

Devin Thorpe on Dr. Warner Woodworth: My Nominee For The Title of ‘The Most Interesting Man In The World’

By Devin Thorpe May 14, 2021 ... Re: Warner Woodworth

Warner, I am excited to tell you that I’ve selected a quote from our discussion on my podcast (see the video here: [Click Here](#)) to be included in my new book, which will be out this fall. If you send me a note with your address, I’ll be sure to send you a printed copy (otherwise, I’ll send you a PDF.

Over the past decade, I’ve conducted more than 1,200 podcast interviews with luminaries like you and Bill Gates. Hundreds of times I’ve asked my guests, **“What is your superpower?”** **Changemakers like you tend to be focused on impact rather than on themselves**, so the question made folks squirm a bit, but some of the answers--including yours--were profound.

So, my new book, with the working title, ***Superpowers for Good, The Skills You Can Build to Leave Your Mark on the World***, will feature your quote, a discussion of the work you’re doing to change the world and a bit about how people can strengthen **the superpower you mentioned, “Disruption,” in their own lives and work to increase the good they’re doing.**

For the book, I’ve transcribed what you said and have posted it in a separate, private document: [Click Here](#).

You may recall that I posted our interview in an article. [Click Here](#). At that time, you provided a bio that put our discussion in context. I’ll put that bio at the bottom of this letter so you can review it. If there are significant updates you’d like me to know as I finish writing the book, please let me know. In addition, we’ll include this photo of you in the book. [Click Here](#). Let me know if you’d like to provide a different photo for the book.

Now, as I think about how to maximize my own impact going forward, I’ve decided to write this book and relaunch my show. Rather than return to Forbes, I am planning to create a newsletter on **Substack**.

If you feel like you have some insights into how readers can develop their own Disruption, I’d love to record an episode of my new podcast with you right away so that I can include your thoughts on that in the book, too.

Let’s do some good!

P.S. Here’s your old Bio:

“Who am I? My lifelong purpose is that of being a social innovator. Around the globe, people call me a disruptor, change agent, and sometimes renegade. Many refer to me as a catalyst, that is, a mover and shaker. I have always sought a life of authenticity, not superficiality or passivity. I seek to challenge society, not to conform. I work for transformation and social change, not business-as-usual. My life is one of collaborating with others to develop a sense of community, of high ethics, of deep relevance. I labor to build capacity among the global poor, the marginalized, those who suffer. My objective is greater democracy in the world, not top-down control by elites. My long-term dream is for

a better world of peace and social justice, a place where everyone has a voice and where all can not only survive but thrive. The paradigm of my work is that of empowering the world's have-nots so they may enjoy more sustainable lives. I'm not a pessimist, but a realistic optimist, one who clearly seeks a better world for people.”

Devin from the earlier 2019 interview: Warner, what is your superpower?

Warner: I don't have stuff like that. I avoid superhero movies, or my grandkids want me to go see that stuff. I say that's all fake. I don't think there's any kind of superpower I have.

Devin: What makes you successful?

Well, I suppose I'm a disruptor. I'm a change agent. I tell my classes at the beginning of every semester, “You're not here to call me Dr. Woodworth or Herr Professor or Brother Woodworth in the Mormon Church. Just call me Warner. I'm a student like you. We're all scholars; we're all trying to learn together.”

“And I'm going to try to disrupt your paradigm and challenge your assumptions. And I'm going to hope as a renegade, I kind of shake you up a bit—and be a catalyst to help you find a more authentic life and a great future that's not going to be just a job—because that's not enough during your 60, 70, 80, 90 years on this earth. I want you to figure out how you can be an agent for transformation. And I'm here to help empower you to do that. And hopefully, we can together build a sense of community.”

So those kinds of values and those kinds of motivations, along with a huge component of high ethics and commitment to social justice and peace. Those are the values that are pretty much burned into my brain and into my heart.

My Nominee For The Title Of ‘The Most Interesting Man In The World’

Published December 2, 2019 | By [Devin Thorpe](#)

Download the podcast via [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Play](#) or [Spotify](#).

Warner Woodworth, now 78, is an emeritus professor at the Marriott School of Business at Brigham Young University. Describing him that way is sort of like saying that Bill Gates used to work at Microsoft. While true, it fails completely to capture the essence of the person.

Warner has had a hand in launching 40 NGOs, has worked with social innovators around the world, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus.

His politics are distinctly liberal. At BYU, a famously conservative and pious school owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he has been advocating for worker ownership for two generations. While worker ownership isn't incongruous with capitalism it is a hallmark of socialism. He says he advocates for "humanistic capitalism."

He admits his work isn't always appreciated. "I get my share of criticism from my colleagues and my students and letters from their parents and letters from their church leaders, sometimes to church officials in Salt Lake or the administration, but bless their hearts, the big boys [at Church headquarters] have always said, 'Warner, you do something unique, something we value greatly. You're reaching lots of people, none of us can. And you're not just talking. You're making change in the world.' So, it's worked out to be a pretty positive experience."

