

PIPO MISSIONS IN THE NEWS

Savannah's David Puckett named a hero for his charitable work in Mexico

More than a quarter of a century ago, David Puckett traveled with a church group to some of the poorest parts of southeastern Mexico. What we saw there, and the people he met, made an indelible impression on him. "It impressed a love for the people in my heart," he said. "I determined that if there was something in my life I could do to help them, I'd do it." He's kept that promise in spades. Today, thanks to Puckett and his nonprofit organization, hundreds of poor Mexicans, some once barely able to crawl, can walk. [Read more here.](#)

How Do I Say No To The Limbless?

"My life was sad before because I had to crawl on the ground," recalls Caesar Morales, a 24-year-old father in Mexico who, until recently, had only one limb and couldn't walk. But today, thanks to David Puckett and his U.S.-based nonprofit, Morales has new prosthetic legs. Now, he's not only able to walk, but his new found independence has made it possible for him to move to another town where he could find work. "He lifted me up to where I am today," Morales says. Morales isn't the only person in southeastern Mexico who credits Puckett with changing his life. Since November 2000, the certified, licensed prosthetist/orthotist from Savannah, Georgia, has been providing artificial limbs, orthopedic braces and ongoing care to hundreds in need in the communities of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and Chiapas -- free of charge. [Read more here.](#)

CNN Heroes: Bigger Is Better

Saturday evening, on the stage where Academy Awards are given out and the American Idol winner is crowned, CNN bestowed one of its highest honors on 10 extraordinary people at the CNN Heroes ceremony, which is broadcast tonight on CNN. The move to the legendary Kodak Theater in Los Angeles, inspired by the debate CNN hosted there between Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama in January, coupled with the unprecedented audience response — 4,000 Hero nominations from 75 countries, and over 1 million votes were cast online for Hero of the Year — have made the event, in just its second year, already an annual institution. [Read more here.](#)

Inspired by a Hero - David Puckett

Laurie: "For the past ten years, David you have 'shared your heaven' as a medical missionary fitting orthopedic braces and artificial limbs to hundreds of men, woman, and children. You are healing their hearts and souls! What has been the most profound experience for you?" David: "The most profound was working with Cesar. Cesar was 23 years old when I first met him. He came to me dragging himself through the dirt missing both lower legs and one arm. This was from general deformities. He had never stood up. He didn't even have a clue what walking was like. For all his life he had dragged himself through the dirt and jumped up and down on chairs and/or seats in order to interact with the rest of the world. He was somewhat of a hermit, and didn't get out very much, which would make sense considering his limitations. When I asked him, 'what do you want me to do to help you?' Cesar said, 'I would like to stand and to walk like everyone else in the world.' After hours of consultation and evaluation, I saw that he had a good physical strength, good health and was very optimistic. I measured him for prostheses and told him that we would make him two legs and an arm, and God willing he would be a successful prosthetic user." [Read more here \(pg.60\).](#)