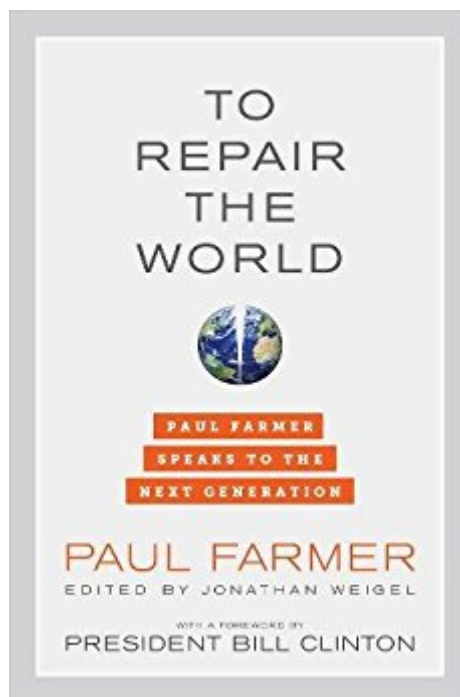




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# **To Repair The World: Paul Farmer Speaks To The Next Generation (California Series In Public Anthropology)**



## Synopsis

Here, for the first time, is a collection of short speeches by the charismatic doctor and social activist Paul Farmer. One of the most passionate and influential voices for global health equity and social justice, Farmer encourages young people to tackle the greatest challenges of our times. Engaging, often humorous, and always inspiring, these speeches bring to light the brilliance and force of Farmer's vision in a single, accessible volume. A must-read for graduates, students, and everyone seeking to help bend the arc of history toward justice, *To Repair the World*; Challenges readers to counter failures of imagination that keep billions of people without access to health care, safe drinking water, decent schools, and other basic human rights; Champions the power of partnership against global poverty, climate change, and other pressing problems today; Overturns common assumptions about health disparities around the globe by considering the large-scale social forces that determine who gets sick and who has access to health care; Discusses how hope, solidarity, faith, and hardbitten analysis have animated Farmer's service to the poor in Haiti, Peru, Rwanda, Russia, and elsewhere; Leaves the reader with an uplifting vision: that with creativity, passion, teamwork, and determination, the next generations can make the world a safer and more humane place.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Paul Farmer's deserved fame as global health expert, medical anthropologist, and

advocate for the poor and the marginal centers on his moral commitment to doing good in the world and on the extraordinary influence of his personal call to a generation of young men and women to make the same remarkable commitment. Here are the words, the stories, the passion, the humor, the humanity; vulnerable and powerful; that constitute Paul's magic. Here is Paul at those special moments when we want and need a moral exemplar, calling us to do what good we can for those who have nothing, who are broken, who are left behind, who are sick and disabled, who need to be accompanied, and whose betterment betters us. Against the selfishness of the market model and the deadening cynicism of the media, here is straight talk about why, as the song goes, 'you've got to serve somebody,' why caregiving and doing good really do matter to the world and to each of us.

—Arthur Kleinman, Esther and Sidney Rabb Professor of Anthropology at Harvard University

Paul Farmer has a knack for persuading an audience to participate in his lectures, whether aloud or in silence. In other words, he never bores his audience. The liveliness of his talks comes in part from his delivery, but also from the qualities of the lectures themselves: the freshness of their ideas, their wit, and their passion. And these, thankfully, are qualities which this collection preserves.

—Tracy Kidder, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Soul of a New Machine*, *Among Schoolchildren*, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, and other titles.

Paul Farmer is the most compelling voice for justice in a generation. In this volume are the stories and insights that have helped thousands of students imagine; and fight for; a better world. Read this to be inspired. Read this to learn. Most importantly, when you're done, give this book to a friend and join the movement for health equity.

—Jonny Dorsey, cofounder of FACE AIDS and Global Health Corps

This collection of speeches brings us close to Paul Farmer in a way that scholarly publications can't. In these pages, I hear Paul's voice clearly: his tenderness, his anger, his passion for justice, the incendiary sense of humor that has regularly doubled me over with laughter for twenty-five years; and often made me worry for Paul's safety, as he aimed his barbs at the uncaring power holders of this world. Paul speaks directly to young people grappling with big decisions: about the values they will live by, the work they will choose, where their responsibility for other people begins and ends. But these questions concern all of us. And, for anyone struggling with these issues, I can't imagine a more challenging yet inspiring guide than Paul Farmer.

—Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group, former President of Dartmouth College, cofounder of Partners In Health.

