

## Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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and on 

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### Tax-deductible Donations:

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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 188

October 2021

## SWEET 16 Ministry Anniversary:

### A Longing Fulfilled by Lloyd

A longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul. Proverbs 13:19 (NIV)

For several years now, as my goatee grayed more, some business-minded folk would ask about our executive director succession plan; in other words, who will replace me and Melanie. **The plan is in place, for summer 2022; Greg and Rachael McGaha, Porch team leaders from McDonough, Georgia, will take the reins and move to Panajachel.** Melanie and I will continue as board directors and will help out where needed. Strangers we'll not be.

We invite you to read this issue to get to know them a bit, and to see highlights from Porch's 16<sup>th</sup> year of service in Guatemala. Melanie and I appreciate you all. We thank God for what he has done through Porch de Salomon. Please contact me with any questions you may have about our transition, and keep us all in your prayers.

Lloyd



Rachael (left, second from left) writes: *I've longed to be a global missionary since I was 19. First, I went to Hungary/Russia for a summer then I went to Albania for a summer. My strongest affinity for a people group was for Guatemala's indigenous folk.*

This sweet photograph exemplifies Porch de Salomon's work in our 16th year. Here, Socorro Lopic's family's longing for a good house begins fulfillment at groundbreaking.



*From Melanie:* It's been such a roller coaster ride of changes and emotions as I think back over the last 17 years, when we founded Porch. I have gained another family and many friends which will always be a part of my life. It's been a privilege serving and helping others. Now, my heart is being tugged by two little granddaughters who I'd like to spend more time with. People kept saying, "Just wait, Melanie!" They were right.

When you've built something up for years, and it's going well, you want to leave it in good hands. We're excited about Greg and Rachel coming on board to help us do that. They're the perfect fit and I love them both. Life changes and we change with it, but we keep moving forward. It's all good! As they say in Guatemala, *adelante!*

Melanie

“For the lost, the least, and the last”



# SNAPSHOTS OF PORCH DE SALOMON'S 16<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF SERVICE: SWEET!



Our 16<sup>th</sup> year saw Porch continuing to serve, with all our staff and builders remaining employed.

Those builders, with funding from whole house donors (\$7500 each), completed TEN new houses, even with no short-term team help.

We are thankful for our mission partners/donors who keep our staff "in the field" and Porch resourced and funded. *Muchas gracias!*





## FROM THE MCGAHAS

*Rachel and Greg write:* We started as high school sweethearts and have now been married for 29 years! We have three children, Ryland, Grace, and Emma, who are transitioning into adulthood. Greg has a degree in Business Management and Education, and he has spent the last 25 years as Student Pastor at Sharon Church in McDonough, Georgia. Rachael has a degree in Education and a Master's in Instructional Technology and has been a teacher for 20 years. We have been leading teams to Porch de Salomon for ten years.

Why did we partner with Porch de Salomon? Life is messy and filled with broken people everywhere (including the McGaha family). The first time we served with the Porch, we knew we found something different and unique. The Porch ministry was embracing broken people amid their messy circumstances. It was not easy or clean. They were not afraid of being taken advantage of or being hurt. They were not searching for anything in return. There was no sense of being religious. It was the teaching of Jesus: Love God and love your neighbor.



We saw the Porch loving the materially-poor indigenous, the abused and the abuser, the drug and alcohol addict, the expatriate, the children on the streets, the widow in need of a family, the disabled, the sick, the homeless, the elderly, and the list goes on.

It was raw, genuine, and revealing. Revealing...why? So often in the USA, we want our "religion" to be clean and tidy. If loving our neighbor looks messy or difficult to deal with, we quickly move on to other works that easily fit into our lives. The reality is many of our lives are messy, disordered, chaotic, confused, disorganized, or in turmoil.

Our prayer is: God, please continue to help us love you and use the Porch to love ALL people including "the lost, the least, and the last."



*From Noe:* When we learned that Greg and Rachael would lead Porch, a ministry that helps so many and all kinds of people, I felt in my heart that they are the best for this job. For one reason, they made us part of their family long ago. Now we welcome them to our family.

This past June and July, I had the chance to hang out and learn more from them. I don't doubt that we as family will continue in this transition helping "the lost, the least and last."

*Hilda writes;* I cannot think of anyone better than Rachael and Greg. They have worked alongside us for years, leading their teams. They have big hearts.

They were with us this past June and July. Their stay demonstrated that they are the perfect couple to continue the work Lloyd and Melanie started. We trust this is God's plan.

Welcome Rachael and Greg—we love you.



**Alma (35), a Porch de Salomon school scholarship recipient's mother, contacted Porch staff, very afraid. Her other son Yoeb (5, above) could no longer stand his abdominal pain after three days of suffering.**

**The wife of an alcoholic, Alma had no money to seek medical help on her own.**

**Our staff sprang into action and Yoeb's life was saved when his ruptured appendix was successfully removed. We are thankful for this and that you, our faithful mission partners/donors, help keep Porch de Salomon's staff employed and resourced. Our Facebook giving opportunity quickly raised the \$1470 surgery cost, plus extra money for other needs this family has.**



**SWEET 16 Ministry  
Anniversary:  
A Longing Fulfilled**

**A longing fulfilled is sweet to  
the soul.**

**Proverbs 13:19 (NIV)**



**Melanie and Lloyd's second  
granddaughter arrived  
September 27, in Knoxville, TN.  
Both little Stevie Lee Monroe  
and her mother Sarah (Daniel's  
wife) are doing great.**

**The daughter of two lead  
singers, this child's vocal  
"pipes" are strong!**



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