

The following is a story written by Elder Larry Richman sometime between February and August, 1976:

Elena Miza and her husband Rigoberto live in Comalapa, Guatemala. Behind every great man is a great woman. Rigoberto is a great man and Elena is a great woman.

Rigoberto is a leader in Comalapa and people admire and look up to him. Several years ago, he convinced six or seven other men to start a cooperative with him. He was elected president of this small cooperative. Within a year, it had grown from six members to 300 members. And when Rigoberto finally resigned from being president of the cooperative, there were about 3,000 members. And now, that cooperative, the Flor Chimalteca, is one of the largest cooperatives in that part of the country.

Everyone in town knows that Rigoberto Miza doesn't get involved in something unless he is sure that it's right. In the example of the cooperative, many of the townspeople joined the cooperative because they had faith in Rigoberto—that's what accounted for its phenomenal success.

In 1975, the mission president asked two missionaries to go into the town of Comalapa and open it to missionary work for the first time—the first time the Restored Gospel had been preached in that town. The missionaries worked hard and found several people to whom they taught the gospel. But, for one reason or another, they wouldn't believe it or accept it. The town was very religious—either strongly Protestant or strongly Catholic.

So, the LDS missionaries didn't have much success until December 16, 1975, when the missionaries met Rigoberto and Elena out in the field. (See the [story by Elder Taz Evans](#) for the details.)

When the missionaries taught him about the Book of Mormon, they ask if he wanted to buy a copy. His wife was right there beside him saying "get it, get it, get it!" So he bought it and they read it. She was a guiding influence for the family to sit down every night and read from the Bible and the Book of Mormon, until they finally gained a testimony.

I'd like to relate one instance to show Elena's faith. As the missionary district leader, I had the privilege of interviewing both Rigoberto and Elena before their baptism. They were the first people to be baptized in Comalapa. There is one part in the discussions which mentions the *Doctrine and Covenants* and the *Pearl of Great Price* and explains what they are and that they are scriptures just like the Bible and The Book of Mormon.

Well, for some reason, the Elders forgot to mention this—or the Mizas didn't remember them talking about it. So, in the interview, when I mentioned the *Doctrine and Covenants* and the *Pearl of Great Price*, Brother and Sister Miza didn't know what they were. While I was interviewing Sister Miza, I explained to her what the *Doctrine and Covenants* and the *Pearl of Great Price* were. (Of course, when someone gets baptized, they don't have to have a complete knowledge of everything, but they do have to have faith, and they do need to feel that these things are right. Then after months and years of learning, our testimonies grow.)

After I explained what these books were, I asked them if they thought these books could be the word of God just like the Bible and the Book of Mormon (to see if there was a base so they could go forth to study them and gain a testimony that these books are true). When I asked Sister Miza if she thought that these books could be the word of God like the Bible and the Book of Mormon, her reply was, "Yes, they are." Her existing faith and testimony was enough to convince her that these additional books were scripture as well. That shows how much faith she had—faith in the message and faith in the Lord and his Gospel.