

# Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

[porchdesalomon.org](http://porchdesalomon.org)

and on 

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## Tax-deductible Donations:

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Tallahassee FL 32302-2509

Or on-line

[www.porchdesalomon.org](http://www.porchdesalomon.org)

\*Short-term service/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

Volume 177

September 2020

## 15 YEARS: Strong and Courageous

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 (NIV)*



*From Lloyd: 16 years ago, God clearly confirmed my and Melanie's call to Guatemala in a mission church on the outskirts of Guatemala City with this scripture: "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ... I will bless you; and you will be a blessing." Genesis 12:1-2. 15 years ago, we left much of what was familiar and moved to Panajachel to launch Porch de Salomon, to be blessed and to be a blessing.*

Now, Porch de Salomon grapples with the pandemic's effects, among them 20 teams cancelled, travel restrictions, and greater needs in Guatemala.

We are thankful for our volunteers Robin, Rex, Jayne, Rich, and Brian as well as Mirna, Noe, Hilda, Jeydi, Eugenia, Jezer, Alvaro, Birma, Carmen, Lorena, Alejandro, Lesly, Lonny, Enrique, and our other Guatemalan workers' year-round work. We thank God for their strength and courage. We also thank you, our mission partners, for your love, prayers, encouragement, visits, and financial support; ministry costs money. Your donations have kept our staff employed and serving during the pandemic.

### Here are highlights from our 15th year:

\* Hosted 15 short-term service/mission teams which helped provide:

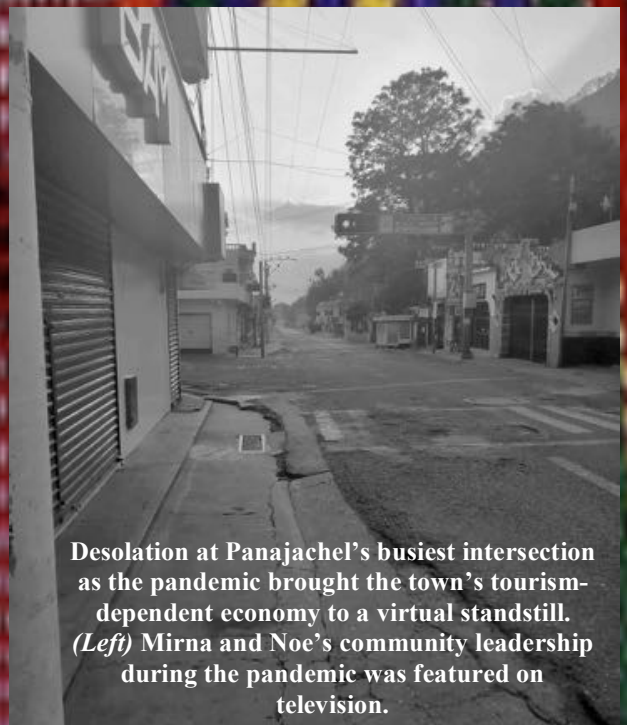
-- Six new, furnished houses for indigenous families (and local jobs for Guatemalans).

-- 17 free medical, dental, or audiology clinics; including four long-distance clinics in the grossly underserved *Boca Costa* region.

--Bible schools, fun, and instruction for native children. (*cont'd on page 3*)

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





**Hearth and Soul Fundraiser!**

This Tallahassee store, managed by a short-term team member, has dedicated its September partner “spotlight” to Porch. In addition to a September 24 socially-distanced meet ‘n greet, 100% of net profits from these candle sales go to Porch. Check ‘em out or purchase now at: <https://hearthandsoul.com/monthly-candle/ballon-candle-small-fleur-de-lagoon/?ctk=83447ada-44c1-42d5-87fa-570b7edb4f63&showHidden=true>

Desolation at Panajachel’s busiest intersection as the pandemic brought the town’s tourism-dependent economy to a virtual standstill. (Left) Mirna and Noe’s community leadership during the pandemic was featured on television.



## Porch de Salomon's 15-year anniversary: Strong and Courageous *(Continued from page one)*

- \* Provided ever-expanding humanitarian relief; weekly food, clothing/shoes, malnourished children milk/food, medicine, medical care, surgery, beds, and more for indigenous and street people, physical therapy and care for special needs kids, nutrition and surgery for cleft-palate children.

- \* Served free, bi-weekly take-out pandemic lunches to the hungry in Panajachel.

- \* Completed our new carpentry shop building; no more rent and no more three-story climb.

- \* Traded our well-used Mitsubishi van for a new Toyota Hiace van—debt free! Our vehicles are essential ministry tools.

- \* Porch provided:

- A new pump and deeper well to furnish clean water for 70 families in the Xecotoq housing project.

- 135 “Beca” school scholarships for indigenous children and youth (paused by pandemic).

- Free tri-weekly English classes which open employment “doors” (paused by pandemic).

- 27 more *Ecofiltro* clean water, home purification systems emplaced.

- 11 more *Ecoplancha* wood-efficient wood stoves installed.

- Self-sustainability training events for indigenous women.

- Three indigenous family sustainability business projects launched.

- \* Operated our Café Hotel California/Hotel California facility for daily service, community events, entertainment, and a venue for the Way to be explored or lived out in the #9 hippie travel destination *worldwide*. (paused by pandemic).

- \* Hosted weekly worship gatherings at our cafe; lives transformed and hope offered (paused by pandemic.)

- \* Being “salt and light” in places of despair and spiritual darkness through service, relationships, school support, and live music outreach-- in bars and local benefit concerts (paused by pandemic).

- \* Alcohol/drug treatment, rehabilitation, and support—including hosting AA chapters, in-patient treatment, teaching, food, jobs, detoxification, encouragement and continued partnership with the *Casa Tat Loy* rehab center.

- \* Partnered with *La Casa de la Paz* to provide hope and help to the families of alcoholics or abusive men.

- \* Partnered with the *Golden Years* adult day care center by paying their rent, utilities, and daily client transport costs (all totaling \$600 monthly).

- \* Hosted and deployed interns, gap-year students, and individual volunteers for global service experience.

- \* Continued partnerships with stateside congregations to encourage *transformation* and effective local, national, cross-cultural, and global service.

All this would not have happened without folks like you, our “senders” and supporters -- again, *GRACIAS!* If you feel led to move from observer to supporter or participant, please get on board and contact us now. Your support is vitally important during these challenging Covid 19 times.





## NOE HAS RECOVERED FROM COVID 19

*Noe writes:* In late July, my brother Moisés and I began to have coronavirus symptoms including losing our sense of smell and taste. Our Covid 19 tests came back positive. We did not believe it, fear seized our minds and bodies, and some townspeople panicked a bit. More than 40 people were quarantined, including my companions from Porch de Salomon and my children.

A Porch medical volunteer, Carolina Jones, acknowledged her Covid 19 infection on Facebook. Her good example helped us publicly acknowledge our infection. Thank God, the people of the town managed to understand and instead of rejecting us, they supported us and showed their affection with prayers, food, and natural medicine. We are thankful for our recovery.

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We at Porch de Salomon are very thankful for Noe and his brother's recovery and for the fact that they did not infect others. God be praised and God help us everyone.



**WE INVITE YOU**, on Porch's 15th anniversary, to help advance Porch de Salomon's high-impact work with monthly, tax-deductible auto-donations in whatever multiple of "15" you choose. \$30, \$45, \$60, or \$75 monthly will help us make a difference in the lives of many.

Of course, we welcome \$150 and \$1500 (or whatever!) lump-sum donations as well. Please let us know. Thanks! *Lloyd & Melanie*

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