

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 173

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PERFECT GIFTS

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.... James 1:17 (NLV)

Last month saw our Guatemalan staff working and serving in an almost dizzying array of ways to generously give, lead, and help during the Covid 19 pandemic. They give and serve, as does Porch de Salomon, as imperfect servants of a perfect Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We invite you to pray for our ministry, our staff, and those we serve; for well-being, perseverance, faith, and progress. We also invite you to put feet on your prayers (ala Frederick Douglass) by providing financial support for our efforts.

Ana (18) was assaulted and impregnated by a street drug dealer. He later threatened her life and does not help support her and her son. Social workers are helping her obtain a restraining order.

Ana supported herself and little Edwin in San Pedro La Laguna by selling weavings on the street. With tourism gone, so is her livelihood and food. The social workers connected her with Porch; we will see that she has food and more. Join us in praying for them all.



STATUS REPORT!

- * Guatemala's borders remain closed and the country on strict lock-down.
- *There are 703 known cases in the entire country.
- * Our busy June schedule was cancelled, with regret. We hope and pray our July teams will be able to proceed. Teams provide "perfect gifts."
- *While Porch continues to work in the surrounding indigenous villages (per photos on this page), we are serving more in Panajachel than usual. *Noe notes: Villagers are more accustomed to deprivation, and some can grow some of their own food. In contrast, Panajachel's population is largely dependent on tourism; it's gone.*

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

Porch de Salomon purchased six infrared forehead thermometers for authorities' use at Panajachel entrance points. These cost \$130 each; our Facebook campaign fully funded these, God be praised.

We have also provided goggles and face masks to government workers, hospital and medical clinic workers this past month.



Our Café Hotel California staff is giving complimentary take-out lunches to hungry local families twice weekly.

Your \$135 donation will fund one day's lunch for 150 people!



Porch was pleased to fund 30 eggs and 50 pounds of corn for each of 57 indigenous

beader/artisan families which worked with Surunda Velasquez in Santiago Atitlan until the pandemic struck. Friends: Please consider donating \$115 (1/10 of the \$1150 project total cost). That will help fund a second round for them in two weeks.



We are proud of Poncho's perseverance. He remains a valuable, hard-working part of our team. It's great the way our staff accommodates him. *Lloyd*



One of our 2018 team's projects was for Poncho's family. Poncho (then 36), recently hired as a driver/guide by Porch, had taken sick and was in complete kidney failure. Through tears, Poncho expressed to us his loss of hope. With a new fire, our team worked hard to prepare a sterile room, in his father's house, for self-dialysis four times daily. We gathered around Poncho and prayed for renewed health and hope in Jesus.

Our group returned in 2019 to find a healthier Poncho filled with a spirit of gratitude to the Lord. His light shined into the lives of others while sharing his testimony of hope. Porch leaders wanted to help Poncho and his wife complete the shell of a house they had started years before, complete with a sterile room. This would allow Poncho to again live with his wife and children. Our team was moved to raise as much of the \$12,000 project cost as we could.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Our team raised \$6200 and a generous team leader from Union Congregational Church (CO) provided the remaining \$5800. We are thrilled that Poncho, Ana Gabriela, and their two little girls are now fully reunited in their new house.

Rachael McGaha, Team Sharon Church (GA)

Editor: Racheal and husband Greg have led seven teams to partner with Porch.

CLEAN WATER FOR XECOTOJ



Heeding the pleas of local officials, Porch de Salomon has successfully completed installation of an 800 foot-deep water well/pump in Xecotoj. The housing project's 70 families were in desperate need of water for washing and sanitation, especially in these pandemic times.

Let us know, fellow pilgrims, if you'd like to make a memorial or honorary donation to fund this \$7300 project (or half). We'll install a beautiful plaque bearing the name and image of your loved one.

MIRNA AND NOE'S GIFTS OF COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Porch de Salomon is very proud of our management team's leadership in Panajachel during the pandemic: Mirna, Noe, and Hilda. *(Right):* Mirna and Noe appear often on local television. Let's hear from them here:

My work with Porch and my volunteer work with the local *cocodes* (indigenous local leaders) merged in a new way when the Covid 19 pandemic took hold. As the local mayor seemed frozen by fear and delay, we brought him to a gathering of the *cocodes* in Porch de Salomon's parking lot. Together, we took quick and strong steps to protect the people of our town. Yes, there were more meetings, and more work, but I am happy that we have done our best.

Sometimes fear sets in at night: fear that I've not made the correct decision or fear for my family's future. We are learning to depend more on our faith in God—he hears our cries and doesn't leave us helpless. *Mirna, Porch facility manager and comptroller*



As Panajachel's volunteer fire/EMT chief, I sent our ambulances out, with sirens blaring, to begin the town's first curfew. With tears in my eyes, and sadness, I saw people running home, some panic-stricken, with their last-minute purchases. Silence and uncertainty took over our beautiful Panajachel. I miss the friendly handshakes, the Latino kisses on the cheek, and more.

This photograph was taken on Saturday night, very near our Café/Hotel California. *Calle Santander* is called Guatemala's most famous street. Incredibly, there are no tourists; Panama as we knew it does not exist in this moment.

So many of our people depend on tourism for their day-to-day livelihoods. They spent the last money they had on food. *Noe, Porch Co-director*



Our mission partners' "generous act of giving" (James 1:17) through their donations fund Mirna and Noe's salaries. The same is true for the rest of our staff, and Porch's service and outreach. Thank you, donors!



SESAN government workers asked Porch de Salomon to provide food for three families which local leaders had quarantined in the remote Boca Costa region. We were glad to help.

This road-block photo, taken as the food was delivered, reflects the serious way those local leaders are addressing the pandemic.



Melvin and Jessica moved their family from the Boca Costa five years ago, seeking opportunity in Panajachel. He served as a pastor but welded for a living. When the pandemic ended public transportation, he rode a motorcycle to work in another town. His knee was severely injured in a fall. Jessica also works when there is work.

Porch is matching the \$1000 the family had in savings to fund his \$2000 knee surgery. Please consider making a "perfect gift," a donation, to fund all or part of the surgery. Gracias! Lloyd

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