

GREAT PEACEMAKERS

TRUE STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Ken Beller and Heather Chase

Endorsed by
3 Presidents and 3 Nobel Peace Prize Winners

GREAT PEACEMAKERS

True Stories from Around the World

Ken Beller and Heather Chase

 LTS Press

Copyright © 2008 by Ken Beller and Heather Chase

Published by:  Press
P.O. Box 4165
Sedona, Arizona 86340

All rights reserved. The text of this publication, or any part thereof, may not be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission from the publisher. Photo of Rachel Carson on page 141 used by permission of Frances Collin, Trustee.

Printed in the United States of America.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2006910059
Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Beller, Ken.

Great peacemakers : true stories from around the world / Ken Beller and Heather Chase

v p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 978-1-4243-2355-5

1. Biography 2. History 3. Sociology I. Chase, Heather II. Title.

Book design and composition by Steve Hansen



This book is a Certified CarbonFree™ Product through a partnership between Carbonfund.org and LTS Press. All the carbon emissions associated with the publication of this book: paper production, printing process, and shipping have been offset with reforestation and renewable energy.

Carbonfund.org is a non-profit organization that reduces the threat of climate change by making it easy and affordable for any individual or business to reduce their carbon footprint to zero and support climate-friendly projects. Go to Carbonfund.org and learn how you can make an environmental difference today.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ix

INTRODUCTION xi

PART ONE

CHOOSING NONVIOLENCE 1

1. Henry David Thoreau: *Living Deliberately* 3

2. Mahatma Gandhi: *Nonviolent Resistance* 11

3. Martin Luther King, Jr.: *Daring to Dream* 19

4. Anderson Sá: *An Instrument of Change* 27

PART TWO

LIVING PEACE 35

5. Mother Teresa: *Love in Action* 37

6. Thich Nhat Hanh: *Being Peace* 45

7. Colman McCarthy: *Teaching Peace* 53

8. Oscar Arias: *“Us” Refers to All of Humankind* 61

PART THREE

HONORING DIVERSITY 69

9. Bruno Hussar: *Interfaith Harmony* 71

10. Desmond Tutu: *All Belong* 79

11. Riane Eisler: *Partnership, Not Domination* 87

12. The Dalai Lama: *Universal Compassion* 95

PART FOUR

VALUING ALL LIFE	103
13. Henry Salt: <i>The Creed of Kinship</i>	105
14. Albert Schweitzer: <i>Reverence for Life</i>	113
15. Astrid Lindgren: <i>A Voice for the Voiceless</i>	121
16. Jane Goodall: <i>Realizing Our Humanity</i>	129

PART FIVE

CARING FOR THE PLANET	137
17. Rachel Carson: <i>The Balance of Nature</i>	139
18. David Suzuki: <i>Redefining Progress</i>	147
19. Nader Khalili: <i>Sustainable Community</i>	155
20. Wangari Maathai: <i>Planting Seeds of Peace</i>	163
CONCLUSION	171
BIBLIOGRAPHY	173
INDEX	185
PHOTO CREDITS	193
ABOUT THE AUTHORS	195

INTRODUCTION

It is said that the choices we make determine the lives we lead. In this book, you will meet twenty inspiring individuals who have made peace their choice in life—from a Vietnamese monk to a Brazilian musician, from a Swedish children’s author to an Iranian-American architect.

This work represents five years of diligent research and writing that, for us, was a labor of love. Our aim in creating it was to help promote peace by showcasing true-life stories of people who have successfully cultivated peace in a variety of ways. During this process, we were continually amazed by the passion and perseverance shown by these people as they created meaningful social change, and we are excited to share their stories with you.

One of the challenges we faced in writing this book was choosing which peacemakers to profile. After considering many hundreds of peacemakers, we compiled a database of more than two hundred and fifty candidates, taking into account the following questions:

1. Does the person have a strong commitment to nonviolence?
2. Was the person born after 1800? (Peacemakers from relatively recent history were chosen so that readers could better relate to them.)
3. Is enough information about the person available in English to write a complete chapter?
4. Is there a book (preferably an autobiography), film, or organization to consult for more information about the person’s life?

Studying this database, we noticed that five paths to peace emerged, which we named choosing nonviolence, living peace, honoring diversity, valuing all life, and caring for the planet.

We decided to organize the book into these five paths, and narrowed the list to four peacemakers per path, striving for an overall balance of race, nationality, religion, gender, age, and level of fame. We also condensed each peacemaker's life story into just five pages to highlight the overall theme of each person's life and not bury it in too much detail.

