

Porch de Salomon

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- *Short-term service/mission teams in Guatemala
- *Humanitarian relief for indigenous families and others
- *Café Hotel California/Solomon's Porch ministry
- *Self-sustainable micro-businesses
- *Helping transform churches and individuals

PorchTalk

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SPEAKING LOVE FLUENTLY

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

— 1 John 3:18

“Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.”

— attributed to St. Francis of Assisi



178th House Dedication

At Porch de Salomon, we believe that economic independence can transform lives. By providing small businesses to Indigenous families—alongside the resources and support needed to succeed—we help people like Antonia and Crisla build sustainable futures.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we launched another life-changing small business, creating new opportunities for growth, stability, and hope. These ventures are more than income sources: they're pathways to dignity and self-reliance.

You can be part of this transformative work. A gift of \$1,000 can fund a small business that will forever change a family's future. Join us in fostering opportunity—one business, one family at a time.

SPEAK THROUGH ACTION

After years of instability—sleeping on relatives' floors or in a leaky shack—Antonia, a single mother, and her 12-year-old daughter, Crisla, finally have a safe and stable home.

Both tearfully shared their deep longing for a place to call their own, and that prayer is a reality.

Along with their new home, they're launching a *tienda* (small store), which will provide them with a path toward stability and independence.

Thank you to our generous donors—your support is God's answer to this family's prayers.



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

SPEAK THROUGH A HUG

In 1 Corinthians 13:1, Paul teaches about speaking a different language: "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal." Here's what's amazing about that verse: Paul says even if we could speak in tongues, the most perfect language imaginable, without love, we're just making noise. But flip that truth around. When we DO speak with love, we don't even need words. Love becomes the language.

Even though our Spanish might be rusty or nonexistent (like mine), many had a full conversation with the kids, families, and workers without speaking a word. How many have communicated with the dad through a shared smile? How many have felt one of the mom's or daughter's gratitude without understanding her words? How many have shared joy with a child by letting them jump in your arms?

We read further in Acts 2:5 about different languages: "Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven...each one heard their own language being spoken." At Pentecost, God performed a miracle that everyone heard in their language. But this week, God's performing a different miracle. He's showing us that *His* deepest truths don't need translation.

When you carefully paint or set up a room, you're saying, "*You* deserve excellence." When you catch those flying children, you're demonstrating how God catches us. Every hour of labor says, "*You* are worth this." Every hug says, "*You* are loved." Every bucket of rocks or sand carried up a hill says, "*You* have value." And those children are teaching us that the deepest connections happen heart to heart, not vocabulary to vocabulary.

The world's most important message that 'God loves you' is being proclaimed here without a single Spanish lesson. 1 John 3:18 also reminds us to speak not just with words but with actions: "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." Think about Jesus. When He healed, He touched. When He fed the 5,000, He broke bread. When He showed the greatest love, He stretched out His arms on a cross. Actions. Not words.

When people ask me, 'Did the Spanish language barrier make it hard?' I can say, 'No, it forced me to speak like Jesus - with my actions.' When we speak this language of love through our actions, something unexpected also happens. The conversation becomes two-way. We came as the ones with something to give, but we might be receiving so much more.

I loaded into the van thinking I knew our role. We were the missionaries, the servants, the ones bringing gifts. We had tools, we had funds, we had time, they had needs. But God has a funny way of turning our equations upside down. We certainly have come to serve, but for me, I've been the one receiving. And maybe that's exactly how God planned it.

The children are teaching us about the Kingdom. They run to us without checking our credentials, without asking our intentions. Just pure trust. WHEN did I last run to God that way? Their trust is rebuilding our hearts. They trust strangers with their future while I struggle to trust God with my bank account. Even though orphaned kids are hungry, they wait until all the kids are present and a prayer is made before eating a bite. I think their faith is certainly reconstructing my priorities.

We came to build walls, but they're rebuilding our hearts. We came with full hands, but we're leaving with full souls. Maybe that's the Gospel. The first become last, the teachers become students, and the servants get served.

Thank you, Lord, for teaching us His native language this week. A love that needs no translation. Thank you for these teachers disguised as children, these seminaries disguised as a construction site, these sermons disguised as smiles.

Reflections by Dustin Hebrank (Houston, Texas) Serving with Team Moza Light



SPEAK THROUGH A SMILE



Porch has begun building a new home for Lucia, Francisco, and their five children — Anabela, Fredy, Kevin, Cesar, and Edgar. They live in a small adobe room on Francisco's mother's land and share a tin-roofed kitchen that leaks when it rains. Despite the harsh conditions, they deeply value education and dream of a better future for their kids. With limited income, a safe home was out of reach — until now. We're honored to help build that foundation for them.



Teams from Concord Baptist, Our Savior Lutheran, St. Benedict Students, Team Milly FMC, and Papermakers (all from Georgia), along with Maxwell Street (Kentucky) and Moza Light (Florida and Texas), truly embraced the spirit of "Play is Work." Through games, Bible stories, pizza parties, piñatas, and more, they poured their hearts into creating lasting memories and meaningful relationships with the children and families we serve.

VOLUNTEER PORCHLIGHT

By Lloyd Monroe

Since Porch de Salomon's inception in 2005, we have depended exclusively on stateside volunteers rather than paid folks for administrative tasks. Of course, that lowers Porch's overhead. We appreciate them very much!



Meet Rich Blankenship (pictured with family), serving clients across North Florida. For over 40 years as a CPA/JD, one of his practice areas has been IRS reporting for tax-exempt organizations. He has done that for Porch de Salomon for 20 years now without charge, and says, "I am honored to contribute that way to the ministry's important work highlighted in these monthly newsletters."

SPEAK THROUGH SHARING

A beautiful act of generosity recently occurred when a team member donated funds to purchase a new pair of shoes for every child at a local orphanage. This simple gift was more than just shoes—it was a meaningful way to show each child they are seen, valued, and loved.



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