

Porch de Salomon

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Or on-line

www.porchdesalomon.org

*Short-term mission teams
in Guatemala

*Humanitarian relief for
indigenous families

*Solomon's Porch
café ministry

*Live music outreach

* Helping transform churches



PorchTalk

Volume 95

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CONTACT AND CONTROL

One of the richest parts of our teams' experiences here in Guatemala's Western Highlands is the opportunity to have close contact with the indigenous folks we are privileged to serve. This contact often changes teamers' hearts (or opens their eyes) in ways that sending money "down" alone usually cannot (even as important as that money is to our work!). Many team members then return to their families, churches or communities "better"—better able to love and follow God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength and to love their neighbors as themselves. Here are comments from recent University of Georgia women's soccer (Langford) and Burke family (TX) members:

GIVING UP CONTROL

by Bailey Powell

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

I played soccer my entire life and it always came first; before friends, family and even God. I never gave my sport to God because I thought I could control it better than he could. Even when I lost that, it took me a while to accept this and allow God to guide me. I have been so much happier since I stopped trying to control everything; God has filled my heart with new desires and plans.

As part of my new lifestyle, I was afforded the chance to travel to Guatemala with my UGA soccer friends. When I learned we would work with a Christian organization, I was hesitant. While I am a Christian, I disliked my childhood church. I found it hypocritical; my previous mission trips had been empty and devoid of authenticity—we didn't help people on those. I found Porch de Salomon to be nothing like that and the folks there honestly gave me hope in Christians again. *(Continued on Page 2)*



(Clockwise from left)

*Team UGA women's soccer
control tools

* Luisa's first real bed

* Outatown/CMU teamers
cutting hair

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

GIVING UP CONTROL (cont'd from Page 1)

On the first day of our trip, I prayed that the Lord would use me the way he saw fit. I also asked that he would open my heart to receive what I needed. Our group was scheduled to deliver a new bed to Luisa (a 94 year-old barefooted, indigenous woman), her daughter and granddaughter. She had never had a good bed— having one was her only request of Porch.

Upon arrival, we removed her hard board bed out of their one-room adobe house and moved two new beds in. As all that was happening, I looked and saw Luisa sitting alone outside on her porch. God spoke to me clearer than ever at that moment; he wanted me to go to her, not take the easier route of helping with the beds, sheets and blankets. I didn't want to but was so strongly compelled I said "OK, God." I walked to her and held and kissed her hand and she gave me the sweetest hug and kiss on both my cheeks. This woman (who had never had a bed and only had one eye) did nothing but love us and thank and praise God for us. She was so strong and she didn't need me to hold her hand--I needed her to hold mine. God graciously provided me one of the most rewarding experiences of my life at that moment.

There are not words for me to express my gratitude to God, Luisa and the wonderful people of Porch de Salomon. It is amazing what happens when you give God control.

Bailey is a University of Georgia alumna who digs a mean foundation footer and still has a strong soccer kick! She plans to enter the Marine Corps very soon. Editor



Bailey



Beds up!



Team UGA women's soccer/Langford/Burke

Casey

Beth

MORE TEAM UGA COMMENTS

regarding contact with Luisa:

Most amazing and moving moment of the most amazing and moving week of my life!

Casey Burke, former Monticello, FL resident now living in Dallas, TX

I don't know that I'll ever be hugged and kissed again with such precious and sincere love as I was by Luisa. The UGA girls sat with her and held her hand and were unable to hide their tears. I can't say that their lives were changed, but their hearts definitely were. All this was Luisa's gift to us.

Beth Langford (Tallahassee), co-team leader

BEGGAR BOY CONTACT

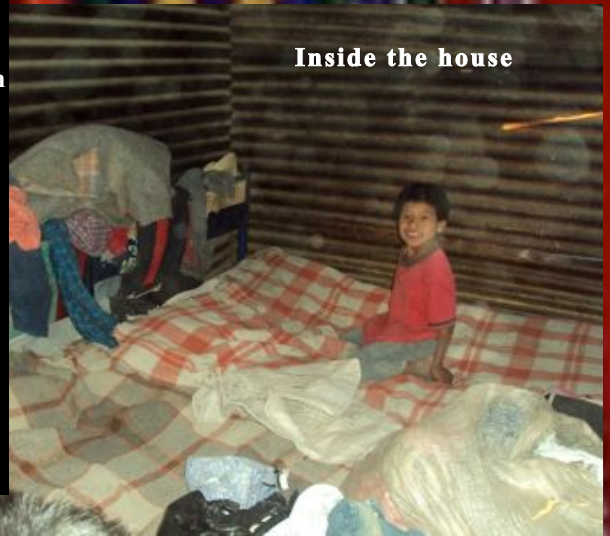
By Lloyd

Some time ago, we tracked down the family of a barefooted, indigenous lad who was begging for food on Pana's streets. I had seen Luis (12) begging before in another location.

Luis' mother, Guadalupe, heads a family of 16 which live in a tin (lamina) shack. The family members share five board beds. Storm water ran across the dirt floor of their pathetic "house."

Guadalupe earns \$13 a week as a domestic. Her alcoholic husband spends most nights on the street and only returns home when he sobers up some.

Through the cooperative funding and labor of our spring teams (Gina/Amador County, Outtatown CMU, Tallahassee Heights UMC, Team UGA women's soccer/Langford/Burke) and our volunteers, this family will receive a quality new house soon. We appreciate our California friends' current efforts to fund an eventual second floor for this warm family.



Inside the house



Guadalupe and most of her family in front of their house

Roy and Jonna Davenport (TN) returned once more to volunteer with Porch. Here, Roy lays block at Guadalupe's house. We also enjoyed his lead guitar work with Marco Trio Electric in the evenings!



Following February's move, we made good use of our new Solomon's Porch café facility and hotel with short-term teams, our weekly worship gathering, live music, and "street" business. *Semana Santa* (Holy Week but also a "party week") had the café hoppin' and the hotel full. It is usually great to be in close contact with the action in Panajachel. Thanks for helping us be there!



HOTEL CALIFORNIA

Panajachel, Guatemala
hotelcaliforniapana.com
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PRAISES:

- * A great March and Semana Santa
- * A good start for our new Solomon's Porch café location and the Hotel California
- * Our partner churches and mission partners' encouragement and support
- * Other March volunteers; Ebbesens, Dahms, Wisers and Bill K

Please PRAY FOR:

- * Marta, Alex, Rudy and Leila and others' continuing sobriety
- * The Deeds family as they continue to settle into Pana and learn more of our methods and contacts (Joe and Kristen also!)
 - * Continued positive life impact flowing from our worship gathering and presence in Pana
- * Continued generous resourcing of our ministry and work

CLOSING CONTACTS

Porch's multi-faceted work puts us in touch with folks from all walks of life, many of who reach out to our ministry for help.

(Left) A big recent joy has been Marta's sobriety (seven weeks!). Italian by birth, Marta's past addicted Pana street escapades are well known. While she has been a part of the Porch fellowship for several years, her newfound sobriety has allowed her to work with our teams and crews on our house builds; we are proud of her. *Lodare Dio!* *(Right):* Amarilis is one of "our" cleft palate babies; we, under Betty Conley's direction, have waited many months for her to gain enough weight to have her first corrective surgery. She is shown after that recent operation.

The faithful and generous financial support of our ministry partners (like you!) funds our work with folks like Marta, Amarilis, and many others. *Gracias!*



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