

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 101

October 2013

FRESH OIL

by Lloyd

*You thrill me, Lord, with all you have done... You have
anointed me with [fresh] oil. Psalms 92:4, 10 (NIV, NKJV)
He felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds
with olive oil and wine... Luke 10:33-34 (NLV)*

Years ago, I heard Dr. Arnold Prater teach on Psalms 92. He saw the “fresh oil” as God’s spirit, bringing us his gifts, graces, and encouragement. That spirit often moves God’s people, our fellow pilgrims, to be the “bringers” of these sweet and soothing blessings. Melanie and I were fortunate to receive many such gifts, graces, and encouragement during our now-concluded summer furlough/promo. *Gracias a todos!*

The people we serve through the progressive work of Porch de Salomon have been blessed, and resourced, with many such gifts, graces, and encouragement recently. Through our Guatemalan workers and *gringo* volunteers, Porch continues to be a direct “bringer” of *fresh oil*, help, and hope to hundreds of folks in Guatemala. We are able to help soothe wounds, following the example of Jesus’ wayfaring Samaritan.

We thank God, and you, our ministry partners, for all this. Here we go with some examples:

SANTA’S HOUSE COMPLETED (no, not that Santa!)

Santa and her children were thrilled to move into their new house (Porch’s #5 for ’13) last month. Santa has struggled as a single mother since her husband abandoned them eight years ago; their living conditions were deplorable and they struggled to have food each day. On dedication day, through a translator, Santa said:

“Thank you for changing our lives, for taking the sadness out of our lives. God bless you.”

We join her in thanking Teams Element3 and Faith Presbyterian Church, their churches and supporters, for funding and helping build this house.

(Cont’d on page two)

We purchased a sewing machine for Santa, a weaver. Sometimes it took her an entire month to complete one item; she would sell it for \$20. We will sponsor her weekly sewing lessons.

Pretty cool to see Porch de Salomon developing projects that help people make a better living for themselves.

Will Deeds



(Above) Santa and her children on their new house dedication day. The Utz Jay water filter will provide fresh, clean water.



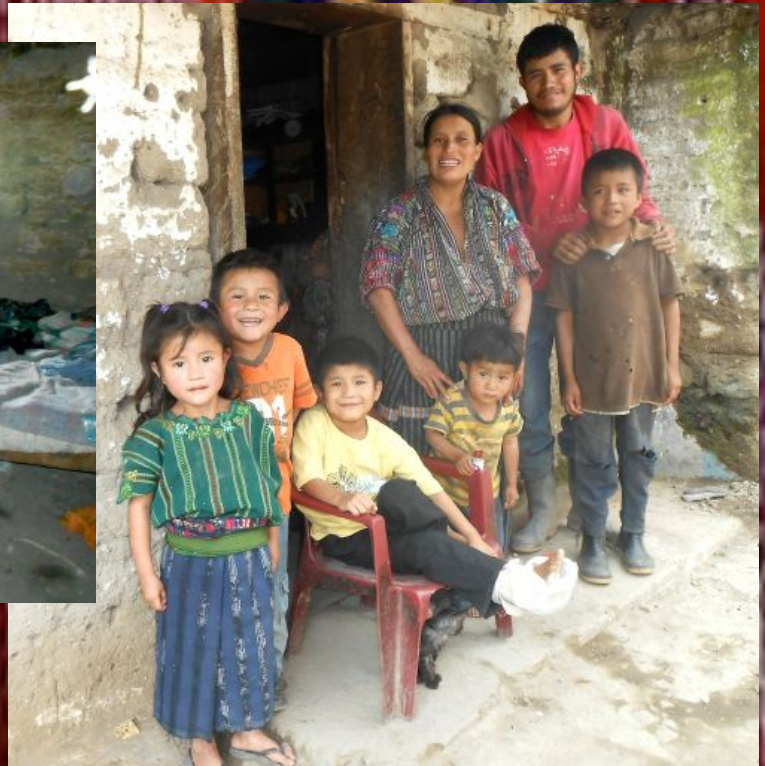
“For the lost, the least, and the last”

FRESH OIL *(Continued from page one)*

COMING UP...

María and Santos Lopic and their five children live in a crumbling, dirt-floor room in the indigenous village of Concepción. They have no electricity, running water, toilet or real furniture; all seven (and one on the way) sleep on two board beds (*shown below*). Santos earns \$4 per day as a day laborer. Our October Element3 and Trinity UMC (Tallahassee) teams will help soothe this family with a good, new house. Noe, Sindy, and Betty hope to help this couple with family planning.

Again, we thank God and you, our mission partners, who provide “fresh oil,” in the form of resources, encouragement, and love which empower the work of Porch de Salomon.



