

Greg Mortenson (bio as of February 2010)

Greg Mortenson is co-founder of the nonprofit Central Asia Institute (www.ikat.org), Pennies For Peace (www.penniesforpeace.org), and co-author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Three Cups of Tea* (www.threecupsoftea.com). The book has sold over 3.6 million copies, been published in 41 countries, and a *New York Times* bestseller for over three years since its 2007 release. In addition, it was selected as *Time Magazine's* Asia Book of The Year.

Mortenson's new book, *Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan*, was released by Viking in December 2009 and debuted as #2 on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

As of 2010, Mortenson has established over 131 schools in rural and often volatile regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan, which provide education to over 58,000 children, including 48,000 girls, where few education opportunities existed before.

In 2009, Mortenson received Pakistan's highest civil award, Sitara-e-Pakistan ("Star of Pakistan") for his humanitarian effort to promote girls education in rural areas for fifteen years.

Several bi-partisan U.S. Congressional representatives have nominated Mortenson twice for the Nobel Peace Prize in both 2009 and 2010.

Mortenson was born in 1957, and grew up on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania (1958–1973). His father, Dempsey, founded Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) (www.kcmc.ac.tz) a hospital, and his mother, Jerene, founded the International School Moshi.

He served in the U.S. Army in Germany (1977–1979), where he received the Army Commendation Medal, and later graduated from the University of South Dakota in 1983.

In July 1992, Mortenson's sister Christa died from a massive seizure after a lifelong struggle with epilepsy on the eve of a trip to visit Dysersville, Iowa, where the baseball movie, *Field of Dreams*, was filmed in a cornfield.

To honor his sister's memory, in 1993, Mortenson climbed Pakistan's K2, the world's second-highest mountain, located in the Karakoram range.

While recovering from the climb in a village called Korphe, Mortenson met a group of children sitting in the dirt writing with sticks in the sand, and made a promise to help them build a school.

From that rash promise, grew a humanitarian campaign, in which Mortenson has dedicated his life to promote education, especially for girls, in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

His work has not been without difficulty. In 1996, he survived an eight-day armed kidnapping by the Taliban in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province tribal areas, and in 2003 escaped a firefight with feuding Afghan warlords by hiding for eight hours under putrid animal hides in a

truck going to a leather-tanning factory. He has overcome two fatwehs from enraged Islamic mullahs, endured CIA investigations, and received threats from fellow Americans after 9/11 for helping Muslim children with education.

Mortenson is a living hero to rural communities of Afghanistan and Pakistan, where he has gained the trust of Islamic leaders, military and militia commanders, government officials and tribal chiefs from his tireless effort to champion education, especially for girls.

He is one of few foreigners who has worked for sixteen years (over 74 months in the field) in rural villages where few foreigners go, and considered the 'front lines' of the 'war on terror'

TV newscaster Tom Brokaw calls Mortenson "one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, who is really changing the world."

Congresswoman Mary Bono (Rep-CA) says, "I've learned more from Greg Mortenson about the root causes of terrorism than I did during all our briefings on Capitol Hill. He is a true hero, who exemplifies the true ideals of the American spirit."

In addition to his advocacy for female literacy and education, Mortenson is an advocate for the global abolishment of the manufacture and usage of landmines, and actively campaigns for the U.S. to join the 158 countries that have already signed an anti-landmine pact.

While not overseas for half of the year, Mortenson, 52, lives in Montana with his wife, Dr. Tara Bishop, a clinical psychologist, and their two young children.

MILITARY

Admiral Mullen has advised senior U.S. military commanders to read *Three Cups of Tea*. It is mandatory reading for officers in the Norwegian War College, *Forsvarsnett*, U.S. Special Forces deploying to Afghanistan, U.S. Marines training at MARSOC Camp Lejeune, officers in counter-insurgency training, and Canadian Defense Ministry members.

The book has been read by General David Petraeus, CENTCOM Commander; Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff; Admiral Eric Olson, SOCOM Special Forces commander; General McKiernan; and several other U.S. military commanders who advocate empowering elders and building relationships as a part of an overall strategic plan.

