

# Gardner-Webb University

# The Pilot

## Campus Hard Hat Advisory

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## Habitat for Humanity Founder Visits Campus GWU Medallion Awarded

Mary Jones  
Pilot copy editor

Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI), told of a woman he met whose house was being renovated.

She said, "I don't understand why you Christians do this. If this is what it means to be a Christian, then that's what I want to be."

"The message we act out is attractive to the world," said Fuller.

Fuller, whose vision of building quality homes at low cost and no interest for people in poverty, visited Gardner-Webb on Monday, January 18.

Gardner-Webb will be part of a spring break project in Charlotte to construct a house along with other college students from around the state.

Fuller spoke to Divinity School students at their Monday night service where he was given the first Gardner-Webb University medallion, an

honor given for outstanding service and character.

Fuller told the group that HFHI is a "new frontier in Christian missions" and "a movement of God's spirit in our time."

"It is showing God's love and helping people without demeaning them," said Fuller.

He said there must be an "incarnational dimension" to the Christian life - putting love into action. He calls this the "theology of the hammer."

He said Christianity is more than going to church, but is living a life of gratitude in response to the gift of God.

At age 29, Fuller was a self-made millionaire. But, after coming close to a divorce, he decided to "seek to live as Christ." He gave his fortune to the poor, and in December 1965, he and his wife Linda spent about a month at Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia, an experience that "profoundly impacted" his life, said Fuller.

Koinonia Farm, an interracial Christian farming community, was patterned after the early church, said Fuller.

Fuller returned to Koinonia Farm in 1968 to form the ministry called "partnership housing," which provided rural South Georgia sharecroppers living in shacks with affordable homes. Here, said Fuller, he and his other partners developed the theological basis for HFHI.

Clarence Jordan, founder of Koinonia Farm and a Bible scholar, told Fuller that according to the Bible, interest was not to be charged for loans to the poor. In an early letter about the plan, founders emphasized that this was not a "handout." This is "God's formula for how the poor could catch up," said Fuller.

Fuller and his partners decided they would build houses at no profit and no interest. The money paid on loans would go towards money used  
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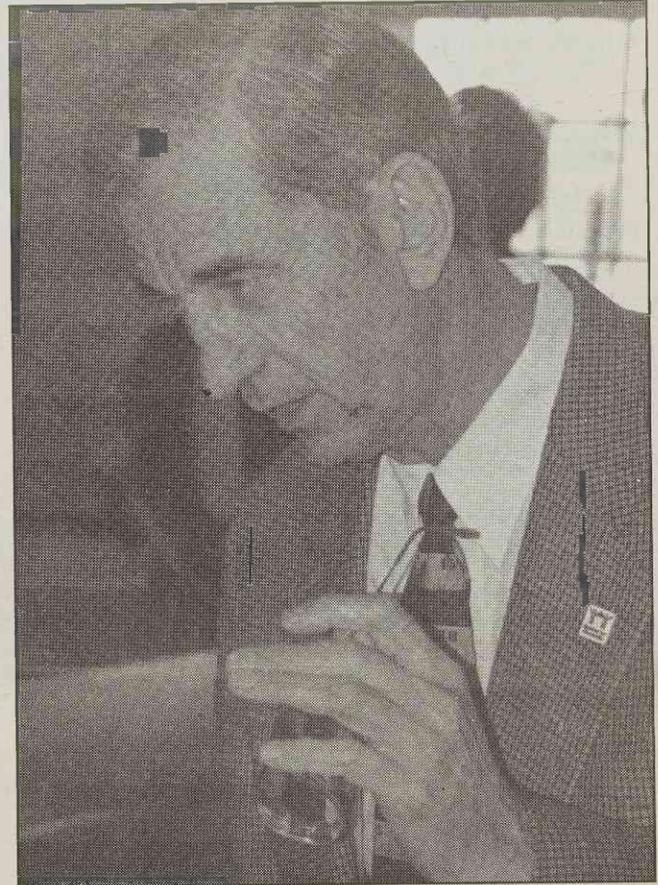


photo by Stephanie Ware

Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity spoke to the Divinity School chapel and was awarded the inaugural Gardner-Webb Medallion for his work.

## Celebration Week Challenges Students

Carla Catoe  
Pilot news editor

Diarrhea, the attention-getting topic of Doug Keene's testimony in the Celebration service on Thursday night, caused lots of laughter.

"God hit me with diarrhea today," said Keene on stage as the crowd broke out into laughter.

Keene went on to challenge students to grow in God as a baby grows off milk and begins to eat solid food.

Celebration services included many surprises like this one in Keene's testimony.

Celebration week began Monday night at 7:17 p.m. and continued nightly through Thursday. Tuesday and Thursday Dimensions services were also conducted by Jill Mayo and Becky Boltz, Celebration Week co-coordinators.

"We applied for the position last April and have been planning for Celebration Week since May. We decided that we wanted the challenge for the week to be finding out who God is. We wanted people to put away preconceived notions they had about God," said Mayo.

Each celebration service revolved around the theme, "Who is God . . . to you?"

A variety of students and teachers were challenged to step up to the microphone and share who God is to them.

Andy Cauble, giving his testimony at the Monday night service, said that God is consistency to him.

After attending the week of Celebration services, junior Nathania Heckert came to the conclusion of who God is . . . to her.

"God is my Savior above everything else. I want to love Him and to serve

Him," said Heckert.

Angie Henricks challenged students during her time of sharing to "know who God is to you and spend time with Him."

Mayo and Boltz selected the speakers based on their familiar faces.

"Becky and I wanted to get speakers that we see on campus everyday. We selected students and teachers that we knew were Christians so that we could give them a chance to express themselves through scripture and prayer," said Mayo.

Students also participated through special music in solos, duets and trios. Each night there was a time of worship through singing familiar praise songs.

"I enjoy the music. I've always been big on music," said freshman Stephanie O'Sullivan.

Arms lifted in adoration during the praise time was not a strange occur-

rence.

Campus Minister Tracy Jessup said Thursday night after the last Celebration service, "First of all, I want to praise God for what He did this week. Our campus was drawn so much closer in worship than ever before. I pray that this will continue when G-a-P meets Tuesday."

Freshman Jenny Treadaway said, "I think we begged the Lord to come and move during Celebration. Because of the 24 hour prayer and the constant prayer going on under the stage during the service, He did. The Lord answers prayer."

Answering the question, "How do you feel now that Celebration Week is over," Becky Boltz's first response was "Relieved." She laughed and then looked up with a straight face and said, "I really feel like God moved. I don't know any other way to say it."