FRESH FUN Noe and Mirna recently organized a “reward” trip for 24 of our faithful Porch workers (facility staff, volunteers, humanitarian aid staff, builders and helpers). These folks give so much of themselves to Porch’s work; it was a pleasure to treat them to a fun day.

Part of the trip was to an amusement park; for many it was their first such visit. Rudy, shown below, is celebrating over two years of complete sobriety. He helps build Porch houses and has become a leader in our AA chapter.



FROM MELANIE

Lloyd and I have had a full and fun two-month furlough/promo.

We’ve joked so much about meeting, greeting, and eating (too much)!

What a blessing it has been, though, to have connected with many of our partner churches, friends, and family. You’ve helped us, fed us, housed us, loved us, and encouraged us.

Pray for us as we hit the road running (in a different way) to help the least of these. You’re such an integral part of what we do in Pana and we couldn’t do it without you. *Muchas, muchas gracias!!* Love you all.

...AND LLOYD

We are grateful to God, and so many folks, for so much. We especially thank Scott, Jason, Pat, and our *El Puente* partners, for providing a way for us to continue to serve in full-time fashion. May God bless us everyone.

FRESH THOUGHTS FROM THE FIELD

by Will Deeds



Everyday I am in Guatemala, I am reminded of how much I have to be thankful for. For me, it is a dream fulfilled to serve the beautiful and amazing indigenous people. But, one thought haunts me: "How would these people view my life?" While most Americans would rank my life as simple and non-extravagant, I no longer have the luxury of being ignorant of how most people live in the world. The truth now confronts me from all sides. I am a rich American; I am selfish and consumeristic. My family and I live a life most "developing world" people can only dream of. (If you're reading this, you probably do as well!) The more I am confronted with this truth, the better.

While visiting three other families, we met Petrona Vicente and her eight-year-old son Edwin. Their home was destroyed during the recent earthquake. Petrona had something seriously wrong with her mouth. Edwin has not talked since he suffered a fall when he was two years old. He walks with a limp; he has an obvious problem with his spine. He is such a cute little boy.

We prayed for Edwin and Petrona; we prayed for healing and God's provision in their lives. The cool thing is we, through Porch de Salomon, will probably help provide the answer to some of those prayers.

It was a long, wet day of visiting and also emotionally and mentally draining. Still, I got to come home and take a hot shower and snuggle into a nice warm bed. As my head hit the pillow with all the images from the day swirling in it, all I could say was, "Why me God?" "What have I done to deserve any of this?"

Editor's note: For Will's full blog post and more images go to: <http://deedsville.org/2013/09/13/visiting-families/>

EL PUENTE UPDATE By Scott Shalley

Did you know....that just two years ago the Monroes' future with Porch was uncertain? When they founded PdS, Lloyd and Melanie drew no salary; they lived off the proceeds of the buy-out of Lloyd's interest in his law practice. While this sustained Lloyd and Melanie for seven years, this payout ended in July 2012.

The void simply had to be filled and, to this end, *El Puente* ("The Bridge") was created in 2012. The idea was, and is, to recruit 36 individuals to commit to provide a special \$1000 annual, tax-deductible contribution. These donations would allow Lloyd and Melanie to continue their good work, full-time. We sought to recruit new commitments without impacting the existing (and essential) financial contributions that fund Porch de Salomon's multi-faceted work.

While the response has been overwhelming, we still have a little ways to go to meet the necessary goal of 36 committed donors.

Please prayerfully consider joining our team. As many of you have personally seen, Lloyd and Melanie are making an incredible difference to those in need in Panajachel and beyond.

Your commitment will allow that work to continue!

Please take the time to consider our request and talk to one of us if you have questions regarding the specifics of *El Puente*. Alternatively, you may email us at elpuenteporchdes@gmail.com.

Gracias! En Cristo,

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Jason Roper
850.766.1975

Pat Farrell
850.933.2553



PRAISES and PRAYERS

*Our friend and co-worker Lonny, who entered Casa Tat Loy rehabilitation September 25

* RedEye Coffee's (re3eye.com) \$4500 profit distribution to Porch!

* Team Element3: October 12-19—house construction.

* Team Trinity UMC: October 19-26—house construction, medical/dental clinics, and Bible school

*Favor and provision for PdS as churches set their 2014 budgets

*October volunteers: Rachel, Rob, Jayne, Harry, and Christina



* Our faithful Porch partner churches and donors who fund Porch de Salomon's multi-faceted outreach and work



FRESH CONCRETE was the order of the day as Isabel's family's *terrazza* roof was poured last month. This will be the floor for an eventual second story; four generations will share this small space.

(At Left): Our new fall volunteer, Rachel Frazelle, with her "name twin" Raquel, Isabel's granddaughter. This child's quality of life has dramatically improved through Porch de Salomon's work.

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