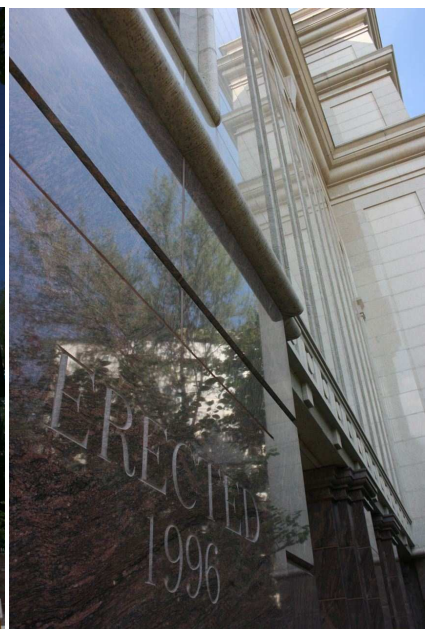
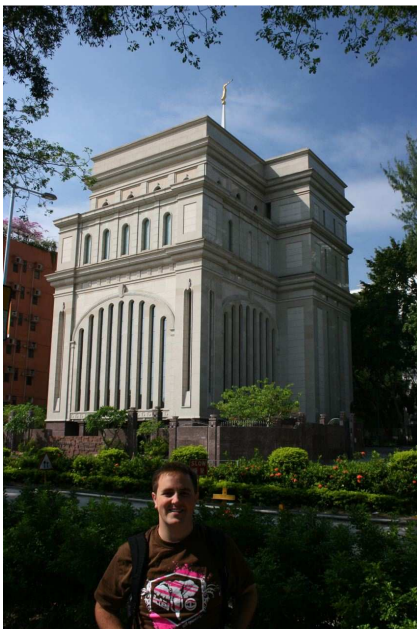
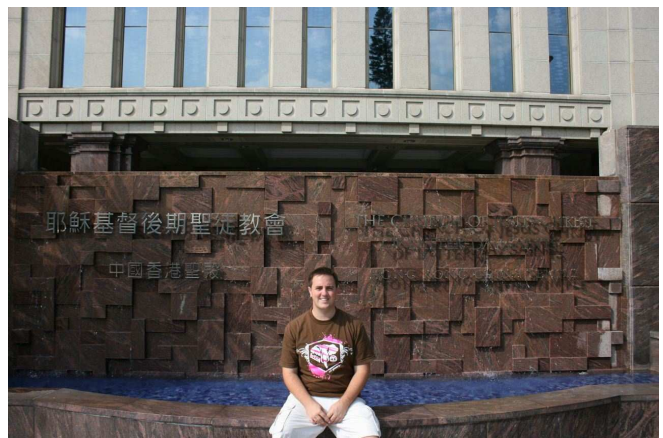
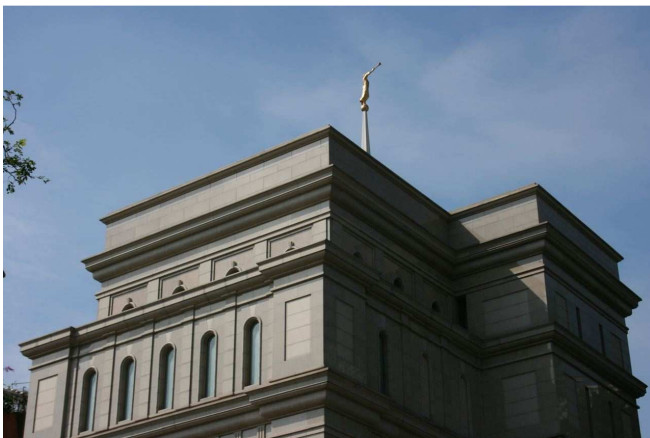


My last full day in Hong Kong turned into a scavenger hunt for Jeremie and I. Chris had gone to Beijing to meet a high school friend, Ann was at a golf class, and Monica had plans with some other friends she knew from her previous trips to Hong Kong. But there were still a few things that I needed to accomplish before leaving, including seeing the Church's Hong Kong Temple and going to the Church bookstore, sending post cards, and finding a recently released CD.

Rolling out of bed in the morning, we did not have much of a plan other than a to do list. First we really wanted to see the temple. Ann's apartment does not have Internet, so our first duty was to get Internet in order to get the address of the temple. After walking for a while and asking several people where we could find an Internet café, I remembered that we could have simply walked to the local chapel down the street from Ann's apartment and asked there; but at this point we had walked too far the other direction. After asking enough people, we were pointed to the library. Here we got the address we needed, grabbed a taxi and went to the temple.

