

*New York Times* Bestselling Author

JOHN C. MAXWELL

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LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

AND ROB HOSKINS

PRESIDENT, ONEHOPE

CHANGE  
—YOUR—  
WORLD



HOW ANYONE, ANYWHERE CAN  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

# ALSO BY JOHN C. MAXWELL

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*Everything*

*Everyone Communicates, Few Connect*

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*Winning with People*

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# CHANGE —YOUR— WORLD

HOW ANYONE, ANYWHERE CAN  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

JOHN C. MAXWELL  
AND ROB HOSKINS



HARPERCOLLINS  
LEADERSHIP

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*John*

*Change Your World is dedicated to my Legacy  
Partners.*

*Their generosity and commitment to  
transformation  
enable the vision to be a reality. The dream is  
free, but the  
journey isn't. Thanks for being on the journey  
with me!*

*Love, JM*

*Rob*

*This book is dedicated to the love of my life Kim,  
who knows me, knows what's best for us and has  
and  
will always fiercely defend, creatively promote,  
and  
wisely guide us towards our beautiful destiny.*

# INTRODUCING JOHN MAXWELL PUBLISHING



In 1976, after speaking to a group of leaders at a Fourth of July event, Dr. John C. Maxwell left the stage with an unquestionable sense of calling in his heart: to add value to leaders who would multiply value to others. That sense of purpose drove Dr. Maxwell to begin his decades-long dedication to the study and training of leadership and resulted in the global transformation movement he oversees today.

The outflow of that legacy is best represented by Dr. Maxwell's writing. With over one hundred books to his credit, Dr. Maxwell's output has changed millions of lives across the globe. In almost any room where he speaks, he is preceded by at least one book that has impacted and shaped the life of a leader, confirming his belief that writing allows him to touch a leader he might otherwise never meet in-person.

It is in keeping with Dr. Maxwell's calling and belief about the power of words to impact leaders that HarperCollins Publishers and the John Maxwell Company have created the John Maxwell Publishing imprint, a new leadership-focused division of HarperCollins Publishers that seeks to extend and expand Dr. Maxwell's legacy.

The mission of John Maxwell Publishing is to discover and publish books that identify with John Maxwell's personal values and philosophy of leadership. The authors will be men and women of integrity in their personal, business, and spiritual lives, who have demonstrated a desire to add value to leaders who multiply that value to people, whether through their teaching, writing, or business acumen.

As Dr. Maxwell himself has said, “One is too small a number to achieve greatness.” Through this imprint, Dr. Maxwell’s calling to add value to leaders who multiply value to others will not only continue but strengthen. These authors will add to and expand on his vision of transformation around the world.

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JOHN:

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ROB:

This book couldn't have been written without the thirty-plus year transformation journey that all my colleagues and OneHope team have been on; learning and discovering together. Particularly for this book, thank you David Branker, Chad Causey, Nicole Johansson, and Tena Stone for your extensive review, readings, and fantastic contributions. Jenna Scott, you are a champion and master writer, editor, researcher, and advisor. You are all as elite in your fields as you are humble; your contributions to this book are an investment in others to begin their journeys to change the world.

# AUTHORS' NOTE

The book you're reading was written by two people. Sometimes for readers that can be awkward. Or confusing. When you read a sentence or paragraph, who is the person communicating to you? Is it John Maxwell or Rob Hoskins?

Whenever two or more people collaborate in writing a book, they have to decide how they will communicate. Should we say that I (John) do this and I (Rob) do that? We've seen this kind of approach before in a cowritten book, where both people use "I" and put which is which in parentheses. We think that's really awkward.

Should we use two different fonts and ask you to keep track of who is who? We bet that would get old fast. You'd have to keep going back to the beginning of the book to keep track, assuming you could tell one font from the other. Another option would be to put our names before each paragraph in the book, such as in an interview. But we believe that would make for choppy reading.

If we were on stage, it would be easy. We both do a lot of speaking. If we were on a platform at a live event, you'd see our faces and hear our voices and know instantly who was saying what. We wish we could speak to you personally, but you know books don't work that way.

We want to make this reading experience enjoyable for you and as easy as possible, because this book is really about you and how you can change your world. So here's what you can expect. The voice you're hearing as you read this is John's. Rob has graciously allowed me to take the role of the older brother, doing the primary speaking. So, as you read, we hope it will feel like you are sitting with Rob and me conversing, but I'm doing most of the talking. You'll see a lot of "we," "Rob and I," and "Rob and me" in this

book. But please know that Rob and I are equal partners in the thinking and writing of this book. What we share comes from our hearts, our dedication to changing our world to make it a better place, and our decades of experience of investing in others. Rob and I really want to help you. When you get to the end of the last chapter, we'll even offer you a way to take immediate steps for making a difference, if you're not already doing it on your own.

So settle in and enjoy the journey. We hope *Change Your World* will open your eyes, help you see your environment in a different way, change the way you live, and transform the world around you.



## CHAPTER 1

# WE CAN'T WAIT FOR CHANGE

*Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.*

—AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

Rob and I are excited that you're reading these words, and we want to tell you something right off the top:

*This book is written for you*

*IF*

*You want to change your world.*

Going through the pages of this book, you will read about . . .

