

## Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

porchdesalomon.org

and on 

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\*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 135

November 2016

## ENLARGE, BUILD, SPREAD OUT

*Enlarge your house; build an addition. Spread out your home, and spare no expense!  
For you will soon be bursting at the seams. Isaiah 54:2, 3 NLT*

Two core motivations drive Porch de Salomon; to bring glory to God's name and to enlarge Jesus' kingdom on earth. These motivations come to life in our doing what Jesus commanded in Matthew 25: feeding, providing water to, clothing, providing medical care for, inviting in, and visiting "the least of these" in Guatemala's western highlands. We also shelter and house such folk!

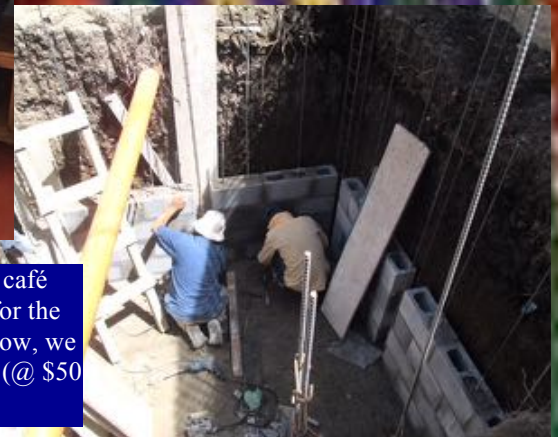
As our faithful readers and mission partners will note, Porch has received divine, and human, favor. We've enlarged our outreach and relief each passing year, with as little overhead and bureaucracy as possible. Our work, and now our ministry facility, are both "bursting at the seams," similar to the scripture above.

Now, it is time to enlarge, "to build an addition" to, our ministry facility. This facility:

- Housed and supported 30 short-term teams last year alone
- Houses and supports our year-round humanitarian relief and outreach

Please see page two for the exciting details regarding this enlargement/addition! As always, we are thankful for God's provision, through our generous ministry partners. You have resourced our "bursting at the seams" work; we now invite you to also help fund our enlargement/addition with your tax-deductible donations. *Gracias!*

Maria and Pablo's family received Porch's 90<sup>th</sup> completed house last month, God be praised. Expenses from their daughter Rosario's asthma reduced the family to living in a dank, dirt-floor rented room. Now, they can spread out into three bedrooms, a kitchen, real beds, and a real bathroom. We thank Dirty Feet Missions, our teams, and our mission partners who helped us enlarge and build into this sweet family's life.



This cistern, underneath our expanded café kitchen, will store much-needed water for the café and hotel expansion rooms. Until now, we often had to purchase truckloads of water (@ \$50 each) to supplement our supply.

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



## ENLARGEMENT/ADDITION DETAILS

by Lloyd

Porch de Salomon has built 90 houses for families but had no facility of its own until 2013. That year, we purchased our Solomon's Porch /Hotel California facility for hosting teams, ministry use, for "street business," and to invest the annual \$23,000 facility/team rent back into our ministry. This worked out very well; the mortgage debt has been paid in full—thank you Lord. We continued to rent part of a nearby, simple building for use as our humanitarian aid office, dorm room, AA/English classes meeting room, and humanitarian relief storage area.

As mentioned in our April 2016 *PorchTalk*, we have purchased a contiguous property behind our current facility.



(At left): Our local staff, along with volunteer assistant treasurer Robin Bateman, on-site, at the expansion groundbreaking in October).

\* The front yard, shown, will be a modest parking area (our facility had no parking spaces)

\*The rustic building will receive a new roof. It will house our offices, meeting room, and storage area.

\* The backyard will be used for the café/hotel expansion.

