What is social science?
Your quest for meaning. Meaning is both individual and shared or social.

Social science -is the investigation of the human phenomena. The scientific goals of social science is prediction and developing descriptions that help one decide what to do.

What are the social sciences?
Yet on page 61 of Mountains Beyond Mountains Farmer quotes an earlier scientist who states “medicine is a social science, and politics is nothing but medicine on a large scale” Why would medicine, normally described as a life science, be described this way?

We need to look at what asking questions or inquiry in the social sciences means. Farmer's choices are based on the questions he asked himself in his quest for meaning. How did he decide to work with Haitians?


Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition

Paul Farmer's choices were framed inside of shared frames of reference - what were they? [p 60 - Virchow, p 62 - Sister Julianna DeWolf, liberation theology, p 73 -anthropology concerns itself less with measurement than with meaning, p 74 - lend a voice to the voiceless, systemic approach to solving health issues].

What are your shared meanings when it comes to your personal quest for meaning?

Where do you fit in this as an individual person?

Emotional Intelligence

How did Farmer relate to the Haitians?

Personal competencies Social competencies
Self-awareness Empathy
Self-regulation Social skills
Self- motivation

Social Intelligence 'communications works because, most of the time, the listener can read the speakers mind well enough to second-guess his or her real intentions'
Social capital - the nature and qualities of interpersonal connections. Do people like and trust each other. Relational trust is trust that is built up over time.

What leadership qualities does Farmer exhibit? Servant-leadership

Theory of small wins - nonlinear method of achieving the impossible goal, small wins, each one a small victory, increase the ability of an individual and organization to tackle bigger and bigger issues. This is exemplified in the book...especially in the second half - Mountains beyond mountains...always another to climb.

Social Change - the transformation of society and culture over time, issue for social scientists is how do you measure change? The very issues that Farmer is wrestling with along with organizational inertia.

Social Marketing - fostering sustainable behavior, changing attitudes to change behavior, getting people to move from good intentions to action.

So is he the only one? No, A new phenomenon

Social Entrepreneurs - 21st Century Leadership - entrepreneurs from the business sense [19th century economists - create value] social entrepreneurs use servant-leadership characteristics to bring a new idea not to market but to change society. Social mission is central to their work. Leadership is a shared responsibility to create a better world. They display a passion and determination to engage others in bringing about purpose able change. They change the system.

Mohammad Yunus - 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner - creator of microfinance - loaning small amounts to impoverished people to make them masters of their own lives - i.e. started in 1976 with loans totaling $27 loans of $3 or $4 to women in villages. Now has Grameen Bank and Grameen Foundation. Bank loans out half a billion dollars a year without collateral, and maintains a 99% repayment record.

One change can create a domino effect, such as microfinance or how TB is treated.

We started with the question of what is social science. Social science as we noted is the investigation of the human phenomena. This investigation is inherently social in nature, just like the quest you are on now...to determine your meaning within the greater community of not only Eckerd, but the world. Your reflections during this course and the small group discussions are critical to understanding your personal and social meaning.

Will you be the change you wish the world to be?