

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

porchdesalomon.org

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 190

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EVERY GOOD GIFT

[The wise men} entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 1 (NLT).

Every good ... gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights. James 1:17 (NIV)



“When we help someone, I feel very touched seeing the family show their appreciation to Porch with humble gifts of whatever they have to offer. They often do this with very few resources.”
Hilda Mux Son. Whether you have abundant resources, or few, may that same spirit of generous, good gift-giving move you to donate to Porch de Salomon now and in 2022.

(Left) Daniel gifted each Porch builder a “hand” of his family’s bananas. These good gifts expressed this humble family’s appreciation for their new house *(See more of their story on page two).*



(Below) Her new shoes and vitamins bring out a smile in this little lass. Hundreds of children will benefit from Porch’s relief *bodega*.



(Above) Bill Peebles accompanied Melanie and me to Panajachel in November. Seven checked bags filled with over 300 pounds of medicine, vitamins, underclothing, etc. arrived with us. We are thankful for our partners who generously donated money and provisions for these good gifts.

It was a pleasure to travel in the “Betty Boop” microbus; it memorializes our mother Betty Jean Spratt Monroe, and her mission/kingdom heart and hands. *Lloyd*

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

Porch de Salomon joyfully dedicated our 140th completed house last month. This one, in Panca, was for Tereza and Agustin's family (*right*). Hilda reports: "We had a beautiful house dedication. It was harder to proceed with this project because of all of the challenges, including threats by unkind neighbors. Seeing how grateful and happy the family is, we know we made a good decision. We are happy and joyful knowing this deserving family now lives in better conditions. We are a little crazy; we embraced the risk instead of running away from it."

Porch thanks our brave staff and builders, and our house-funding donors whose good gifts (donations) made it possible to continue building without short-term teams in the pandemic. Gracias a Dios, y gracias a todos.



Tereza and Agustin's old kitchen



Juan's good gifts were; 1) helping carry blocks to his neighbors' house build, and; 2) a smile to match his willing spirit.

Antonia and Daniel's house, in the remote Boca Costa, is built! Porch de Salomon is thankful for our builders' hard work and dedication (they lived there for two weeks), our house-funding donors, our mission partner/donors, and God for provision, protection, inspiration, and more.

Our relief co-director Hilda reports: "Daniel and Antonia tried hard to express, in broken Spanish, their appreciation to everyone involved. They never thought it possible that strangers would come and build them a house." The house will allow them to better care for their son Francisco (two, cerebral palsy).

Our five intrepid builders, who sometimes worked at night to finish on time, utilized a modified design (welded steel frame and partial metal walls) to complete the house in two weeks. It is our 12th house of 2021.

TAX SAVINGS FOR GOOD GIFTS

Porch de Salomon donation options include IRA rollovers or appreciated stock donations (both tax-advantaged). Talk to us, please!

SAVE THIS ISSUE

Our next will be February's.

EVERY GOOD GIFT FROM YOU

by Lloyd

Porch de Salomon is a high-impact/low overhead non-profit which demonstrates God's love, expressed best through the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, to "the lost, the least, and the last" and others. We strive to do this through creative, "right risk-taking" service and outreach: from the streets and bars of Panajachel, to the incredibly poor shacks of the indigenous villages of Guatemala's Lake Atitlan Basin, to the air-conditioned, padded-pew comfort of our stateside partner churches.

Melanie and I continue in our 17th year of service; neither of us receive a salary. We appreciate the work of Porch's Guatemalan staff, our volunteers, and short-term team members. God has blessed Porch and our families by providing for these years of ministry through the generosity of our partner churches, mission partners, and supporters. Thanks be to God--and you. Porch de Salomon's work is only possible through your generous financial support. "Every good gift" helps!

Each need Porch de Salomon meets, in service, word, or deed, costs money. Our monthly ministry/outreach budget is \$31,000—this money empowers us to deliver efficient, high-impact, life-changing hope, help, and service. Please help us by:

- 1) making a year-end, tax-deductible general support donation or;
- 2) funding a specific giving opportunity at www.porchdesalomon.org or scholarships (*page four*); or
- 3) making a much-needed monthly/quarterly/annual pledge for 2022.

See page one for donation instructions or contact me for more information (dlloydmonroe@gmail.com or 850.688.2076) We welcome appreciated stock donations, or direct IRA roll-overs, both tax-advantaged.

GOOD GIFTS TO THE HUNGRY AND MALNOURISHED

Porch distributed protein-rich, fortified *MannaPack* rice to 160 families in the remote *Boca Costa* region. Chronic malnutrition is rampant there, especially among children.

This rice was part of the 28,500-pound shipment we received recently. A generous Porch mission partner funded the \$1300 product cost (Gracias!).



Your generous donations have helped keep our staff employed during the pandemic, even without short-term teams.

They also pay for the distribution costs (for example, diesel) of this rice and more.



(Above) Beleaguered social workers brought Hector Mejia (one year old) to our field staff in the Boca Costa. This severely malnourished infant would have died without acute, emergency care. Porch was pleased to provide that good gift, and more moving forward.

Hector's mother was concerned that the rest of her family had no food; our staff took care of that concern. Porch thanks our mission partners who resource our work and our "yes's."



Best wishes and prayers for a blessed and happy holiday season and a prosperous 2022 from our in-country Porch team (*below*), Melanie, Lloyd, Rachael, Greg, and our faithful volunteers Robin, Rex, Brian, Richard, Jayne, Will, and Mark!

Their jobs with Porch de Salomon/Hotel California/Café support the families of our full-time Guatemalan staffers, as well as part-time workers, and our contract builders (*not shown*). Your good gifts (donations) make these jobs and the work and witness of Porch de Salomon possible.

Gracias, y Feliz Navidad!



BECA SCHOLARSHIP TIME

Please renew or begin an annual school scholarship for the 2022 school year, which starts in January. A \$240 donation will allow a Guatemalan child or youth to attend school. You may contact Hilda (*page one*) for details.

(Above right) Abner's father abandoned him as a baby. His single mother works hard hand-washing clothes and selling vegetables to provide for them. Abner, who will enter 7th grade with the help of a scholarship, makes good grades. He dreams of becoming an engineer so that, one day, his mother can rest a little.

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