



R & R

Rough & Ready



DECEMBER 2010

HOLIDAYS ON THE HOMEFRONT

HOLIDAY GIFT SUGGESTION:

Three Cups of Tea:

One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...

by Greg Mortenson and David Relin

www.amazon.com



Afghanistan, Anyone!

When American mountaineer Greg Mortenson returned from an unsuccessful attempt to climb K2, the world's second tallest mountain, he was seriously ill. For seven weeks he was cared for in the Pakistani village of Korphe.

In return, he promised to build the town's first school, a project that grew into the Central Asia Institute, which has constructed 50 schools in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. With co-author David Relin, his book, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time*, was awarded the 2007 Kiriama Prize for nonfiction.

In the book, Mortenson tells how to befriend people in the villages. His advice is now entwined with U.S. strategic thinking in Afghanistan. This year, General Stanley McChrystal reached out to Mortenson and sought advice on overcoming mistrust of Afghan villagers. The book took on more importance after new commander General David Petraeus, whose wife urged him to read the book, reaffirmed Mortenson's advice and McChrystal's doctrine.

The phrase "three cups of tea" is shorthand for any leisurely, trust-building chat with locals. Its central theme is from a Baltistan proverb. "The first time you share tea with a Balti, you are a stranger. The second time, you are an honored guest. The third time, you become family." The stories of unlikely friendships will touch your heart.

With its inspirational tone and idealistic worldview, "Three Cups" would not seem to be a primer of military counterinsurgency. But when one bulky-clad armored infantryman asks another, as he emerges from a mud-brick home, "Did you have your three cups of tea?" the message is clear. Other advice includes such matters as, "Take off your sunglasses."

Kudos to the Babes

The mall Santa Claus was surprised when a young lady walked up and sat on his lap, smiling nicely.

Although he had never taken a request from an adult, he asked, "And what do you want Santa to bring you for Christmas?"

"Something for my mother, please," the young lady said.

"Something for your mother? That's very thoughtful of you." The Santa smiled. "What do you want me to bring her?"

Without blinking, she replied, "A son-in-law!"

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According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summertime, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers until after they give birth in the spring.

Therefore, according to every historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a female.

We should've known. Only women would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.

*

Recently, a man entered the bus with both of his front pockets full of golf balls he had gotten as an early Christmas present. He sat down next to a beautiful young blonde.

She kept looking at him and his bulging pockets.

Noticing her staring, finally the man said, "It's golf balls".

Unable to contain her curiosity any longer, she asked, "Does it hurt as much as tennis elbow?"

A Christmas Message

So many beautiful words are woven into our Christmas carols and cards... words like love, peace and joy.

As we celebrate the holiday this year, we hope to build a world where all people learn to care about one another and to live in harmony, a world where our children will know true joy, and where our hopes for peace, freedom and prosperity are realized.

While we celebrate the holidays, we hold our sons and daughters in the Armed Forces close to our hearts. We are grateful for their service.

Though Christians celebrate the Nativity on Christmas Day, the holiday is a chance to extend good wishes for joy, peace and fulfillment for all people, regardless of their religion, or whether they view Christmas as a religious or secular holiday.

***Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
to you and yours!***

Our holiday gift to you!

We considered using the photo of a few public figures we could think of for you to use for target practice; but, upon reconsideration we didn't think that would be sending the appropriate message for the holidays.

So... on the reverse side of this newsletter is our gift to you - a pin-up of Rocket Girl for your locker, footlocker, or wherever. Enjoy!

AT EASE!

Santa Snickers

***If you see a fat man
who's jolly and cute,
Wearing a beard
and a red flannel suit,
And if he is chuckling
and laughing away,
While flying around
in a miniature sleigh
With eight tiny reindeer
to pull him along ...
your eggnog's too strong.***

