

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF ELDER GARY A. MATHEWS

1. BRANCHES SERVED AS SENIOR COMPANION: Ezeiza; Rosario Centro; Olavarría.
2. The biggest modivator that I had in learning the Spanish language was when I found out that I was speaking and nobody was understanding me. This shook me at first but afterwards with the encouragement of my senior companions I was able to build a desire to learn spanish in order to speak well.
3. My biggest disappointment was that I came down to teach the gospel and at the beginning of my mission, I wasn't able to fulfill this goal for lack of contacts. Later I found that the contacts are all around us, but you have to work hard in order to teach any of them. The Lord has promised us the blessings but we have to show through hard work that we want them.
4. I feel that during my mission, I have received the supervision that I needed from the mission president. At the moment I needed an encouraging word, he was there. Also knowing that I couldn't hide anything from him, helped me to always do what was right.
5. My opinion of the present zone leader-district leader-missionary system is that it is the only way because it is hard to respect someone that isn't doing what you are but tries to tell you how to do it. My ideas on how to improve it is to help the leaderes in learning the way to help someone else and to create a warm spirit between the leader and the missionaries.
6. At the beginning of my mission, I was told that the lesson plan was inspired of the Lord and I believed it. Through my mission, I have given and seen lessons given word for word and in other ways. The results are always the same; the Spirit works when the missionary puts the plan in his mind and presents it in that form only.
7. I feel that the programs of the mission at the present time are all running fine
8. My personal opinion on companion relations is that they vary with each set of companions depending of the personality of each and as far as my personal experiences go there has never been any set thing to do.
9. From my personal experience as a branch president I have learn a few things that I thing would help someone else in that position. First and foremost he must remember that he is a missionary and that is calling, so he must do and think proselyting at all times. In his planning of the meetings, he must

be sure to have the meetings planned well so that the memberes will be spiritually uplifted so that they will have the desire to come to church; He should not try to radically change or even judge that someone has to change because he can't but the Church will do this naturally as the member progresses; but if he does visit the memberes, he must be sure to leave something that will help them spiritually. And last of all but just as important, he must learn to divide his time effectively to accomplish both jobs.

10. To choose onespecific instances of all the many spiritual moments that I have felt in the past two years would be hard if not impossible so I would like to mention a few things that I will always remember. As companion, working for the Lord includes three things: first, you must be in the Spirit or tune into the Lord; secondly you must through the first know what you are suppose to do; third, your companion must complete the first two also and then together you must work as a team with the Lord to work. During the past two years, when I had done these three steps, the Spirit of the Lord was always guiding us in order to teach, challenge and testify.

I will always remember the time that I was in the mission home and the spiritual meetings and talks we had as a family and with President Tuttle.

I will always remember the experiences of baptizing in Necococha in the ocean in the winter because it was test of faith of the new members.

I will always remember the companions and the differences and the changes that we made as companions.

In fact, I will remember the last two years my whole life not because they were the two best years but because they were two choiced years of working constantly under the guidance of the Lord.

I also want to thank you, President and Sister Strong, for the many many guiding counsel and love that you give us as missionaries and the example for us as servants of God.

My prayers will always be here in Argentina

love

Elder Gary A. Mathews