

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

porchdesalomon.org

and on 

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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

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July 2022

EVERY NEW BEGINNING

Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.

Seneca the Younger (4 BC-65 AD).

[God] gave us new birth and a fresh beginning. Titus 3:5 (CEV)



OUR BEGINNING'S END

By Lloyd

Here's what I wrote to our staff, as Melanie and I tearfully departed Panajachel April 1: *I give you this verse--Todo tiene su momento oportuno; hay un tiempo para todo lo que se hace bajo el cielo. Ecclesiastes 3. (There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.) This time is not the end for us, but a new beginning for all. We will remain involved and, God willing, see you in July. You mean so much to us. Carry on, con Dios.*

We remained quite Porch-involved in June with transition, finances, team entry logistics, and even a promotion trip to Louisville KY. This *PorchTalk* issue is the last I will create for a while.

As the fictional Dewey Cox sang in the movie *Walk Hard*, "It's been a beautiful ride." Indeed it has since our Porch beginning in 2005. We are thankful. God be praised and God be with you all. *Hasta pronto!*

We are grateful to have begun as Executive Directors with Porch de Salomon in Panajachel! We hit the ground running hosting our summer teams, and what an encouragement they have been to our staff and us. With the teams, Porch has been busy bringing hope through medical clinics, VBS, construction, and building relationships to share God's love.

We have quickly learned that filling the Monroes' shoes is challenging. As we transition and take it all in, we see the fruit of the hard work, diligence, care, and labor of love that they have both poured into this ministry. We see so many lives impacted over the years through Porch. Praise God that their legacy lives on!

We could not function without the staff at Porch de Salomon, where each position and staff member is vital. Yet, the entire body is not complete until the teams arrive and support from donors brings the body to life! "The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ." *1 Corinthians 12:12.* Thanks to those who come to serve and generous donors who join together to make Christ's body bring hope to the lost, the least, and the last in Guatemala. *Rachael and Greg McGaha*



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

AN END TO A LONELY FEELING

We thought we were going to build a house, but what we built was family. Our Faith Presbyterian team (Tallahassee FL) broke ground and helped lay the foundation for two sisters, Blanca and Miriam (*at right*). As we dug trenches, moved sand, and hauled block the sisters were by our side working. By the second day our team was doing their best to use their broken Spanish to learn about the sisters and build relationships. The more we worked, the more they opened up.

When we reached the final day on site, our team gathered around to give the sisters a small gift and say our “goodbyes.” With tears in her eyes, Blanca shared that for so long the sisters had felt alone and for the first time in a long time, it was like she had family. She couldn't have been more right! We left Guatemala carrying two more sisters in our heart. We are so grateful to Porch de Salomon for giving us the opportunity to serve, but most of all for helping us deepen our understanding of what it means to be the family of God. *Rev. Trinity Joy Whitley*



Individual volunteers Walker (*shown here*) and Katie (*below right, in black shirt*) were a big help.



(*Above, right, and at left*). Team Faith PC funded and worked three days of free village medical clinics.

Team Reid Memorial PC members, on site

AN END TO THEIR DEPLORABLE HOUSING

Porch de Salomon completed and dedicated our 145th house in June. Manuela and Santos' family has been an inspiration to us and our 2022 short-term teams.

Noe reported: "It was an emotional and a sweet dedication. Santos and Manuela are very happy for their new home. They thank everyone for their generous support." Likewise, we at Porch thank our staff, our teams, and everyone who made this life-changing project possible. Let us know if you'd like to fund one of these in a loved one's memory or honor (\$8500)



Teams Element3 and Sequoyah Hills PC Youth combined



NEW BEGINNING FOR A FAMILY

Porch launched another house build, bringing both an end and a beginning to Victoria Sahom's family in Panajachel. Victoria's husband died two months ago. Their son Manuel has suffered from hydrocephalus since birth.

Hilda wrote: Victoria also takes care of her blind father. They are still sad about losing the family father, but they thanked God and everyone who supports them so they can start their home project.

This also was the first groundbreaking that Rachel and Greg attended as Executive Directors. Victoria provided a nice lunch to honor the occasion.



MARIA COJ UPDATE

As per our June issue, Maria's leg was amputated in order to save her life. Porch's efforts saved her life. We will remain involved with her and her family.

Her chronic malnutrition is ending, and she has gained weight. Thank you to those who have helped us help her find a new beginning with your donations.



IN MEMORIAN: SARAH BRINKHOFF GILROY

Sarah died recently after a long battle with cancer. A wife, mother, adventurous spirit, and court reporter, she said her trip to Panajachel with Porch changed her life for the better.

Her family designated Porch de Salomon as her memorial "in lieu of flowers" beneficiary. Combined with a generous donation from her husband John, this effort exceeded \$9000 total. Well done. *Bravo y gracias!*



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