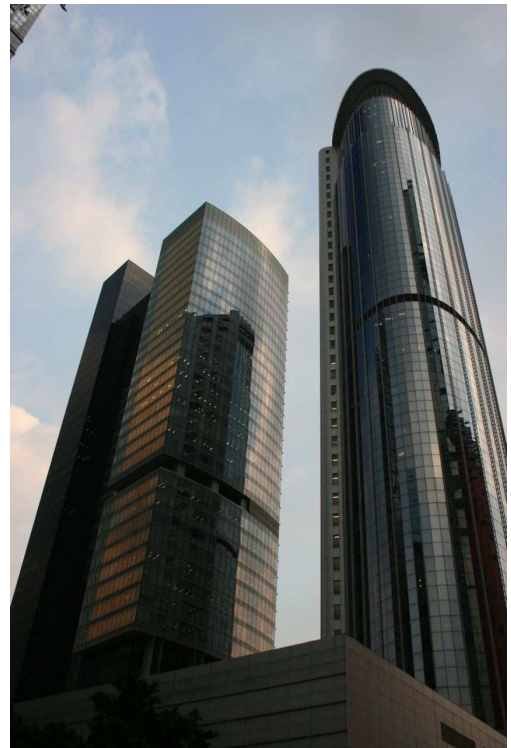


The Hong Kong Temple is beautiful! In the Kowloon District, buildings are not as tall, traffic is lighter, and life is not as hectic; at least compared to most of the city. There is little room for grand landscapes in Hong Kong, so this temple is not able to have the spacious gardens that some temples do. The property does its best though! Much of the ground floor, from the area within the walls leading to the entrance is beautifully landscaped with small trees, bushes, and flowers. The wall does a great job of keeping noise out from the street. There really is a special peace within this temple's walls to remind people they are now on God's property.

Here we got directions to the Church's distribution center. This trip took a lot longer than expected. After a 20 minute metro ride, we exited into a mall. This led to a bathroom break and some browsing. The good news with the browsing was that I got an address for a music store that had the CD I was looking for in stock. Leaving the mall in what we thought was the right direction got us lost for about 20 minutes. Eventually we were pointed in the right direction, which was the other side of the mall. But we finally made it there about an hour after we had planned. I found a hymnbook that had both Mandarin characters and pinyin. I can now sing in Chinese!

The next step of the day was to find a post office from where I could mail my postcards. This proved to be another task that took longer than anticipated. We were pointed in a general direction by a security guard and told it would be about a 20-minute walk. We lucked out and walked down the right street, but we could not find any signs for a post office. After wandering around the block we thought it should be in and asking a few more people, we learned that it was a couple of floors up in the building we were walking around. I also came to realize that post offices are for the locals, and the signage system is not meant to help tourists find them. The locals just know where these places are if they need to mail something. I got there just as they were closing, maybe a couple minutes too late. A man was cleaning up, and I showed him that I just had a few post cards to send. This friendly man relented on being closed and helped us get stamps on the cards and into the mailbag. He also brought us a customer comments card so I could thank him in a way that he would get recognition from his boss. I was glad to do this for him, but amused at the same time.

While searching for the post office, we noticed a mall called MegaBox that looked like it could have some fun things in it. Leaving the post office, we crossed the street to check it out. Inside were the usual stores, which really did not interest us, but there were long escalators going up we started taking. Eventually we got near the top and found a skating rink, movie theatre, and California Pizza kitchen! After watching the skaters for a few minutes and remisng on hockey while enjoying the cool air, we ordered pizzas for dinner. On the way out, we stopped at a large sports equipment store. Inside we were amused to find a massive bobble head of Yao Ming and a ruler indicating the heights of Yao and other famous basketball players such as Lebron James and



Allen Iverson. I learned that even if I stand on the tips of my toes, I am unable to reach the top of Yao's head. This humored me!

Leaving the mall, there were still two items on the to do list, my CD and silk pajamas that Jeremie wanted to buy for his wife. We took the metro to the station near the address I had been given earlier and found this music store and was glad to find the album still in stock, the new Sondre Lerche release. We then started late evening mall hopping that eventually took us back to Mong Kok. Unfortunately, the people of Hong Kong are not big fans of silk pajamas, and they proved nearly impossible to find.

The last mall we searched had what could be the world's longest escalators. In two sections, it takes about 5 minutes to go from the top to the bottom. Very cool!

By 11 the malls finally closed and the search for pajamas came to an end. But overall, it was a fun day. We had learned to navigate Hong Kong and this last day proved that we could take care of ourselves. If this was our final, Teacher Ann would be proud of our score!

