

well here it is Dance - The facts about The Miza conversion. I'm only writing a mass of notes. You make it into a story and add whatever you want. You know a little about it. Ask Schmoltiger too.

On moving to Comalapa a feeling of need for dedication was felt by everyone. Pres Arnold even wrote our district of 4 a personal letter calling for it. Calling for a dedication with all our hearts mights minds & strength. Our district accepted the challenge and under these strivings and covenants we made with The Lord that we found Rigoberto Misa on Dec 16, 1976. (District was me, Arqueta, Dance, Lazaro) About noon we were tracting in the fields & started to look for smoke. Saw a column to our right but on topping out on a little rise saw that our companions Dance and Lazaro were already headed for it. So we took off in the opposite direction. The spirit indicated the other side of a little hill and as we got to the top there was Rigoberto his wife and ^{his} two little boys digging potatoes. We approached and ask to share their fire - They sat us down with big smiles, fed us and talked to us as if we were old friends. We were especially impressed that we had found a complete family together in a field. We moved into the lesson which they listened to intently & were impressed with. (Gave it in Cakduiquel) Rigo told us where he lived and we said we'd pass by another day. For the next three weeks we visited them regularly on Saturdays and Wednesdays, Each & every day growing closer to each one of them. They were impressed with the plan of salvation - They accepted the need for prophets without hesitation. Rigoberto accepted the invitation to pray on the second lesson and his wife prayed on the next visit. On the E platica Rigo asked specifically in his prayer if Joseph was a prophet - On the F They accepted the challenge to be baptized - (and we let out our breath after having held it for 24 hours) - but were hesitant on setting a date, so we left that undecided. The G platica (commandments) made us sure they had been prepared all their lives. Rigo and his wife had no vices. They gave up coffee ^{almost} eagerly on hearing about the word of wisdom.

Rigo had a ~~hesitation~~ about titling but as soon as he understood it he accepted it without reservation. They agreed to keep the sabbath day - they ~~were~~ ^{were} chaste and moral people, (And MARRIED!) (which is a problem sometimes) - They passed the commandments with flying colors. On the I platica we challenge them once again for baptism and in essence their reaction was "What are we waiting for!" we took them to church in Patzicia where Daniel Mich (first Patzicia member) related them his story and the challenges they'd face as the first comalapa members. They were inspired to the max. During all this time I had been coming to know Rigo more & more and was more & more impressed on how well the Lord had prepared him for being the first member:

He had given him a wife (a progressive and intelligent wife ~~that~~ which is a rare thing among the catchiquels). She was interested in their spiritual well being, and was our biggest help in converting Rigo. She accepted everything unconditionally as it fell from our lips. "Such great faith have I never seen, nay not even among the elders" ~~(said)~~

Both of them spoke Spanish and Catchiquel fluently. Both were natives (full blooded) which was crucial. (Living in a 95% catchiquel community) Rigo & his wife were fantastic leaders. Rigo had been president of a group of seven who were the start of a coop in comalapa. Under his 3 year term the membership grew to 300 (check those figures) and he had to do the converting of the people to this coop. Now there are over 1000 in this coop which has spread through all Chimaltenango. He looks at the church as a similar challenge. Rigo is well to do which is important in his position. It shows he has brains and initiative and used them to get ahead. He and his wife on getting married vowed they'd never ~~the~~ join a church till they found one they knew to be true (she came from a strong Catholic background, and he from a strong EV background). Rigo never was ashamed or tried to hide his convictions about the church or our visits to him. He ~~was~~ ~~is~~ has a family which is important in itself for qualification as the first member. Two boys who will be strong in the priesthood & serve on missions.

well that's it dance. You tell about the baptism & anything else you want. I'm out of room. Ask any questions you want to.

Later - Jay