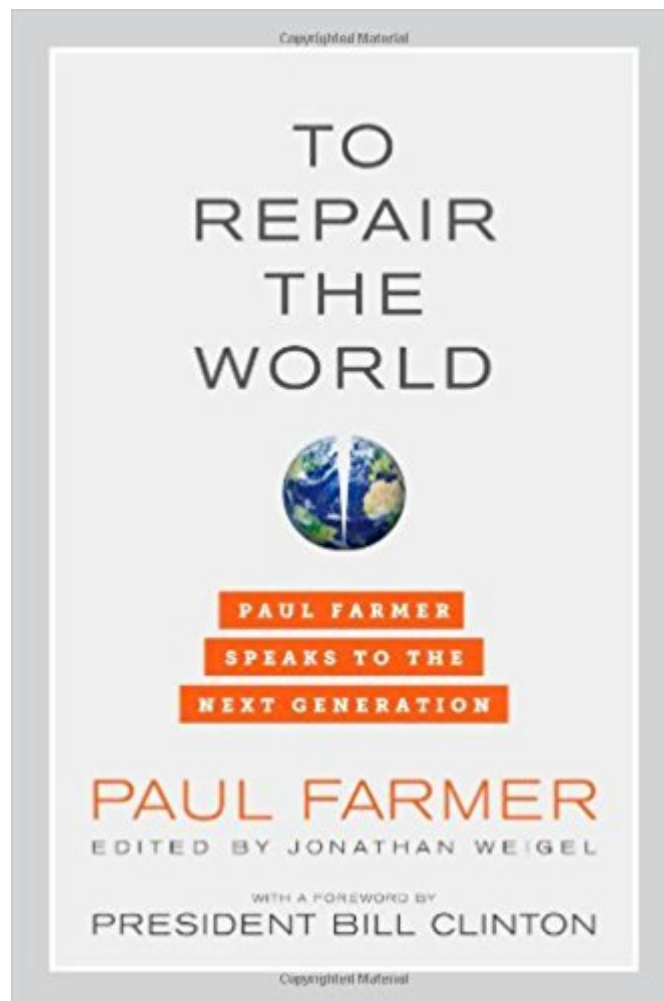


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# To Repair The World: Paul Farmer Speaks To The Next Generation (California Series In Public Anthropology)



## 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 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!

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.

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.

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.

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.

I've read Tracy Kidder's excellent profile of Paul Farmer (*Mountains Beyond Mountains*). Here we get to hear Farmer in his own voice. I can't begin to say enough about the insight and thoughtfulness of his words. Truly an inspiring call to action for global health equity!

This book should be recommended to any student launching on a medical career. It is a collection of speeches, mostly at graduations made by Dr. Farmer before newly minted doctors. As such, it might spoil the ending to have students read it at the beginning of their careers but we need students who will hold the ideals of excellence and service above the focus on the next test, or the next loan repayment. Farmer writes an excellent speech and unless his timing was terrible, his jokes and observations must have kept his audiences attention throughout. Needless to say, we need more people who hold the values expressed in this book. Each chapter stands alone so it is an excellent book to give to someone who seldom reads entire books (we all know them) for they will enjoy whatever portion they consume, all without having to sit through an entire commencement program.

I am a fan of Paul Farmer and all his good work. This book is a quick read that synthesizes his public health care ideas espoused in his commencement speeches.

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