

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

porchdesalomon.org

and on 

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Tax-deductible donations to:
Porch de Salomon
P.O. Box 10509
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Or on-line at
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 191

February 2022

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

I went on. And the mists had all solemnly risen now, and the world lay spread before me. *Great Expectations*, by Charles Dickens (1861)

You did awesome deeds beyond our highest expectations. *Isaiah 64:3 (NLT)*

With your help and support, and that of the divine, Porch de Salomon has weathered the “mists” of the pandemic. Our staff has served mightily, even in new ways, during two years of challenges and uncertainty.

As those mists now rise, we have great expectations for 2022. Please pray for us and those we serve.



(Above) Rosita Coj (35) courageously left her alcoholic, abusive husband (both to her and their children) in 2018. She wanted to break the “cycle of violence” in which they lived.

Rosita and her children live in a one-room, dirt-floor shack; it is cold during the rainy season and dusty in the dry season. She earns \$40 monthly as a farm hand. Sadly, her ex-husband provides no support.

Rosita will receive a new house from Porch de Salomon, with work commencing February 14.



Their bathroom

With her grit and determination, we expect great things for this family. Please let us know if you'd like to fund the house (\$8500) or a micro-business for them (\$1400).

TEAMS RETURN!

Melanie and I return to Panajachel February 17, with expectations to help host four short-term teams in the following weeks.

Join us in praying for success. Please see our 1:20 minute team-readiness video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GD0vf5d7QnY>

Gracias! Lloyd



Part of Team Moza 2019

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

**EXPECTATION
OF A BETTER LIFE**

Carlos and Matilde's family house is complete; it's Porch de Salomon's first house of 2022 and our 142nd. The family no longer lives in a decrepit adobe room, with a "tin" kitchen. Most of us have never experienced the life-change which follows living in a decent house for the first time.



Carlos is a quiet man who has built houses for Porch de Salomon the past three years. When the building site was remote, he spent four nights weekly away from his family. Noe noted: "Every house dedication is special, but it feels even better when the new house is for a deserving friend and co-worker. Carlos has helped Porch build dreams (houses) for so many people. He and his family are very happy and thankful for Porch de Salomon; Carlos says Porch is like a family."

Generous donors and mission partners have resourced Porch's house-building, even during the pandemic team drought. Thank you!
Left: Porch's Poncho leads the house dedication prayer.

WE THANK OUR BECA SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

...and Hilda adds:

Thanks to God, we had eight students who finished high school this year. It's been hard for our students to keep up at school. We are proud they persevered.

Congratulations to (clockwise from top left): Fátima Pérez, Melany Martínez, Estela Raxtun Marta Yaxón (the mother of 4 children!), María Florinda Pérez, Erickson Matzar, Bryan Ixtán, Stefany Coroxón.



Porch again provided the traditional Christmas Eve *tamales* and more to our 80 friends at Casa Tat Loy and Casa Ixoq'i drug/alcohol rehab centers. We appreciate the donors who funded these meals, and our café staff who prepared and delivered them: Sergio, Carmen, Birma, and Mirna (not shown).

GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR ROSA'S FAMILY

Porch de Salomon “broke ground” and began constructing a house for Rosa Lec and her daughters in Pena Blanca. Rosa (41) works hard but only earns \$80 monthly when she can find work making tortillas or hand-washing clothes. While Rosa never attended school and is illiterate, she hopes for better for her daughters. Their father abandoned the family when Rosa was pregnant with the second daughter. Rosa also cares for her aged mother.

This project provided steady, holiday-season work for two of our contract builders. We thank our supporters and house-build donors (you can be one for less than the cost of quartz countertops!) who have resourced life-changing house construction even during the pandemic.



30 men from Porch de Salomon's partner ministry Casa Tat Loy (<https://casatatloy.org>) journeyed to *Pena Blanca* on December 15. Their mission: hand-haul building materials far up the steep mountain for Rosa Lec's new house construction (*photos at left*). We greatly appreciate their efforts. It would have taken our two builders and Rosa weeks to porter it themselves.

Porch's Jeydi and Jasmin, along with Rosa and others, prepared a delicious *pulique/tamalito* meal for the guys—*que bueno!* CTL is a valued Porch partner in the area of drug/alcohol recovery. Our donor/partners resource Porch's monthly support which helps CTL, as per its motto, “change families—one man at a time.”



VOLUNTEER EXPECTATIONS

Hola! We are Jascha & Lydia Werschler, two Canadians who will be volunteering with Porch for the next few months. After university, marriage, and starting full-time jobs in engineering and health fields, we desired to continue learning about the world by immersing ourselves in a different culture. Porch's values of meeting and loving people where they are in life matched with how we wanted to serve.

During our time here, we hope and expect to build meaningful relationships, experience some of the world's diversity, challenge ourselves to be flexible, and learn to better love and serve. Trusting that God holds a plan for all, we are hopeful that this experience will greatly impact us and be remembered forever. Our first days here showed us the beauty of the country and its people and we are excited for what is to come!





EXPECT to receive your 2021 donation tax-receipt letter if you haven't already.

Porch thanks our steadfast volunteer treasurer, Robin, for this work and more. Bravo y gracias, hermana!



For the third year running, Porch de Salomon's relief staff distributed 1200 children's Christmas gifts in five indigenous villages on Christmas Eve. For many of the children, this was the only gift they received. Some of the children have come to expect our Santa's visit. ;)

This project is the brain child of our Hilda, Jeydi, and Eugenia, themselves indigenous.

Might you donate to cover the \$800 unfunded part of our \$1000 cost of the gifts, in whole or part?



Donations in!

We are pleased to report that Porch de Salomon ended 2021 in strong financial shape, thanks in part to generous year-end donations from mission partners. Given the pandemic's two-year cessation of short-term team money, this is a blessing.

Gracias donors, y gracias a Dios!

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