\* The PdS logo shows the location of our current facility's rear wall

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THE REASONS we need to enlarge the cafe and hotel and, also, have a better humanitarian aid office, storage, parking area (and avoid \$500 monthly rent) are:

1. Our café space is, by far, our smallest yet. Solomon's Porch Cafe is used to orient, feed, entertain, and stage our short-term teams. Often, our larger teams are

jammed inside. It has only one small restroom. Our weekly worship gatherings are held in the café. Many weeks, we must host two gatherings because our teams and local participants all cannot fit inside. Further, our facility manager/comptroller has no office. **SOLUTION: we will gain 33 % more seating space by moving the kitchen and bathroom out back, we'll have two restrooms, and Mirna will have an office.**

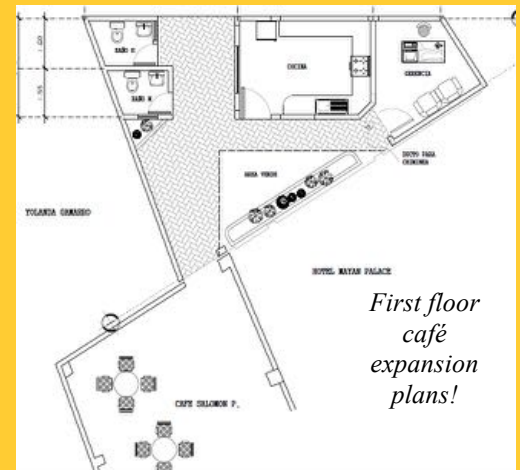
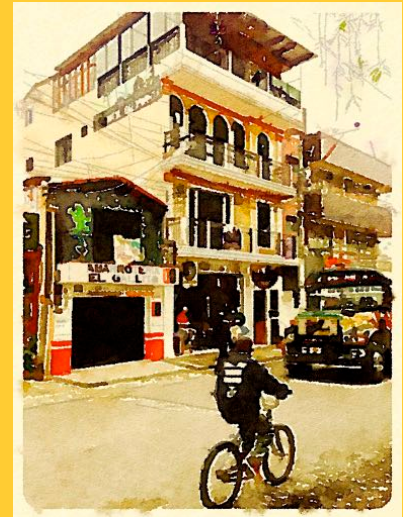
2. Our faithful kitchen staff has prepared thousands of meals in our current 100 square foot, "make do" kitchen (at left). There is no good way to adequately ventilate the kitchen. It is not air-conditioned and gets very hot inside. **SOLUTION: We'll have a real, more spacious, well-ventilated kitchen in the new café enlargement area.**



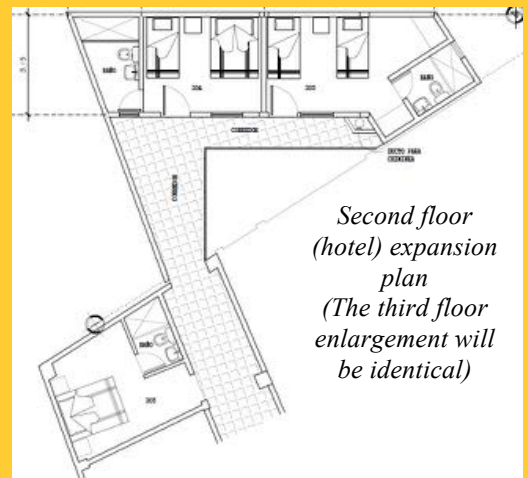
It is not air-conditioned and gets very hot inside. **SOLUTION: We'll have a real, more spacious, well-ventilated kitchen in the new café enlargement area.**

3. Our hotel has only seven rooms. Many weeks, because of the success of our short-term team program, we pay rent to

house "overflow" team members elsewhere. **SOLUTION: our enlargement will provide four more rooms for our teams.**



First floor  
café  
expansion  
plans!



Second floor  
(hotel) expansion  
plan  
(The third floor  
enlargement will  
be identical)

(please go to page three)



(from page two)

**MORE REASONS:**

4. Our crowded humanitarian relief office has five folks (at left, Eugenia is not shown) working and interviewing clients in this small room.
5. Our current relief office's steps are steep, small, and tricky for even able-bodied folks to manage. Some clients have had to be carried up and



down. **SOLUTION:** our expansion into the rustic building we purchased will provide “no stairs” access and ample, separate office rooms. It will receive a new, slightly higher roof.