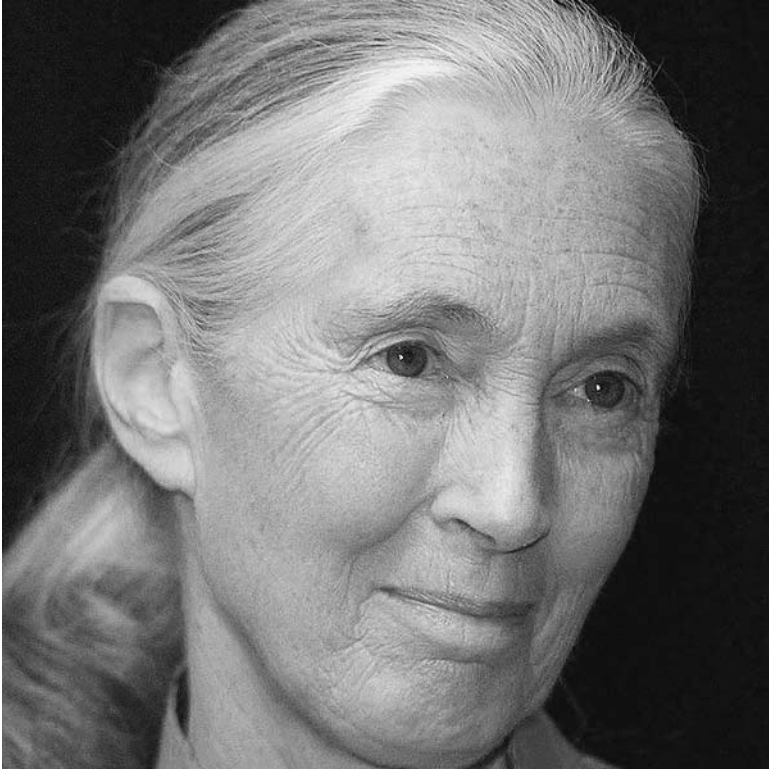
Although others may have chosen differently, we believe this collection represents a rich variety of peacemakers and approaches to peacemaking. Since this book lends itself well to sequels, peacemakers not featured in this edition may be included in future editions.

Whether you are a parent looking for positive role models for your children, an educator seeking thought-provoking material for your students, or simply a person wanting an uplifting read, we hope you enjoy reading this book as much as we enjoyed writing it.

If you would like to use this book in a group setting, we offer study guides for book clubs, service clubs, faith-based groups, middle- and high school classes, and college/university classes. They are available at our Web site, www.GreatPeacemakers.com.

Jane Goodall

Realizing Our Humanity



Living in the Tanzanian forest for more than twenty-five years, English ethnologist Dr. Jane Goodall made discoveries about chimpanzees that rocked the scientific world and blurred the line between humans and animals. Today, Goodall has traded the forest for the concrete jungle. Traveling more than three hundred days each year, she tirelessly urges people everywhere to realize their most exceptional trait—their humanity—and treat all living creatures, including humans, with greater kindness and respect.

In London, England in 1934, Valerie Jane Morris-Goodall was born to parents who early on saw her fascination with nature and animals. Growing up, Goodall loved exploring the garden, playing with her dog, and climbing her favorite tree, where she immersed herself in reading tales of adventure. Collecting the entire *Tarzan* series, she dreamed of someday going to Africa, studying animals, and writing books about them.

Goodall held onto her dream through the trying years of World War II and her parents' divorce. Because her now-single mother could not pay for Goodall to go to college, let alone Africa, she suggested that Goodall become a secretary so that she could work practically anywhere in the world. Agreeing, Goodall worked in London until one day when she received an invitation from a friend, who now living with her parents in Kenya, invited Goodall to come for a visit. Elated, Goodall immediately moved home, saved every penny she could for the ship fare, and in 1957 set sail. Goodall remembered, "I was twenty-three years old, and I was leaving all that I knew—my home, my family, my country." She continued, "But I don't remember anything except a feeling of absolute amazement. It was actually happening. I was sailing off to Africa"

Once in Africa, Goodall met anthropologist Dr. Louis Leakey, who hired her as his secretary and eventually invited her to do a study of wild chimpanzees. Although Goodall was not a scientist, Leakey believed that her innate curiosity and patience were exactly what was required for the study. Thrilled, Goodall read everything she could about chimpanzees while Leakey sought funding for the project. Once funding was received, Goodall traveled to what is now Tanzania's Gombe Stream National Park and, at age twenty-six, ventured into the forest in search of the great apes.

