

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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and on 

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Or on-line

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*Short-term mission 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

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FORWARD ON A FIRM FOOTING *by Lloyd*

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

May your gracious Spirit lead me forward on a firm footing. *Psalm 143:10 NLT*



The October news reflected conflict, hurricanes, loss, fear, tragic violence triggered by hate, and a struggle to find truth. We do not isolate ourselves from current events, and pray for God's peace and grace over all. Moreover, we are thankful that Porch's service and outreach continues unabated, with Jesus' truth, unfiltered, and God's divine guidance, as best we can discern it, as our firm footing.

We are thankful for our short-term teams, our staff, and our mission partners who are also part of that firm footing. Our supporters' and mission partners' generous donations provide the financial footing which is essential to serving "the lost, the least, and the last" in Guatemala's Western Highlands. *Muchas gracias!*

Please contact me directly if you'd like to be part of that footing, in a new or a larger way. *Lloyd*

(Above)* Rookie team member Jess and Lonny share a light moment with house foundation steel.

* A "high flier" at one of our Boca Costa medical/dental clinic Bible schools

(Right) Danilo (4) lost an eye to a tumor. His brother and mother are helping build their new house in *Las Canoas Bajas*. Learn more on page 3.



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

Our October Short-term Teams included Dirty Feet Missions, Olive Branch Church (IN), Osceola UMC (IN) and Trinity UMC TLH (FL).



(Right) Our volunteer medical liaison, Jayne Mittan, led a medical/dental team to the remote *Boca Costa* region. Many of the 214 patients had never seen a medical or dental provider.



(Above) The construction part of Teams DFM and Olive Branch work at Rosa Tzay's house site in *Barrio Norte*, where the footing was not so firm.



(Right) Our former assistant director, Rev. Will Deeds, brought Osceola UMC's first team down. Here, they are shown with Rosa Tzay and her family. Will continues as Porch's volunteer webmaster. We appreciate him!



NEW HOUSE BUILDS!

Rosa Tzay (28) and her children will receive a new house this fall.

They fled their native *Tierra Linda* to escape Rosa's alcoholic, abusive, and violent husband. When the social worker brought them to Porch, they had no food, few clothes, and nowhere to live except a dirt-floor, tin shack room. They've received school scholarships, clothing, and food, a decent place to live, an *Ecofiltro* water system, an *Ecoplancha* efficient woodstove, and a restraining order.

Noe reports: "Rosa was very happy and emotional at the ground-breaking. She remembers that when nobody believed in her, we did. She cried realizing her house will be ready before Christmas." Here we go!

(Right) As is usually the case, Rosa's children eagerly pitch in to help build. Our teams' presence, strange though it be to them in some ways, and the hope of a new house make these seasons the most exciting ever for such families.



Porch de Salomon launched our second fall house-build; this one is up in *Las Canoas Bajas* for Danilo Santos Coxolca's family. Little Danilo (4) lost his eye a few years back to a tumor, despite our best efforts. Per Noe: "The rain didn't stop the happiness of the wonderful family; they were smiling all the time. They said it's hard to believe that good people are coming from far away to build her a house." Porch appreciates our fall teams, mission partners, donors, and all involved in bringing this life-changing gift to this warm family.

(Above) Their toilet and their house entrance.





THE "PT CRUISER" is the newest addition to our Porch "fleet." This clean 2002 Toyota Tacoma 4x4 is shown, loaded with medicine and medical supplies, as our Jezer prepared to lead Team Trinity UMC TLH to their recent *Boca Costa* medical/dental clinics. Our mission partners Beth and Lawton Langford, and their friends, donated and raised the \$9500 purchase price. The superbly useful truck is dedicated to the memory of Price Thornal, who died in an automobile accident several years ago. This fine young man's St. Teresa Beach (FL) boat was named the "PT Cruiser." *Adelante!*

"Comfort is the enemy of progress." P.T. Barnum. This past summer, I repeated this over and over again as I boarded the plane to Guatemala, four days after graduating high school, knowing that I'd not return home to Tallahassee for six months. Now, I am astonished by the community I am surrounded by, the prayers the Lord has answered, and the opportunities I've been a part of.

To put it simply: I'm a dreamer. I dream of living a life full of purpose, adventure, joy and growth. Thanks to the "FSU Gap Year Fellows" program, I am thankful to spend this year serving as an intern with Porch de Salomon in Panajachel.

One quality I particularly value in Porch is its focus on communities, and bringing hope; not just to one person or one particular family, but to generations. All that Porch is a part of, and all that they do here in Guatemala, has such a significant impact, with one of the most meaningful impacts taking place when people simply love people. Porch has a way of making the unknown feel known, letting the lost know they have a home, and giving the speechless a voice. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the staff that work tirelessly to fulfill Porch's mission, as well as the families and people that they work with on a daily basis. *Katie Cappellino*



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