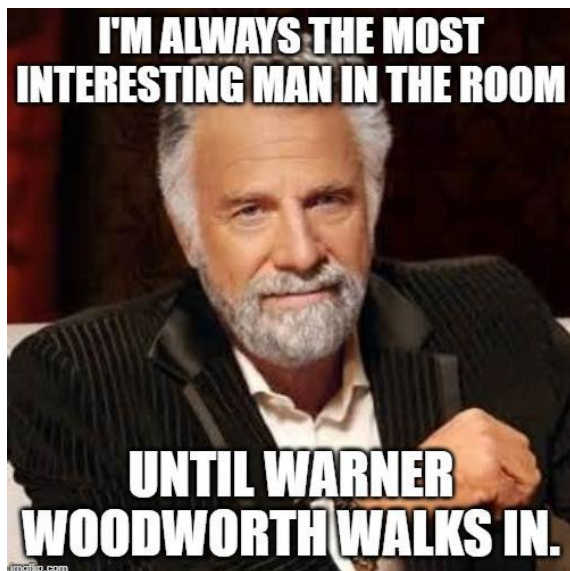
Warner loves the Church but isn't shy about his politics. For instance, he visited one of the migrant caravans from Central America as it arrived in Northern Mexico, advocating for better treatment for them.

As we visited, Warner shared his experience living in Brazil for two years at age 19. "I saw the oppression. I saw the poverty. I came back saying, 'I know my mission in life. I know my purpose, it's to help people like them and to learn from them and collaborate and build partnerships.'"

And that is what he's done for 50 years.

Interview with Warner Woodworth, the Founder of NGOs, Professor Emeritus Marriott School of Business of Social Entrepreneurship Global Consulting LLC.

The following is the pre-interview with Warner Woodworth. Be sure to watch the recorded interview above.



For-profit/Nonprofit: 501(c)3 Nonprofit

Revenue model: Among the 41 NGOs and projects my colleagues and I have established, we've used a range of strategies to get revenue. These organizations include, Unitus Microfinance Accelerator (over 40 nations), Mentors International (6 countries), HELP International (17 nations), and many others. They include small private donations, large contributions from wealthy individuals, impact investing from those seeking an eventual return, as well as a few institutional forms of support from foundations, universities and churches.

Scale: The scale of our collective work is quite large. We employ over 800 people worldwide, have on-the-ground programs in 62 countries, and generate some \$27 million annually. During some years our work has impacted as many as 9-10 million people. Our microlending process has helped improve the well-being of nearly a hundred million people, and the loan paybacks are above 98 percent globally.

What is the problem you solve and how do you solve it?

We've had many challenges over the years. Early on it was to educate potential donors that microfinance can work, that it helps lift people out of poverty and that increased household incomes will be used to benefit the family: Education for kids, healthcare when ill, etc. As the MFI movement has grown over 30 years, today's challenges are different: Developing innovative strategies as economies change, hiring and retaining excellent staff, expanding services to address Third World suffering such as hurricanes, flooding, droughts, the need for rural schools, provisions of healthcare, etc.

More about Social Entrepreneurship Global Consulting LLC:Twitter:

[@mentors](#), [@HELPIntl](#), [@Unitus](#)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Social-Entrepreneurship-Global-Consulting-LLC-653592988008896/>

https://www.facebook.com/NGOs-Worldwide-1908668009406210/?ref=py_c

<https://www.facebook.com/unitus/>

Website: mentorsinternational.org, careforlife.org, risingstaroutreach.org.

Our work is to inspire others to achieve increased influence in empowering the poor by deepening one's learning to improve the world, collaborating to shape the future, connecting with new partners to scale and increase personal impacts, sustaining NGOs that labor to improve society, and reducing suffering, and generating greater awareness about others' needs and dreams.



Warner Woodworth's bio:

Twitter: [@warnerwoodworth](https://twitter.com/warnerwoodworth)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/warner-woodworth-b775a4/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/warner-woodworth-b775a4/)

Website: warnerwoodworth.com

Who am I? My lifelong purpose is that of being a social innovator. Around the globe, people call me a disruptor, change agent, and sometimes renegade. Many refer to me as a catalyst, that is, a mover and shaker. I have always sought a life of authenticity, not superficiality or passivity. I seek to challenge society, not to conform. I work for transformation and social change, not business-as-usual. My life is one of collaborating with others to develop a sense of community, of high ethics, of deep relevance. I labor to build capacity among the global poor, the marginalized, those who suffer. My objective is greater democracy in the world, not top-down control by elites. My long-term dream is for a better world of peace and social justice, a place where everyone has a voice and where all can not only survive, but thrive. The paradigm of my work is that of empowering the world's have-nots so they may enjoy more sustainable lives. I'm not a pessimist, but a realistic optimist, one who clearly seeks a better world for people.



The Social Impact Podcast – Your Mark on the World with Devin Thorpe

- [Jennifer Fresques Explains the Role & Significance of the County Assessor - #plugintodevin](#)
- [UT Physicians for a Healthy Environment Founder On Opening Schools - #plugintodevin](#)
- [UT House Candidate Sam Winkler On Growth: Pollution, Traffic, Overpopulation - #plugintodevin](#)
- [How We Can Make People's Voices Heard in Utah by Suzanne Harrison - #plugintodevin](#)
- [Tim Chambless: Climate Change As A Common-Sense Issue - #plugintodevin](#)
- [Doug Owens Talks Bipartisanship, Outdoor Recreation Economy](#)
- [UT HD-14 Candidate Olivia Jaramillo Talks Economic Challenges to the Middle Class -#plugintodevin](#)

