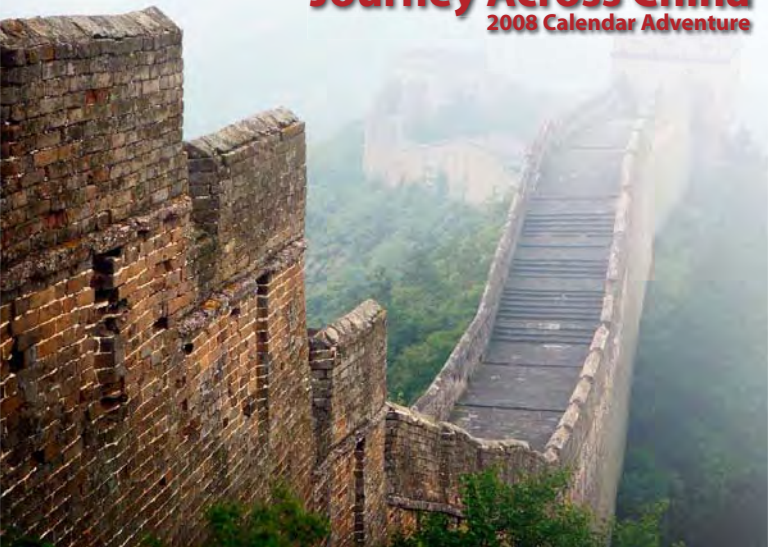


Journey Across China

2008 Calendar Adventure





A Tibetan Buddhist monk paces a large porch, reciting prayers and clapping ceremonially at the Kumbum Monastery near Xining, China.



January 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



The Great Wall of China stretches for thousands of miles across desert, plain, mountain, and rolling hill. Now this relic of ancient times serves as a monument to the human need for security.



February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Groundhog's Day
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18 President's Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	



Flocks of sheep and herds of yak surround their owners' tents on the Tibetan plateau. At an elevation of more than 10,000 feet, these are some of the highest pasture lands in the world.

March 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	St. Patrick's Day					
<u>23</u> 30	<u>24</u> 31	25	26	27	28	29
Palm Sunday Easter					Good Friday	



A brother and sister play outside their home in a small Qiang village near Maoxian. Ethnically a minority today, the Qiang history goes back nearly 5000 years. Some even consider them to be the first inhabitants of China and ancestors of the Koreans.

April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

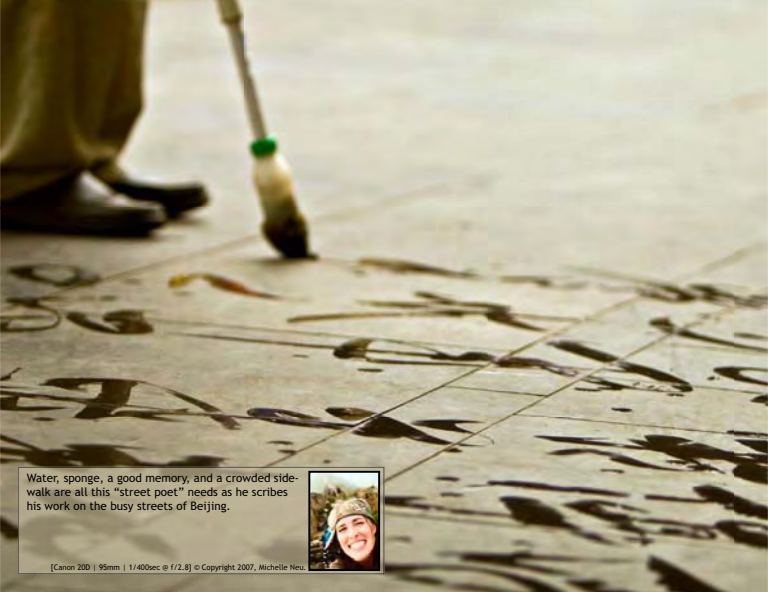


Pilgrims—young and old, rich and poor, male and female—gather to prostrate before the doors of the Jokhang Temple, the holiest site in Tibetan Buddhism.



May 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31



Water, sponge, a good memory, and a crowded sidewalk are all this "street poet" needs as he scribes his work on the busy streets of Beijing.



June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



Brightly colored prayer flags wave in the wind. Hung all over the Tibetan plateau, prayer flags are inscribed with traditional Buddhist prayers in the belief that every time the wind blows it sends the prayers winging up towards heaven.



July 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Canada Day	2	3	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Late afternoon approaches as this monk makes the trek from the temple to his home on top of the hill. As he passed by, I could hear him quietly reciting prayers to himself.

August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<u>24</u> 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

The setting sun lights up a summer storm in the A'ba region of northern Sichuan province. Human civilization in these valleys can be traced back to the fifteenth century B.C.



September 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



A middle-aged woman sits on the threshold of the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa, Tibet. In her hands she holds grain to be blessed and traditional prayer beads used to recite and count prayers.



October 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	



The smoke of worship wafts into the early morning mists at the Jokhang Temple in central Lhasa, Tibet. Thousands of worshippers and holy men arrive each morning with the rising of the sun.

November 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<u>23</u> 30	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29



A Muslim boy from Qinghai province in Western China catches sight of the camera outside the mosque. Every Friday, tens of thousands of Muslim men gather in this "Mecca of China."



December 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Christmas		
			New Year's Eve			



The Team in China

The Story

In August 2007 a group of friends embarked on a photographic expedition across China. Our mission—to photograph the religious heart and soul of China; to show Americans what China and the Chinese are really like. A month of living out of backpacks, traveling thousands of miles, eating the strangest foods, and sleeping wherever we happened to be, produced more than 20,000 images, a very small percentage of which we present to you here.

Sponsored by theaperture.com, this calendar is meant to whet your appetite for outstanding images that help you interact with the larger world. Most of us do not interact with Chinese nationals on a daily basis. Chances are good that you will never visit the country of China. You still have the ability to invest in the lives of Chinese people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For starters, you can pray. The people and places in this calendar are very dark spiritually, but God moves when His people pray.

Support a missionary. There are thousands of missionaries in China working with billions of people. In the words of one missionary, “You show up at the hospital [to visit someone] and the two ladies in the bed next to you need the gospel, and the whole hospital, and the whole city, and the whole country. It’s a little bit discouraging...” Get in contact with the missionaries in your life, whether in China or not, and find a practical way to express your love and appreciation to them.

Live out your faith. When our faith makes a difference in the way we live, our faith also makes a difference in the world around us. Your faith, at work in someone else’s life, just might start a chain reaction that carries around the world!

It is my hope that this calendar is both a blessing and a challenge to you!

Rowan Gillson
theaperture.com

P.S. You can learn more about these pictures and experience more amazing people and places by visiting theaperture.com!