

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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and on 

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Or on-line

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 185

July 2021

Light, Luggage, Ladies, Lonny: Life We Saw by Lloyd

Jesus ... said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

My and Melanie's two-week visit to Guatemala, our first in over a year, was a success. This issue features some of the trip's highlights:

LONNY: Our friend, co-worker and brother celebrated his 71st birthday at Pana Rock. His transformation has been a joy to behold.

Before arriving, I asked Lonny what we could bring him. He responded: "If you could bring me anything, it would be a team to work with." God willing, that will happen in October; our trip confirmed team feasibility!



LADIES: Our visit to Casa Ixox'i, a women's alcohol/drug center Porch partners with, was the most impactful part of the trip for me. Tears came to my eyes when I considered what these brave women have endured, and the hope they now have.

(Left) Three patients light up as I show them photos of our grandchild Sadie.

LUGGAGE: We traveled to Panajachel "heavy," with \$2000 of donated/funded vitamins, medicine, underclothes, shoes, and such.

We thank everyone who purchased or funded these items to restock Porch de Salomon's relief bodega as part of our Facebook drive.

All told, it was great to reunite with Porch's staff and life in Panajachel. We look forward to hosting teams in October and November and in 2022. We thank Porch's donors/mission partners who have helped us weather the pandemic, with staff serving and bringing "the light of life" all the while.



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

LIGHT OF LIFE IN A GOOD HOUSE

Porch de Salomon has started new house construction for Socorro Lopic and her three children in the indigenous village of Pujulilito. Socorro bravely divorced her husband four years ago, after suffering years of physical violence and mental abuse.

She and the children have lived in her parents' crowded, crumbling adobe house since then. They have no electricity or running water. Socorro (31) earns \$20 monthly as a seamstress; her parents' help allows her and the children to eat.



Their kitchen



Their outhouse

LIGHT OF SOBRIETY

We were pleased to fellowship and pose with the ladies of Casa Ixoq'i. Porch is also honored to partner with Dirty Feet Missions in supporting this rehabilitation center for women. (Below, back row, from left): Greg and Rachel McGaha, Alex Ciullo, Melanie, Casa Ixoq'I director Auri, Dirty Feet Missions/ Casa Ixoq'i founder Genia P. O'Neal, and Lloyd.

LABELS

Before Melanie and Lloyd arrived, Porch staff worked diligently sorting medicine in our storage. That which would expire soon was donated to the local health department/hospital. Below, Eugenia, our social worker, looks at labels.



PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING for Rex Ware, his family, and medical personnel attending to him. Rex suffered a major heart attack June 7, followed by severe complications. He remains hospitalized but is slowly recovering in Tallahassee, Florida. Rex has been a vital part of Porch's volunteer administrative team since 2007. Get well soon, hermano!



MICRO BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

by Greg and Rachel McGaha, serving in Panajachel through late July

In 2019, through Porch donors, the family of Santos Tohom (left) launched a small business selling *chuchitos* (a nourishing street food). Her and husband Rafael's family lived in a one-room shack that was dark, cold, and unprotected from the elements.

Santos was making a profit with her business until the pandemic. During the pandemic, Santos was unable to leave her home consistently to sell her *chuchitos*. She decided to invest her past profit to begin two new businesses: 1) weaving typical garments on a backstrap loom (right) and 2) raising chickens and poultry (below). Praise be to God, both businesses are thriving!



Porch's social worker, Eugenia (with mask, left) teaches families like Santos' basic business practices and oversees progress of each micro-business! It was our pleasure to visit this project with her.

85% of micro-businesses we have started continue to operate successfully.

Santos and Rafael's family received a new house from Porch last year. With the profit from the new businesses, they have added an outer courtyard wall (right) to protect the home from the cold wind at night. This family is now self-sustaining!

Please consider donating \$1000 for a life-changing micro-business today! *Greg and Rachel.*

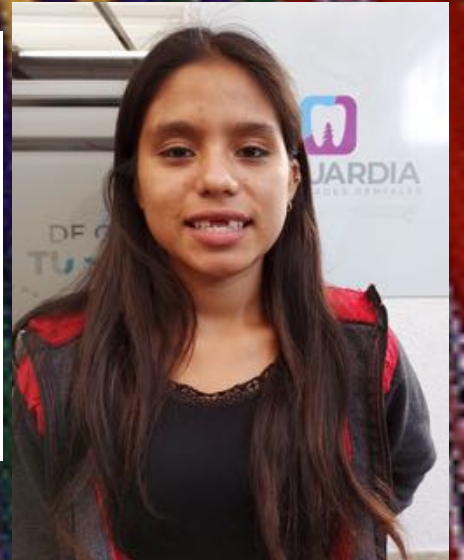


“Sara Smile” (and not the Hall & Oates song): *by Hilda*

Sara (15) suffered from uncontrolled grand mal seizures until Porch funded surgery for her three years ago. She has resumed her schooling, through a Porch scholarship and continuing medical care, and wants to be an accountant. Her family always expresses their gratitude for helping them have a “normal” life.

When Sara visited our office recently, she was reluctant to smile or speak much. We discovered she had lost her two top front teeth; they were weakened by her seizures and falls. Her family is poor but asked for no help with the teeth. We would like to help Sara’s self-esteem with replacement teeth and a prothesis. The cost is \$1250.

We invite you to help Sara recover the “light” of her smile with a donation covering this cost, in whole or in part. *Lloyd*



“Rambo” circa 2014



Vaccination and Short-term Teams

Vaccinations are becoming more available in Guatemala, God be praised. The age has dropped to 50. May this trend continue!

Team leaders: please contact me about scheduling or rescheduling your team for fall 2021 or for 2022. Short-term teams bring a special light and life to Guatemala. *Lloyd*

All: Please pray that our teams will muster and resume, in good and abundant fashion.

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