‘Nuff said! I trust this makes sense and welcome your questions or comments.

**WHAT’S THE COST AND PLAN?** \$160,000 will fund the solutions our facility enlargement brings, and help us better serve “the lost, the least, and the last” for years to come. As in Isaiah 54, quoted on page one, Porch’s ministry has been “bursting at the seams” for the last several years. We’re bursting out of our present facility. Looking ahead, 2017 is shaping up as our most active, and potentially most impactful, year ever.

As always, we depend on God’s provision, through our faithful and generous ministry partners, for this funding. A portion of this has been raised already. We have great memorial or honorary donation opportunities (including a bronze plaque), beginning at \$5000. Wouldn’t you like to have one of our rooms so designated for a friend or loved one (\$5000)? How about that new roof or kitchen (\$10,000 each) or the parking area/security gates/wall (\$7000)? All such donations, as well as smaller (but much welcomed!) donations are fully tax-deductible. Please contact me with your ideas or, even better, your “yes’s!” *Gracias! Lloyd*



**DO NOT BE DAUNTED**

by Randy Goldman-Chambers

This story begins in Panajachel – where I met Lloyd and Melanie Monroe and Porch de Salomon, an organization with a relentless passion for service and a tolerant and humane testimony of Jesus and Christianity. They were among the most interesting, intelligent, honest, and generous people in this strange new place I now called home. Friendship grew, dinners were shared, conversation turned to our personal struggles, our ideological beliefs, the existence of God, the larger theological questions of the day. My husband David began leading music at the Sunday worship gatherings. He is an Englishman, a musician and, you might say, a spiritual man. But I am a life-long political activist, a rabid anti-organized-religion rebel, and a strongly identified cultural Jew from Chicago. Could a more unlikely relationship have been forged? *What was I thinking?* Perhaps it wasn’t a big stretch for them, but it was wider than the Grand Canyon for me.

*“Dear girls: Dad is playing music every Sunday at a Christian worship gathering. It’s not what you think. I’m going, too. Actually, it’s interesting. I get something out of it. I like it...”* True story. Surely I had lost my mind.

To be clear: this is a testament to Porch de Salomon. To their folks’ tireless efforts, and the Sunday worship gatherings I’m drawn to attend, even when I don’t want to go, and sometimes, with a tinge of resentment when that inner voice says, “Go!” Where invariably I come away with a sense of gratitude and humility, renewed in my sense of place in the world and the work I do every day. Gatherings that don’t proselytize or preach but instead ask meaningful questions and speak without judgment about how we live our lives and impact the lives of others. Gatherings that exemplify life-changing experiences and speak to how even the smallest acts of compassion and kindness can and do change the world and how diversity, difference, and humanity bring out the best in even the worst of us. Gatherings that discuss how we can find grace and humility in what we have, rather than envy and resentment in what we do not.

There, in that small and crowded room, I find a feeling of hope and acceptance among a curious group of misfits with misgivings, the conventional and the unconventional Christian, recovering alcoholics and addicts (and some not so recovering), down on their luck lunatics, legitimate and upstanding citizens retired from real jobs living on the cheap, and skeptics like me.

The following Jewish quote speaks to the message of Porch de Salomon, the heart of their mission and those who employ it. And it speaks to who Lloyd and Melanie, and their Porch folks, are and what they do every day. It is why I am willing to write this to an audience I don’t know, for a newsletter I don’t often read, but to and for the people who give fully of their heart and soul to the principles of justice, mercy, humility, and love:

*“Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly; love mercy; walk humbly. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.”*





## OCTOBER TEAMS BUILD AND SPREAD OUT!

Porch was pleased to host short-term construction teams from Element3 Church (Tallahassee, FL,) and Olive Branch Church (Roan, IN). We appreciate our partnerships with both churches, the resources they provided, their attitudes, and the smiles, laughs, and growth our folks shared with them. Both teams worked building Carmelinda's new family house.



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