

Jasper Rotary hears report

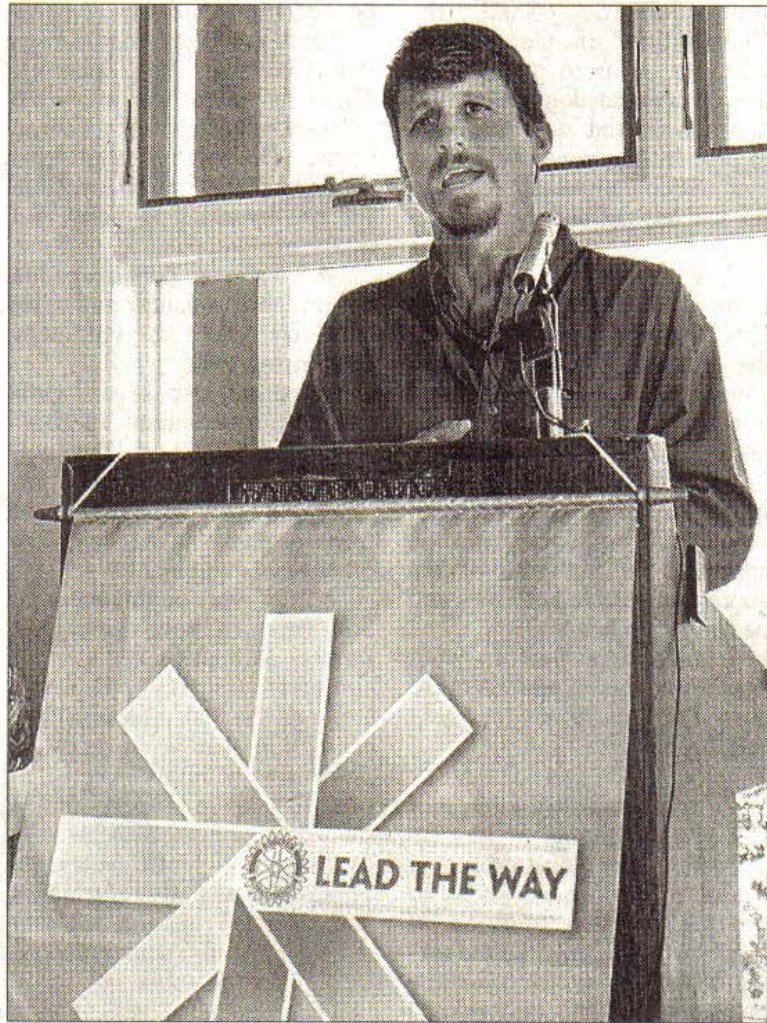
Improving the lives of destitute poor in Latin America

A year ago, Gladys Rivas was living in a Nicaraguan tent shelter and scrounging for food in a public garbage dump. Today, because of her motivation, and with the help of Amigos for Christ, Gladys is moving into her own small house. This house, as well as 116 other homes have been constructed by Amigos for Christ volunteers, residents and other volunteers, and will be dedicated this December.

Providing the funds and volunteer assistance to build homes is only part of this charitable group's mission. These poor residents also need funds to purchase seeds for growing crops, but often have to pay 48 percent interest to local loan sharks who prey on the poor. With such high interest, practically nothing is left after the harvest is over.

Today, Amigos for Christ lends the needed funds at 0 percent to those who want to plant crops for their own food and to sell in the marketplace. The funds they have borrowed are paid back after harvest time. An agriculture trained person is also monitoring the project and assisting these small farmers in doing better with their crops.

John Bland and three Amigos for Christ staff members gave a mission update at the most recent Rotary Club of Jasper luncheon. Last year, our club donated \$1,000 to Amigos for Christ. John reported that this \$1,000 went to provide 8,800 school children's meals. Because some children need encouragement to attend school, they cannot get their lunch until they attend school that day. Often that is the best, if not the only good meal these children get that day. How



John Bland -- Amigos for Christ Director

important is it for children to be studying in school?

It is a well recognized fact that any country's future is determined by what that country is doing to educate their children. John Bland quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson who wrote "...one life is breathed easier because you have lived and have succeeded."

Have you ever asked yourself if your life has made a positive impact on others? The Rotary Club of Jasper donated

another \$1,000 to Amigos for Christ at this meeting. Several members said they planned to go to Nicaragua next year as volunteers to assist in this project.

For other information about projects, mission trips, and other news article on the internet, please take time to look at the Amigos Web site: www.AmigosForChrist.org. or call their Georgia office at 770-614-9250.