

## Porch de Salomon

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- \*Short-term mission teams in Guatemala
- \*Humanitarian relief for indigenous families
- \*Solomon's Porch café ministry
- \*Live music outreach
- \*Helping transform churches



# PorchTalk

Volume 97

June 2013

## SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE

*"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field..."*  
Jesus at Matthew 13:31

*"Here is my servant [Jesus]..... In his name the nations will put their hope."*  
Matthew 12:18-21, NIV

May has been a great month for us in Guatemala. Corn seeds, recently planted in the indigenous farmers' steep fields, have sprouted and grow as our rainy season begins. Our local workers are busy with our week-in/week-out service and relief efforts. Our weekly worship gathering and music outreach continue in good fashion. We hosted our first "summer" team, from our new partner church Memorial UMC (Fernandina Beach, FL), and were mutually encouraged.

Most of our teams enjoy a Sunday evening meal at a local restaurant that features indigenous food, marimba music (the national instrument) and a bit of Mayan cultural education. Miguel Tzul, the indigenous owner, always thanks Porch de Salomon and our teams for sowing the "seed of hope" among his people through presence, gifts, and service. He recounts how a person, many years ago, planted such a seed that gave them hope and eventually transformed his family's life.

We would do well to view each act of kindness, service, encouragement, or generosity we give as potential seeds of hope in the life of the recipient and God's kingdom. This month's edition contains examples of those acts/"seeds" which we are honored to help sow. We thank our ministry partners, donors, and partner churches for resourcing our sowing and work in many ways. *Que Dios los bendiga a todos!*



**(Left) Memorial UMC teamer Kay works with one of the 457 patients her team treated in four days.**



Tomasa and Juan's family are the proud recipients of a new commercial corn grinder—they will grind their neighbors' corn for use in the staple tortillas. We all thank John and Bobbi Palmer and their kids for giving this family hope for self-sustenance.

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

## NEW SEEDS (and a Need) FROM AN OLD CHURCH

Memorial UMC (Fernandina Beach) is the oldest Methodist church in Florida and is a new Porch partner church. Their small team sowed hope by helping with our house projects and by leading four village medical clinics.

They came prepared to conduct three days of clinics. A near-record run of sick folks, the team's willingness to work late, and also to work a fourth, unplanned day of clinic ran us over budget by \$1025 (mostly for medicine). While we can absorb this if need be, it will be a blessing if one (or more) of our readers feel led to donate this amount.

Let us know if that is you!



Don Twiggs, M.D., served many despite being only months past his chemo treatments



Team Leader  
Linda  
Twiggs, R.N.



(Below) Sarah, our R.N. friend from Texas, brought down rescue gear and the first heart defibrillator machine in Panajachel. Thanks Sarah, hubby Scott and friends!



(Above) Susanna Zorn returned to volunteer with us. She has now started medical school. Go Suz!  
(Center) Marlene, a Jewish friend of Team MemUMC, graced us with her rendition of Jesus—at last, we have an image of Jesus which we can use in our Solomon's Porch Café. *Shalom Marlene!*



## (HOPE) and DREAMS FULFILLED

*Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.*  
Proverbs 13:12, NLT

Santa is an indigenous, single mother who lives with three of her four children in the leaky, dirt-floor, shack pictured behind them (*and at right*). Her husband abandoned them eight years ago. Her 13 year-old son works with a relative in Guatemala City to help feed this hard-working family.

Our Element3 and Faith Presbyterian (Tallahassee, FL) teams will bring hope, and fulfill this family's dream of a decent house, when they arrive and serve in June.



(Below) Cecilia's family's new house was just dedicated! This project, largely funded by The Lewis Hall and Mildred Sasser Singletary Foundation, was a challenge due to its proximity to a drainage/sewage canal. Through the cooperative sweat and efforts of many, including our Spring 2013 teams, this family has a good house with a street-front room which can serve as a small restaurant. This all gives them hope for a better life. *Matiosh ("Thank you" in Caq'chikel)!*



Bartolo (front, left) is one of "our" cleft palate babies. In addition to the blessing of corrective surgery, he and his very humble family are one of 22 that receive our bi-weekly protein supplements: eggs, milk, beans (seeds!) and more. Contact us if you would like to help us give the hope of decent nutrition at \$60 per month.

## PRAISES and PRAYERS

- \* Our new friend Salvadore's five weeks of sobriety (former street alcoholic). He is helping us build houses now!
- \* Deeds family furlough stateside to officiate at a wedding and to promote Porch de Salomon; June 12—August 6
- \* Continued generous donations that pay for the tangible "seeds of hope" sowed by our ministry

- \* Team Christ the Shepherd Lutheran--June 8-15; House construction and Bible school
- \* Team Element3--June 15-22: House construction and Bible school
- \* Team Faith Presbyterian—June 22-29; House construction and village medical clinics
- \* Team Sharon Church—June 29-July 6; house construction
  - \* Luke's wife, family, friends and office staff



Like many, we were shocked and saddened when Dr. Lucas Stevens died in his sleep May 19 --totally unexpected. Luke was a huge blessing to Porch de Salomon and those we serve. An orthodontist, he alleviated much Guatemalan suffering by pulling bad teeth. He inspired us (and gave a great teaching point) by being willing to re-train and do extractions after not having done them in 25 years. He was so much fun and was very generous (he donated a house-build in his mother's memory)!

*We will miss you, brother.* God's peace to his wife Valorie, their children, family and office folks.

- Luke planned to return this October and March 2014. Please join us in praying for volunteer dentists to come down and fill those voids.
- We were humbled and grateful that Valorie designated Porch as a beneficiary of memorial donations. You may view the obituary at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tallahassee/obituary.aspx?n=lucas-edward-stevens&pid=164914193&fhid=4646>

*For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. 2 Corinthians 9:10 NIV (this was Luke!)*

## *Porch de Salomon*

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