Right away, Goodall broke fundamental rules of scientific research. Instead of giving her subjects numbers, she gave them names. Instead of being coldly objective, she empathized with her

subjects. After nearly sixteen months of diligent observation, in 1961 Goodall witnessed something that would turn the scientific world upside down. Until then, it was believed that only humans made and used tools. However, Goodall saw two chimpanzees, which she named David Greybeard and Goliath, pulling leaves from plant stalks, inserting the bare stalks into termite mounds, and eating the termites that crawled onto the stalks. Chimpanzees were making and using tools! “I’m not the first person to have seen that,” Goodall pointed out, “Lots of Africans had seen it. But I was the first scientist to report it.” Shocking the scientific world, Goodall’s discovery blurred the line between humans and animals, forcing scientists to redefine tool, redefine human, or accept chimpanzees as human. The discovery attracted additional funding, particularly from the National Geographic Society, which allowed the research to continue while Goodall earned a Ph.D. from Cambridge University in ethology, the study of the behavior of animals in their natural habitat.



Goodall observing chimpanzees.

When Goodall returned to the forest, chimpanzees began gradually accepting her, a trend led by Greybeard, who was the first to trust her enough to approach her. One afternoon, sitting near Greybeard, Goodall noticed a ripe piece of fruit on the ground. She picked it up and offered it to him. He took the fruit and let it fall to the ground, but gently held onto her hand, giving her the sense that, although he did not want the fruit, he appreciated the offer. For a wild chimpanzee to voluntarily choose to hold her hand was a truly moving experience that made Goodall’s bond with animals even stronger.

In 1964, Goodall married filmmaker Hugo van Lawick and they had a son. Unfortunately, the couple grew apart and after ten years they divorced. Shortly thereafter, Goodall married the director of Tanzania's national parks, Derek Bryceson, in 1975.

Later that year, armed rebels raided Goodall's camp and kidnapped four of her students for ransom. Fortunately, after the ransom was paid, the hostages were returned. Deeply disturbed by this incident, Goodall questioned why humans display such aggressive behavior, whereas, chimpanzees display more peaceful behavior. However, when a series of brutal attacks, even cannibalism, broke out among the chimpanzees, Goodall reconsidered the nature of violence in both species. She concluded that, although both were capable of both peaceful and violent behavior, chimpanzees probably could not override their violent impulses, whereas, with their advanced brains, humans could—if they chose to do so.

Goodall's research was placed on hold when, in 1980, her husband was diagnosed with terminal cancer and passed away. Sorrow gripped the young widow and one day, seeking solace, she entered the forest, not to study the chimpanzees, but simply to be with them. Sitting among them as a storm cleared gave Goodall a sense of peace that helped her to carry on.

Returning to work, Goodall compiled her decades-long research into a book, *The Chimpanzees of Gombe*. While celebrating its release at a conference in Chicago, Illinois, Goodall learned of threats facing chimpanzees outside Gombe. She was alarmed to learn that, around the world, chimpanzees were suffering in painful laboratory experiments; they were being hunted for food and captured for the live animal trade; and their habitats were being destroyed at startling rates. Immediately, Goodall launched a global campaign to save her beloved chimpanzees. She said, "I came out of that conference and from that time on, from October, 1986, I haven't spent more than three weeks in one place."

To verify what she had heard, Goodall personally toured a laboratory that conducted experiments on chimpanzees (whose DNA differs from humans' by slightly more than 1%). Wearing a mask to prevent the transfer of germs to the chimpanzees, Goodall entered a windowless room of concrete and steel. There, she met one of approximately three hundred chimpanzees at the facility, an adult male named JoJo. Taken from the wild, JoJo had been placed in a cage five feet square and seven feet tall and his body was rented to pharmaceutical companies for testing drugs and vaccines. JoJo had been living this way for at least ten years—years that Goodall sensed were filled with sheer boredom interrupted only by moments of fear and pain. Slowly, Goodall knelt down in front of JoJo's cage and looked into his brown eyes, recalling, "JoJo had committed no crime, yet he was imprisoned, for life. The shame I felt because I was human." She continued, "Very gently JoJo reached out through the bars and touched my cheek where the tears ran down into my mask."