**Missy**, a volunteer at a school who was asked to share her apple, discovered hungry children, packed food into backpacks in her garage, and started a program that today feeds eighty-seven *thousand* kids.

Missy changed her world.

**Bryan**, who took his childhood trauma and pain and used it to build a safe place for sexually abused children so they could live with hope, dignity, and unconditional love.

Bryan is changing his world.

**Ethan**, a third-grader who put his hand over his heart and asked, "Do you ever feel deep down here that you want to help make a difference?"

Ethan is only just beginning to change his world.

*This book is written for you*

*IF*

*You want to change yourself.*

You will be changed as you read about . . .

**Charlee**, a high school dropout with no sense of purpose in her life, who spent five months working with children in the slums of Africa and said, “I came home a totally, radically changed person.”

Charlee was changed and now she is changing her world.

**Rene**, a man in Mexico who searched for his brother’s murderer for ten years so he could exact revenge, but learned the value of forgiveness at transformation tables, chose to forgive the man, and changed his family’s history.

Rene was changed and his life is getting better.

**Yomila**, a timid young woman from Guatemala who gained the courage and confidence to take a better job when she adopted a more positive attitude and now helps others in the villages surrounding her home.

Yomila has changed and is now helping others.

*This book is written for you*

*IF*

*You want to be part of a transformational movement.*

You will be inspired as you learn about . . .

**Sam**, the owner of a company that makes outdoor furniture who started making plastic face shields for medical workers braving the COVID-19 pandemic and brought together the people in his small community while making a difference.

Sam helped others create a movement in his town.

**Cerro Porteño**, one of Paraguay’s most popular professional soccer teams, joined hands with rival Club Olimpia to teach good values to players at every level of their organization, and it’s spreading to other teams and changing players’ lives.

One team helped another and started a movement in their community.

**Roy**, who learned his son wanted to take his life because he was being bullied. While helping his son, Roy realized other parents and kids needed help, so he started an organization that now helps millions of kids in forty-two states.

Roy is part of a movement that is changing the country.

**You** have the potential to make a difference by joining with us as we help others or by starting a movement of your own.

You can change your world.

Rob and I have invested our lives in bringing positive change into the lives of people. This book has been written to encourage and equip you to be a catalyst for transformation in your world: your family, your workplace, your community. If you are already changing your world, we hope to help you become even better at it. If you are not yet involved in making a positive difference in the lives of others, we hope to encourage you to get started, and we want to teach you how to intentionally add value to people, because anyone, anywhere can make a difference.

Changing the world happens one life at a time. We are committed to helping people like you become a light of hope within your community. Thousands of volunteers have already become part of our transformation efforts, helping others to learn and live good values. (You can go to [ChangeYourWorld.com](http://ChangeYourWorld.com) to check that out.) In many countries around the world, they are making a difference through the eight streams of influence: government, education, business, religion, media, arts, sports, and healthcare. Rob and I envision a day when people from every background, in every country are adding value to people, making a difference, and changing their world. That day will become a reality when you and others like you commit to it.

## WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

Looking at our world, it's pretty easy to see that things could change for the better. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have better schools? Better neighborhoods? More positive workplaces? Would you like to have a more connected family? Communities where people get along and work together for everyone's good? Wouldn't the world be better if people were more respectful, unified, and positive?

You probably know intuitively much of what can be read in newspaper headlines. We have reasons to believe our world needs to become better:

- Families are breaking down in the United States; where 9 percent of households in 1960 were led by single parents, in 2014 that number grew to 26 percent.<sup>1</sup>

- In 2014 about 2.5 million children experienced homelessness in the United States.<sup>2</sup>
- Civic engagement and volunteerism, two characteristics that were once identified as America's strengths, have fallen drastically in the last fifty years.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2015 3.3 million people were victims of violent crime in the United States.<sup>4</sup>
- An estimate by the Institute for Economics and Peace recently concluded that violence costs the global economy \$13.6 trillion a year.<sup>5</sup>
- Mental health issues are on the rise<sup>6</sup> and getting worse.<sup>7</sup>
- Corruption is a problem around the globe.<sup>8</sup>
- It's estimated that 40 million people worldwide are victims of modern slavery.<sup>9</sup>

We could go on, but we don't need to. Problems that could use our help are everywhere. We're betting you see things around you every day that you wish were better than they are.

But don't let that discourage or intimidate you. Did you know that positive changes are possible? Even huge ones? While we were working on this book, Rob shared some information with me that really surprised me. In 2013, a survey asking about extreme poverty—living on less than \$1.90 a day—posed this question: “In the last 30 years, has the proportion of the world population living in extreme poverty increased, stayed the same, or decreased?” Here are the answers people gave to the question:

- 55% said extreme poverty had increased
- 33% said it had stayed the same
- 12% said it had decreased<sup>10</sup>

What's your guess? I was shocked and pleased to learn that extreme poverty rates worldwide have actually *decreased*. *Dramatically!* Look at this graph to see how extreme poverty rates have steadily gone down since 1800 and notice how they have *plunged* since the 1950s.