

## Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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Or online at

[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 211

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## Spirit of Heaviness

“To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...” — *Isaiah 61:3 (NKJV)*

“We should feel sorrow, but not sink under its oppression.” — *Confucius*

### PORCH DE SALOMON CANCELS OCTOBER TEAMS

It is with a spirit of heaviness that Porch could not host teams in October due to nationwide political protests that started on October 2nd. The protesters across the country are standing in solidarity for democracy and have taken over many streets to protest the challenges led by Guatemala's attorney general to president-elect Bernardo Arévalo's election. The demonstrations are calling for the attorney general's resignation. As a result of the protests, roads and businesses were closed, which led to fuel and food shortages in some locations, including Panajachel. However, the Panajachel community came together (photo below), hoping to face these challenges.



### Our Garments of Praise

During this time of uncertainty, my heart is heavy for the people of Guatemala. The people are uniting to try and make a change that will bring hope to this country, but they are the ones who are hurting in the midst of it. The people involved in the government have the resources to survive and be comfortable, but those who rely on their daily wages struggle. The blockades caused people to rush out in a panic and buy the necessities, but unlike the pandemic, more resources haven't been able to be transported to various places around Guatemala, and it has caused a shortage of food, gas, and cash in ATMs. It hurts my heart to watch people suffer but not have the resources needed to help them. On October 23rd, the indigenous leaders of Solola lifted the blockades to make it possible for people to go out and restock. As a team, we opened the office so that people could come and receive medicine, formula, diapers, & bags of food — the necessities. — *Noe Perez*

After having three years of teams not coming regularly, starting this year was very exciting for us to finally see a “normal year” again and get back to the action. We trust what is happening in Guatemala right now is for the good of our country. We are trusting in God's mighty plans. For now, we will try to do as much as we can for our people. As a staff, we feel safe being part of the Porch Family. We know we have many friends abroad who are taking care of us from afar financially as well as with their prayers, which make us feel strong in times like these. We hope to get back and see all our friends back in the lobby of the Hotel California and have fun as always. This won't last long, God's willing. See you soon, family! — *Hilda Mux Son*

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



## Beauty for Ashes



Porch is excited to announce our 158th house dedication in Solola for Martha and her children, Yeimy, José, and Esdras. Martha, a single mother, has faced and endured many challenges; the family lived in a one-room house without electricity or a bathroom.



Martha Tuiz once cooked on an open fire, making snacks to sell to support her children. During the summer of 2021, thanks to a generous donor, Porch provided Martha with the necessary tools and materials to expand her business.

## 158<sup>th</sup> House Dedication

Martha believes God has provided for her family and answered her prayers. She expresses gratitude to everyone who has helped make these miracles possible, with a special thank you to Chris and Sunny Turner, who raised funds to build this home in memory of their son Andrew.





## Joy for Mourning



During a dental clinic last spring, Isabela Pinula had to have 27 teeth removed at 22 years of age. She was in severe pain, with her entire mouth filled with abscesses needing immediate care.



Generous donors sent funds to help Isabela with a new set of teeth, but she was nowhere to be found. Porch staff diligently searched for her, hoping to get her to a local dentist to start the process for her new teeth. Finally, they succeeded, and she began the process.



It was a long and painful journey. Isabela, hopeful to smile again, expressed her gratitude for the support and encouragement that everyone has given her.



Now, beautiful Isabela can eat comfortably, speak clearly, and smile joyfully!



## Our Sorrow Our Hope

Honestly, this season has been hard for Rachael and me. We feel sorrow. We feel sorrow for our staff and the people of Guatemala in this place of great challenge. We feel sorrow for teams not getting to come for life-changing actions of hope. We feel sorrow for the patient who was about to find relief from tooth pain at the dental clinic and sorrow for the donor of a house who was unable to work on the house dedicated to the life and memory of her son. It would be easy to sink under the oppression of sorrow. Still, God gives us hope from our Porch community through prayers, a word of encouragement, and a gift of your resources to continue to posture Porch as a beacon of hope to our community and Guatemala. — *Greg McGaha*



## Porch Welcomes Morgan Miller

Morgan Miller, from Greentown, Indiana, has recently joined Porch de Salomon as an intern. She currently lives in Panajachel and is involved in various tasks, including translating for teams. The staff is grateful for her hard work and dedication and is excited to have her on the team.



“While looking for ministries at the lake, I stumbled across Porch de Salomon. I visited in June to see what they were doing in person, and towards the end of July, I joined their team! Being a part of this team has given me the opportunity to step outside of my comfort zone and do things I never thought I would be doing, such as translating and trying out videography. I love the chance it gives me to connect with Guatemalans and the people who come on teams! I am very thankful to be a part of Porch and look forward to what the future holds!” — *Morgan Miller*

*Porch de Salomon*

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