Mortenson has met with groups at SOCOM, MARSOC, NORAD the CSF at the Naval War College, Naval Postgraduate School, Naval Air Command, NORAD, and has been to the Air Force, Naval and West Point Academies. Annually, he voluntarily visits about one to two dozen military bases, without charge or honorarium to help troops deploying to Afghanistan understand cultural issues, tribal etiquette and the nuances of tribal warfare.

He has also met several times with most senior military U.S. commanders to help advise and brief them on issues related to cultural understanding and tribal etiquette in Pakistan and Afghanistan. These include General David Petraeus, CENTCOM commander; Admiral Eric Olson, SOCOM Special Forces Commander; Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chief

of Staff; General Conway, Commander of U.S. Marine Corps; General Stanley McChrystal, Commander of International Security Assistance Force and Commander of Afghanistan; Major General John Macdonald, Deputy Commander of Afghanistan; and several other military commanders.

AWARDS

1975 US Army Commendation medal
1998 David Brower Conservation Award—American Alpine Club
2002 Peacemaker Award—Montana Community Mediation Center
2003 "Golden Piton Award" for humanitarian effort—*Climbing Magazine*
2003 Vincent Lombardi Champion Award for humanitarian service
2003 Peacemaker of the Year—Benedictine Monks, Santa Fe, NM
2003 Outdoor Person of the Year—*Outdoors Magazine*
2003 Salzburg Seminar fellow—sponsored by Microsoft
2004 Freedom Forum "Free Spirit Award"—National Press Club, Washington D.C.
2004 Jeanette Rankin Peace Award—Institute for Peace
2005 *Men's Journal* "Anti-Terror" Award by Senator John McCain
2005 Red Cross "Humanitarian of The Year"—Montana
2006 Golden Fleur-de-lis Award—Comune di Firenze, Italy
2007 Medical Education Hall of Fame Award—Toledo, OH
2007 Rotary International Paul Harris Award for promoting friendly relations among people
2007 Mountain Institute Award for Excellence in Mountain Community Service
2008 National Award for Citizen Diplomacy—Citizen Center for Diplomacy
2008 Courage of Conscience Award—The Peace Abbey, Sherborn, MA
2008 Graven Award—Wartburg College, IA
2008 National Award for Citizen Diplomacy—Citizen Center for Diplomacy
2008 Academy of Achievement Award
2008 Sword of Loyola—St. Louis University
2009 Sitara-e-Pakistan, "Star of Pakistan", (Pakistan's highest civilian award)
2008 Mary Lockwood Founders Medal for Education—Daughters of the American Revolution
2009 Archon Award - Sigma Theta Tau International (Nursing Award)
2009 National Education Association NEA – Human Rights Award
2009 Austin College Leadership Award for promoting education issues for peace—Sherman, TX
2009 City College San Francisco Amicus Collegii Award for promoting peace through education
2009 Jefferson Award for Community Service—Harvard Kennedy School of Business
2009 *U.S. News & World Report*: America's Best Twenty Leaders
2010 Toronto School District Peace Award—Canada

HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREES

2007 Concordia College, Moorhead, MN
2007 University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 2007
2008 Montana State University, MT
2008 Villanova University, PA
2008 University of San Francisco, CA
2008 University of Washington, Bothell, WA

2008 Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR
2008 Seattle University, WA
2009 Colby College, Waterville, ME
2009 Simmons College, Boston, MA
2009 St. Louis University, MO
2010 University of Pennsylvania, PA
2010 Brookdale College, Lincroft, NJ

THREE CUPS OF TEA—AWARDS AND MENTIONS

2006 *Time* magazine Asia Book of the Year
2006 *People* magazine—Critic's Choice
2006 *Publishers Weekly*—starred review
2006 *Kirkus Reviews*—starred review
2006 Borders Bookstore Original Voices Selection
2007 Banff Mountain Festival Book Award Finalist
2007 Kiriyama Prize Nonfiction Award
2007 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Nonfiction Award
2008 Montana Honor Book Award
2008 Dayton Literary Prize Nonfiction Award—runner-up
2009 Author of the Year—Mom's Choice Awards
2009 Gambrinus Giuseppe Mazzotti Literary Prize (Italy)

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Book tour, reviews and media on (www.threecupsoftea.com)
Central Asia Institute website (www.ikat.org)
Pennies For Peace website (www.penniesforpeace.org)
Stones into Schools website (www.stonesintoschools.com)

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