

## Porch de Salomon

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\*Short-term mission teams  
in Guatemala

\*Humanitarian relief for  
indigenous families

\*Solomon's Porch  
Café ministry

\*Live music outreach

\* Helping transform churches



# PorchTalk

Volume 102

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## "SEND ME" (Unlikely Ones)

*I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6 (NIV)*

*But Moses again pleaded, "Lord, please! Send anyone else." Exodus 4 (NLT).*

We were blessed with a high-impact October in Guatemala's Western Highlands. Teams Element3 and Trinity UMC (and our individual volunteers) were sent, and came down, bringing hands, help, hope, happiness, harmony, and more. Both these teams were led by what many might see as unlikely leaders; catch Carl and Frank's vignettes below! God often chooses, and uses, the most unlikely folks to do his work; Jesus chose plain fishermen, the hated tax collectors, prostitutes, and outcasts to carry on his "way."

Many of us are quick to make excuses, like Moses did millennia ago, to not generously share our lives and our time/talents/treasures to promote and support God's kingdom work.

We are thankful for those of you, whether "likely or unlikely," who give generously of yourselves and your resources to support the work of Porch de Salomon. *Gracias!*

*Carl Green writes:* "The most unlikely mission team leader"; if that was in the dictionary, my picture would be right beside the caption (in full color!). If you would have asked me, ten years ago, if I would go on a mission trip, much less lead one, the answer would have been "NO." I don't have a theology degree or a big time position that give the credentials many expect to have before feeling qualified. However, the truth is, God is not looking for credentials-- he is looking for a willingness to be used.

*So why do I lead teams?* The selfish, simple answer is it rejuvenates me; from seeing a first-time team member find the passion and purpose of becoming an "unordinary" Christian, to having heartfelt talks, up on the roof, after a long day's work. The journey that I started with my first trip to Panajachel has changed me forever.

The best news is that we all can (and should) be doing something. We just need to be willing to open our eyes and hearts to the opportunities.



(Above) Jayne Mittan, P.A., lost her husband Barry in a car crash last January. She came back down with Trinity UMC and stayed an extra week to explore her long-term medical potential with PdS.

*Bless you Jayne!*



**Carl (at right) with Team Element3, Christina, and Rosa at their new house build**

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



## UNLIKELY LEADER 2

by Frank Leonard (*at left, center*)

“Who me? Lead a mission team to Guatemala? You have to be kidding!” That was my reaction when my pastor, Wayne Curry, asked me to organize a mission team several years ago. Doing something like that had never crossed my mind (ever!); even then, I thought, “sure, I can organize it, but do I have to go?” But now, after leading three teams, I am so glad the Lord pointed me in that direction.

It doesn't matter; it doesn't matter if I felt the call, or if I volunteered out of guilt, or some other emotion. The important thing is that we donate our time, efforts and money helping the indigenous people of Guatemala; I can't imagine doing anything different. Wayne's request to organize a mission trip has turned into a commitment that I am blessed to honor. Me, lead a mission trip? Yes, darn right-- “send me!”



## SENT, NO EXCUSES

Team Trinity (*shown, in part, at Maria and Santos' house site*) included two hard-working cancer survivors. Arlene (*far right, second row*) did great nurse work in the clinics.

(*Below, left*) Quill Turk, DDS, saw 85 dental patients and extracted well over 100 bad teeth. We love the way he joined the team to carry on the work of the late Lucas Stevens, DDS.

While not a cancer survivor, Tasha (*at left, front row*) saw 86 patients as a dental hygienist. Like the entire team, she was so much fun.



## MONEY SEND

This sweet family came to our attention at a new village clinic location—Sachichol. The youngest child (*in yellow*) is severely malnourished; the others less so, but still malnourished. After giving them food, Noe enrolled them in our protein/feeding program. Please let us know if you would like to send tax-deductible donations to help this family, or one like them. \$60 a month does the trick—or we welcome any amount, in a one-time donation, for this purpose.

*Gracias!*



## SENT AND SEEING

*(Facebook post from Ginger M. Jackson, a nurse with Team Trinity UMC):*  
Saw an actual miracle today, when our sweet baby girl, Gela, with deformed legs and feet (that we sponsored last year) **stood up and walked**, not three minutes after Betty Conley and I were formulating a plan to get her some orthotic braces/crutches. I love it when God shows off!



**(Above, far left) Go-getter Ginger works one of Team Trinity UMC's village medical clinics. The team saw 415 patients in four busy days.**



**Gela's unlikely walk**

*Our resident, volunteer R.N., Betty Conley, posted:* She will still need surgery, but when Gela's mother put the white high-tops on her, she stood by herself and walked--an absolute miracle. Why do I doubt??

*Below: Gela was crippled by amniotic banding—shown here before her surgery*



## SENDING THE SELFISH

*by Steve Metz*

Okay—this is for all you selfish people, like me; Go on a mission trip and support Porch de Salomon!

Are you kidding me? They don't call me 'Mr. Room Service' for nothing. My idea of suffering was flying coach, stuck in the middle seat, and staying at a Holiday Inn. My concept of helping others was to occasionally write a check to a charity with good T.V. commercials. C'mon—selfish people like me don't do mission trips; we like to stay in our comfort zones.

Surprise, surprise—going on several Porch de Salomon mission trips was the most selfish thing I've done in a long time—just in a different way. It was selfish because it made me a better person and taught me that "comfort" has many meanings.

Although you see abject poverty in Guatemala, you also see the comfort the people take in simple things, like sharing work and meals together, as a family. You feel comfort in the respect and love the family members have for each other, notwithstanding the dirt floors and leaky tin roofs.

Porch de Salomon has created a very special "space" and experience; a place where everyone can be comfortable, where everyone can help and love each other. Even selfish people! If I can do a mission trip—believe, me—you can also. Be selfish—give it a shot. You will be surprised and rewarded.

\*\*\*

*Steve is a Tallahassee lawyer/lobbyist, on the verge of retirement, who is a husband, father, grandfather, volunteer (and occasional drummer). He has become a great friend and benefactor of PdS.*



### PRAISES and PRAYERS

- \* A great October, with teams and outreach
  - \* “B’s” very generous foundation donation
- \* Team Olive Branch Church (IN, Nov. 2-9) --house construction and Bible school
- \* Team Christ the Shepherd Lutheran (GA, Nov. 9-16): house construction and Bible school
- \* Team FUMC Monticello (Nov. 23-30)—house construction
- \* Nov. volunteers: Jerry, Rachel, Greg/Rachel M., Genia, Shane

- \* Our faithful partner churches and donors who send money to fund Porch de Salomon’s multi-faceted outreach and work; our base budget runs \$9000 a month
  - \* Our friends in rehab in Casa Tat Loy
- \* For unlikely (or likely!) senders and goes to support our high-impact work
- \* Porch's pending application to be an UMVIM Advance
- \* Porch de Salomon's participation in Crawfordville UMC’s alternative market on Nov. 24



Maria and her family are getting a new house, courtesy of Team Trinity UMC (in Dr. Lucas Stevens’ memory). The day the team arrived, she walked down the mountain, gave birth to a boy, then walked back up to their temporary, adobe abode. This toughened up the team workers' resolve!

The baby’s name is Lucas Salomon Lopic! He and his mother (*shown left*) are both doing well.

### *Porch de Salomon*

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