Since then, Goodall has called for an end to the testing of cosmetics and household products on animals, a reduction in the number of animals used in medical experiments, and the development of non-animal alternatives such as tissue cultures, computer simulation, and *in vitro* testing. When critics object to her position on these issues, Goodall explains that, to save her mother's life, doctors implanted a pig valve in her mother's heart. The valve was taken from a commercially slaughtered pig, but the procedure was developed with pigs in laboratories. Goodall feels truly grateful to the pigs for this and wants to do what she can to improve conditions for animals like them, both in the labs and on the farms, and to support alternatives so that no more animals will need to be used for such procedures in the future.

As for animals in the wild, Goodall oversees conservation programs through her Jane Goodall Institute. Recognizing that helping wildlife and helping people go hand in hand, the Institute uses

what it terms Community-Centered Conservation, which gives people alternatives to hunting or selling wild animals or chopping down forests to survive. For example, in Africa the institute employs local people to staff its sanctuaries for orphaned chimpanzees, buys all food for the sanctuaries from local markets, and helps local people develop sustainable small businesses. Further, to inspire children and

teens to value all life, Goodall developed the Roots & Shoots global program for youth. Active in more than ninety-four countries to date, Roots & Shoots teaches



Goodall reading letters from students.

young people that “peace means caring for people, animals, and the environment, and realizing that your actions have effects on all living things.” Reminding participants of this message, Roots & Shoots offers an acronym for PEACE: “P” for people, “E” for environment, “A” for animals, “C” for care, and “E” for effects.

Dame of the British Empire and a United Nations Messenger of Peace, Goodall travels more than three hundred days each year, working tirelessly toward a day when animals like Greybeard, JoJo, and all beings will be treated with respect. A recipient of the Gandhi/King Award for Nonviolence and the French Legion d’Honneur, Dr. Jane Goodall believes, “If only we can overcome cruelty, to human and animal, with love and compassion we shall stand at the threshold of a new era in human moral and spiritual evolution—and realize, at last, our most unique quality: humanity.”

The Words of Dr. Jane Goodall

“I do believe we can look forward to a world in which our great-grandchildren and their children after them can live in peace. A world in which there will still be trees and chimpanzees swinging through them, and blue sky and birds singing It is up to *us* to save the world for tomorrow; it’s up to you and me.”

“The trouble is that we suffer—all of us—from *just me-ism*. ‘I am just one person. What I do, or don’t do, can’t possibly make any difference. So why should I bother?’... Think how it would be if we could turn that around—thousands and millions and billions of people all knowing that what they do *does* make a difference.”

“We cannot live through a day without impacting the world around us—and we have a choice: What sort of impact do we want to make?”

“We have a chance to use the gift of our lives to make the world a better place.”

“It can be very simple: we can make a sad or lonely person smile; we can make a miserable dog wag his tail or a cat purr; we can give water to a little wilting plant. We cannot solve all the problems of the world, but we can often do something about the problems under our noses.”

"Powerful, well researched and, above all, timely, *Great Peacemakers* should be required reading for the youth of the world."

—Dr. Oscar Arias, Nobel Peace Prize recipient and former president of Costa Rica

"I feel so very blessed to have read *Great Peacemakers*. Yes, blessed indeed."

—Betty Williams, president and founder,
World Centers of Compassion for Children International and Nobel Peace Prize recipient

"I should like to congratulate the authors of *Great Peacemakers* on the contribution they have made to our understanding of the authors and mechanics of peacemaking."

—F. W. de Klerk, Nobel Peace Prize recipient and former president of South Africa

"Not all of these peacemakers speak explicitly about human rights, but if you observe carefully you will see how important the values of human rights are to their motivation, to their approach, and to their persistence in the name of peace!"

—Mary Robinson, fmr. president of Ireland and fmr. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

"*Great Peacemakers* is an outstanding collection of pen portraits of people whose lives must inspire future generations."

—Dr. Arun Gandhi, cofounder, the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence

"*Great Peacemakers* is an important contribution to the growing literature on peace rather than war."

—Dr. Riane Eisler, author, *The Chalice and the Blade* and *The Real Wealth of Nations*

"A truly inspiring book If you have ever thought you couldn't make a difference in this world, just read this book."

—Dr. Madelyn Blair, cofounder, The Center for the Study of Peace

"This is must reading for peace educators who hope to empower their students toward global and civic action for peace."

—Tony Jenkins, codirector, Peace Education Center at Teachers College, Columbia University

"School counselors, teachers, and other educators will find this book to be invaluable for helping the youth of today become the responsible adults of tomorrow."

—Kwok-Sze Wong, executive director, American School Counselor Association