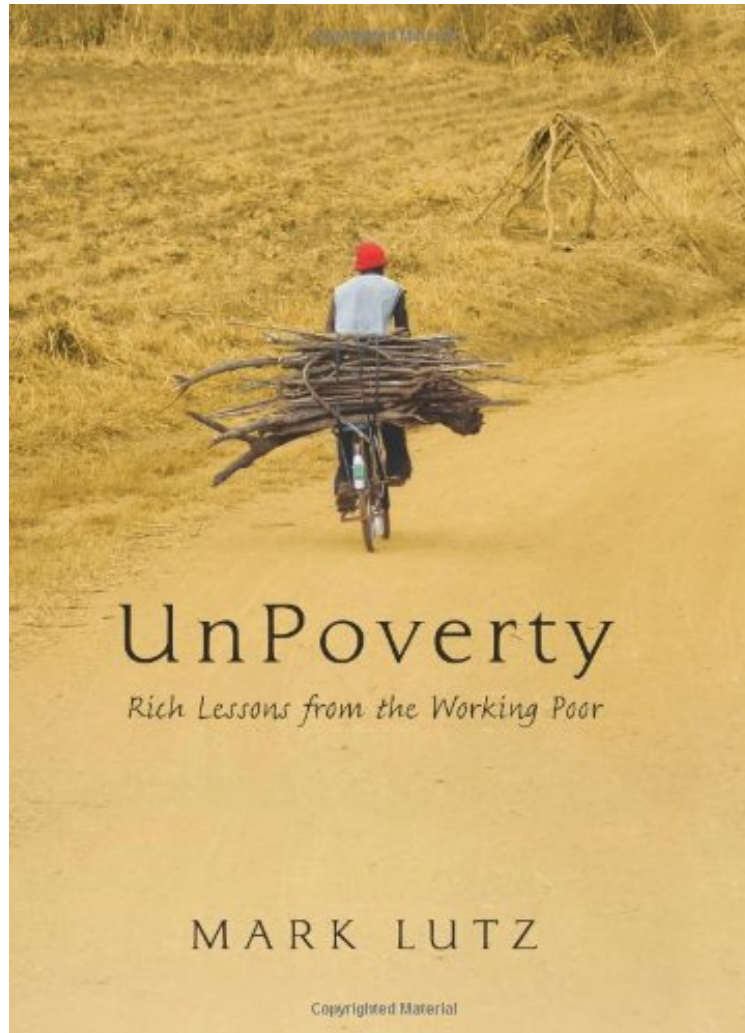


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UnPoverty: Rich Lessons from the Working Poor

Mark Lutz

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Mark Lutz : UnPoverty: Rich Lessons from the Working Poor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised UnPoverty: Rich Lessons from the Working Poor:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Excellent BookBy JunkyardWisdomUnPoverty dives into the micro-enterprise world, which is a method of providing small loans to the poorest of the poor. But this is much, much more than an overview of micro-enterprise. Lutz shares the plight of the poor with stories about their lives. He writes in a way that expresses his own humility. He shares his amazement at the perseverance of the poor, the lessons we can learn from the poor, and the ways we can make a difference. Lutz makes a bold statement: severe poverty can be eliminated in his lifetime. You gotta like a book that thinks big like that!The ideas in the book are not groundbreaking, but the stories are powerful and insightful in ways that most books of this type never achieve. Lutz contrasts the life of the poor with the life of the rich in the West, and he points out how our lives are lacking in significant ways. Family,

community, faith, etc., are all uniquely more meaningful to the poor and Lutz brings that out. Without specifically saying so, he presents a strong argument for how we can learn from the poor (an argument I've pushed for years). This is an excellent book and one worth reading.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gift your graduate with hope and challengeBy Carol StiggerThis is a book I wish I had read in high school or college. For most, their world view -- if they even have one -- is a mosaic of myth. Just like mine was. We are good people so we should help poor people and they should be grateful.Lutz, like many who have really listened to people in poverty, learns more from them than learned professors can hope to offer. He brings the reader into our global village where we can recognize and celebrate our shared humanity. What a beautiful gift for a young person looking for hope in this flawed world and a challenge he can aspire to.Not just for graduates, this is a good book for all stages of life. It is never too late to learn, never too late to make a difference, never too late to accept the gift of global citizenship and explore its possibilities.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read - makes you thinkBy CustomerMakes you think about how we can serve and learn from others that at least on the surface are less fortunate. Highly recommend for anyone doing mission work.

The poorest people in the world do not just survive--they thrive lavishly. They enjoy rich family relationships, build vibrant communities and exude deep faith. They have much to teach us about life and inspire us with their ingenuity, persistence, generosity and self-reliance. Mark Lutz has visited families living in cardboard huts, hiked dusty paths to isolated African villages, and tiptoed across putrid open sewers on makeshift bridges. UnPoverty relays those astonishing encounters with unforgettable people: desperately poor, yet abundantly rich. When we hear about the billions of people living on a few dollars a day, do we visualize what that means? These stories put individual faces on unimaginable statistics and bring their reality to life. You may even see yourself in them. Come with Mark as he visits his friends in far-away places not often seen. He takes you into their homes and their hearts. Experience life at the bottom of the economic ladder; you will resonate with his insightful reflections. His gripping stories will leave you challenged by what we can and must do and encouraged by what they do with so little. Their poverty has more to do with latitude and longitude than with laziness or lack of intelligence. Through no fault of their own they are poor monetarily, but rich in areas many of us are bankrupt. Mark has watched innovative and hard-working people undo the chains of poverty, often with a large ripple effect in their families and entire communities. After more than two decades of working closely with some of the poorest people living in developing nations, Mark Lutz now believes that what he calls unpoverty is possible. You too will catch the vision as you read these enlightening tales. Mark calls us to join an accelerating revolution to eradicate extreme poverty during our lifetime. He makes the bold claim that this audacious goal is possible, and invites you to unite with the rich poor people in our global village to create a world of unpoverty.

Mark Lutz believes extreme poverty can be eliminated. But he proposes no silver-bullet solution. Instead, he believes that by listening to the poor, we can learn to help them help themselves. A child of missionary parents and an executive with a leading microfinance organization, Lutz records what he has learned from meeting the poor in the developing world's villages, slums, and garbage heaps. They show gratitude, persistence, ingenuity, and faith as they work to build up their families and communities. God loves the poor, says Lutz, so we dare not miss the opportunity to help them. -- David Neff --Christianity TodayUnPoverty shows how people in developing countries are undoing poverty by building thriving businesses. --Richard Stearns, President, World Vision U.S. and author of The Hole in Our GospelTwo thousand Bible verses call on us to respond to the needs of the poor. Mark Lutz tells amazing stories of how, through Opportunity International, economic improvement comes from the bottom up. --Tony Campolo, Professor Emeritus, Eastern UniversityAbout the AuthorMark Lutz grew up in South Africa, the son of missionary parents. Living for twenty years under apartheid shaped him to become an advocate for justice. Visits to fifty countries have sharpened his vision for a world free from extreme poverty. Mark is Senior Vice President of Global Philanthropy at Opportunity International, a non-profit microfinance organization. During the past five years, they have loaned almost three billion dollars to poor people so they could start and expand small businesses and care for their families. UnPoverty tells unforgettable stories about some of these remarkable people. Mark earned a Masters degree in cross-cultural communications from Wheaton College. He and his wife, Lise, live in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, where they raised their three children.