

Therefore I would that ye should be perfect even as I, or your Father who is in heaven is perfect.

Yesterday, being the first Sunday of the month is traditionally Fast & Testimony Meeting at church. Following the Sacrament, the remaining time of the meeting is an open floor for members in the congregation to stand up and share their testimony and beliefs. This was also my first Sunday at the international branch in Guangzhou. This is log contains a few of the thoughts on my mind during the meeting.

A couple days ago as Jeremie and I were talking about the exciting opportunity that we have this year in China, I reflected on what parts of my life I have lived in the various locations. The rough breakdown looks something like this:

- Fremont, CA – 1/2
- Tri-Cities, WA – 1/7
- BYU, Provo – 2/27
- Thailand – 2/27
- Jupiter, FL – 1/9
- Oregon – 1/27
- Hawaii – 1/27
- China 1/27

By the time I graduate, I will have spent nearly 1/9 of my life in Asia. Not only do I think is a great accomplishment, but I am brought to a great sense of gratitude to the Lord for the opportunity to have done so.

The culmination of all of these experiences has shown me in no uncertain terms the splendid handy-work of the Lord in creating this world for us, where we may have our learning opportunities and trials, and as Jesus counseled us, to “be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48, 3 Nephi 12:48) and to come unto Christ and be perfected in Him.

In each of these places I have seen new and great things and been forced to learn lessons that have made me a more complete person, which I believe the Lord was hoping for when commanding perfection – completing oneself.

However, even greater than the blessings I have received through simply seeing new places on a regular basis and having to leave the physical comfort zones in life’s next step, are the heaven-sent people I have met at each of my stops. Knowing the love that God has for us as His spirit children, proven through the condescension and life of Christ, I believe that his greatest work and what He takes the most pride in is the building of each one of us into more complete people. Whether I am in large Utah-like wards at BYU or in WA, wards full of people from all walks of life like in OR and HI, or the more remote places of the

world Church wise such as Thailand and China, the blessed common theme for me has been being surrounded by people with awe-inspiring testimonies and examples who have taken me under their loving wing and supported me along my journey toward fulfillment.

So, the point of this log for the website is to hopefully open a window or two for the reader on a number of things. I hope they would more perfectly understand the basic, yet profound blessing we are afforded through our heavenly granted life and each of the opportunities and trials that come our way. If we look around at the unique and special things of each place, we will see the handy-work of God. But more importantly, if we look at the good people we can be surrounded by, no matter where in the world we find ourselves, we will quickly realized the love that God has for each of us and hopefully the pride he has put into building up each of us into a fulfilled, completed, and perfect form of ourselves, ready for a glorious return to His presence. I hope you will find idea as inspiring as I do. Praise be to God.