



CAMELOT BOOK CLUB



Volume XII Issue 6

Lake Cypress Springs, Texas

June 2009

THREE CUPS OF TEA

***(One Man's Mission to Promote
Peace... One School at a Time)***

by Greg Mortenson and
David Oliver Relin

“This is the true story of an incredible man, a mountaineer, named Greg Mortenson. Mortenson and co-author David Oliver Relin bring the reader to the foot of K2 the second highest peak in the world, and into a village so isolated from everything that there doesn't even exist a bridge to connect them to the world beyond the raging river that flows from the glacier fields. There Mortenson introduces us to children so eager to learn they work multiplication tables in the dirt without benefit of a teacher or books.

“How does this man, so grateful to the people who saved his life, repay them? One school at a time. It's a truly inspirational story of what any of us, including a kid born in Minnesota, can do to change the world. Mortenson shows us how one dedicated person can make a difference.”

Our hero is the son of Lutheran missionaries. Some of his attributes are typical of what it takes to be a mountain-climber - especially climbing the towering and ominous K2 - obsession, perseverance, and lack of concern for personal needs.

Seeing the great need for education in the surrounding mid-eastern countries, Mortenson dedicated himself to building schools where there were none. As he went about his task, he braved the most primitive and dangerous conditions, working with local people and the most crude equipment, limited

finances and great personal sacrifice. He even had to leave his wife and children behind most of the time. The reader can only stand in awe of his accomplishments, and be inspired by his dedication.

(Ed. note: Some of the above is quoted from readers' reviews on Amazon.com.)

Notes from Camelot's Book Discussion

- ◆ He was a dreamer, and very naive.
- ◆ He left his family to follow his dreams.
- ◆ The book gave us a whole new look at Pakistan.
- ◆ Mortenson was a bit strange, an obsessive personality, mountain-climber.
- ◆ Couldn't believe kids would be so hungry for knowledge that they would write in the dirt to learn multiplication.
- ◆ Hardships of no bath, bed, toothbrush, didn't affect Mortenson at all.
- ◆ He carried lots of money on his person in his travels, never worried about having it taken from him.
- ◆ The story started out story-like, then changed to reporter style.

NEXT MEETING

When? Friday, July 17, 2009, 1:30p.

Where? At Margaret Oesch's house.

Why? To have fun, and to discuss our selections, to be chosen by each reader.

CAMELOT COMMENTS on *Three Cups of Tea...*

- I learned at least 2 things. 1) Islam (Muslim) doesn't mean "terrorism". and 2) for Mortensen, no good deed goes unpunished. I got a lot out of the book - very inspiring.
- Each person can do his part to help make the world a better place. Mortensen was selfless.
- I'm so glad I read the book - feel like I am a better person for having read it.
- Enjoyed learning about that part of the world. We hear about it a lot. Mortensen had a unique personality.
- Remember "one more drop in the ocean". Understand what the people want.
- Loved the book. I admire him for his mission in life.
- Really liked the book. About Mother Theresa, just the fact that he had to pay his respects to her says a lot about him.
- The history is fascinating. And not only did he do good work, but it changed him, too.
- Listening to how you all enjoyed the book - I hope it helped everyone. :-)
- He was a dreamer with a passion and the willingness to carry it out. I so admire him. If we could all meet people of the world face-to-face, I believe we could do away with war.

MEETING NOTES

We met at Gwen Nelson's house and were greeted by three beautiful cups for tea which the creative Gwen had placed on a table near the front door. We were all so glad to see each other, and had lots to catch up on before we started our book discussion.

It's always fun to hear of former neighbors and Camelot members, and we were delighted to hear the news that Luann Van Winckel found the perfect house to buy after a seemingly fruitless search. And, it is a house that Rip had built and lived in! We also had an update on recent visits to El Dorado Bay by Etta Harvey and Dorothy Frazier.

We heard funny stories and some joke-telling about "Bless his heart", "That'sa nice" and what that really means after you've been to Charm School. Topics also on our conversational menu were toe fungus (try vinegar), dog vomit, and the magic of hydrogen peroxide. Life is never dull at Camelot.

CAMELOT BOOK CLUB IS GREAT

