
Julie funded their house site, last year, and is working to fund another site now!**

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