The fingerprints of Dr. Paul Farmer are everywhere in the world. I have seen them firsthand in Haiti, Rwanda, and right here in the United States. Whenever there is a need, Paul is the first guy out the door. After all, curing or

repairing the world is ambitious and tough work, but one can't help feeling more optimistic about our fate knowing Dr. Farmer is on the job. In his new book, you get more of an insight into this modern life hero; what makes him tick, his frailties, and what he worries about at night, long after most of the world is asleep. We also learn what inspires him, and the answer may surprise you. Paul is my friend, and I have long wondered about the answers to some of these questions, yet never had the opportunity to ask. I also know that Paul will be mad at me for calling him a hero. His humility is legendary and one hundred percent genuine. Medical students all over the world have told me they entered our shared profession because of Dr. Paul Farmer. Now, it is time for the rest of the planet to be inspired, and in these pages they learn what it takes To Repair the World.

—Sanjay Gupta, Chief Medical Correspondent at CNN and Professor of Neurosurgery at Emory University School of Medicine

Paul Farmer is co-founder of Partners In Health and Chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. His most recent book is *Reimagining Global Health*. Other titles include *To Repair the World*, *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights; The New War on the Poor*; *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*; and *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*, all by UC Press.

Paul Farmer is to me the greatest thinker and do-er in medicine in our times. He has gotten a team of great people to deliver quality care, REALLY quality care, to the poorest people in the world, for diseases that many hard-hearted economic-minded folks thought could never be treated due to scarcity models of thinking. What I love about Dr. Farmer is the way he is filled with expert mercy and real hope. NOT optimism, but hope. And he inspires us all, with the way he SEES how it can be done. I was in the Peace Corps in Paraguay, and just a bit ahead of his cycling between Harvard and Haiti. So I know whereof he speaks, and what he has accomplished. I have spent my career practicing medicine in the USA, and I know that all our patients need the same things-- the same help from physicians, and improvements in delivery of care. It gives me abiding joy to see his work, to hear his words. I want to give this book to every young person I know. WE CAN do things better!

Paul Farmer presents his outlook in a series of Commencement speeches, addressing the need to address poverty and inequality around the world. His experience in many countries with Partners in Health gives him authority to speak about global health issues and the inadequate measures to solve these problems. He presents his ideas with humor, eloquence and passion. However since it

is a series of speeches, it can be repetitive and I learned more from his previous book, *Haiti After the Earthquake*, that described the challenges of that country in surviving after the devastation brought by the earthquake. His philosophy comes through with more detail in the *Haiti* book.

This book contains a series of Dr. Paul Farmer's commencement addresses at many very prestigious medical schools and schools of public health. Consistent with Paul Farmer's many previous publications, his message is that our mission on earth should be to emphasize the "option for the poor." His approach is excellent and relatively inexpensive. He deplores the transformation of healthcare in the United States from being a ministry focused on helping and healing the sick into an industry focused primarily on money. As one who entered medical school over half a century ago, I certainly identify with his message and have seen medical practice in the United States transformed by the medical-industrial complex into what sometimes amounts to no more than organized extortion.

Some of Paul Farmer's previous work was quite dense, written like an anthropology text. Because this book is a collection of speeches given at graduations and conferences, it is much more accessible to a lay audience. Dr. Farmer is funny, enlightening, and above all inspirational.

Dr. Paul Farmer has seen the worst that nature, disease and humans can inflict on the world. Yet, in the face of this, he keeps on working, delivering large doses of hope and respect with the medical care that he and his Partners in Health successfully deliver in Haiti, Rwanda, Peru and elsewhere. This collection of speeches is compelling; the consistent, tough-minded prescription that he delivers could heal the world if we each took it daily in large doses.

Paul Farmer is a splendid man. He has taken his intelligence, his profession, and his life to make the world a better place for all, especially those who have the least. When I think of all the graduations I have sat through, unutterably bored, how I wish I could have heard this remarkable man in real life.

This is a great book to read in snatches, rather than front to back all at once. I liked his previous book about Haiti many years ago, so made it a point to get this one. Farmer's writing style is very accessible, even when writing on serious subjects, and keeps you interested. I ordered this copy for my son's birthday. He is a surgeon, and I hope will enjoy it. I reviewed it for my book review group,

and have mentioned it to many others.

What every young person who cares about the world should read. Paul Farmer absolute thinks out of the box and inspires with his life and work. Try his *The Pathologies of Power! Of Read The Power of Positive Deviance* and read *Mountains beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder who literally tracks Paul Farmer into the depths of Haiti and then, takes us on a *Motor Cycle Diary* of his life - OK not Che Gueverra but the spirit is the same. has them all and at very reasonable prices.

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