

## Faith Engagement

# Quotes from Habitat leaders

Motivating quotes from Habitat leaders past and present

- *“You just can’t explain Habitat’s growth and success apart from God’s blessings. Over and over we have seen what former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice likes to describe as the impossible becoming inevitable. Amazing things happen because countless supporters around the world pray faithfully and diligently for this ministry. We are privileged to come before God in prayer as we move closer to a world where everyone has a decent place to live.”*  
– Jonathan T.M. Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International
  - *“Habitat for Humanity’s mission is built around a desire to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ. Our ministry embraces a simple concept of providing a hand up versus a hand out to families in need, and we are deeply grateful to volunteers, donors and other supporters around the world who help us with this life-changing work.”*  
— Jonathan Reckford
  - *“Everyone—all of us, every last person on God’s earth—deserves decent shelter. It speaks to the most basic of human needs—our home—the soil from which all of us, every last person, either blossom or wither. We each have need of food, clothing, education, medical care, and companionship; but first, we must have a place to live and grow.”*  
— Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity International
  - *“The theology of the hammer is about bringing a wide diversity of people, churches, and other organizations together to build houses and establish viable and dynamic communities. It is acknowledging that differences of opinion exist on numerous subjects—political, philosophical and theological—but that we can find common ground in using a hammer as an instrument to manifest God’s love. Even though there may be strong differences on all sorts of things—baptism, communion, what night to have prayer meeting, and how the preacher should dress, for example—we can agree on the imperative of the gospel to serve others in the name of the Lord.”*  
— Millard Fuller
- “The theology of the hammer embraces wholeheartedly the idea that the love of God and love of man must be blended. The word and the deed must come together. One without the other is devoid of meaning ... As the deed gets closer to the word, God gets closer to us. The results are always wonderful — and sometimes spectacular!”*  
— Millard Fuller, founder  
Habitat for Humanity International
- *“First, we’re in partnership with God. If Habitat were primarily a movement of individuals, there would be nothing lasting to it. But this is God’s movement, and there’s nothing that can stop it. Second, we’re in partnership with each other. One of the most exciting features of Habitat for Humanity is that people who don’t normally work together at all are coming together everywhere to work in this cause: the affluent and the poor; high school students and senior citizens; conservatives and liberals; Roman Catholics and Protestants; and every racial and ethnic group you can think of. With this dual partnership as our foundation, we are going to arouse the consciences of individuals and organizations around the world, challenging them to join in this cause. And together, we are going to get rid of the shacks. All of them!”*  
— Millard Fuller

- *“Churches are the primary partners that work with Habitat in an almost infinite variety of creative overlapping circles. We cherish these partnerships with churches...I have always seen Habitat for Humanity as a servant of the church and as a vehicle through which the church and its people can express their love, faith, and servanthood to people in need in a very tangible and concrete (literally!) way.”*  
— Millard Fuller
- *“What Habitat does is much more than just sheltering people. It’s what it does for people on the inside. It’s that intangible quality of hope. Many people without decent housing consider themselves life’s losers. This is the first victory they may have ever had. And it changes them. We see Habitat homeowners go back to school and get their GEDs, enter college, do all kinds of things they never believed they could do before they moved into their house. By their own initiative, through their own pride and hope, they change.”*  
— Millard Fuller
- *“Our mandate in Habitat for Humanity is to work diligently to help bring into being graceful communities, towns, and cities. This is so important because the alternative is disgraceful. We must begin to think like this. If we do, we will increasingly see transformations in our communities.”*  
— Millard Fuller
- *“The theology of the hammer embraces wholeheartedly the idea that the love of God and love of man must be blended. The word and the deed must come together. One without the other is devoid of meaning ... As the deed gets closer to the word, God gets closer to us. The results are always wonderful—and sometimes spectacular!”*  
— Millard Fuller
- *“As we build houses we also build community — not just a neighborhood but a genuine sense of community that stretches from cities to towns around the globe. The community we seek to build in partnership with God is his beloved community. It is Kingdom building, and the Bible — that great adventure story of God’s partnership with his creation — is our building manual.”*  
— Clive Rainey
- *On the purpose of the Fund for Humanity (the precursor to Habitat for Humanity): “Its purpose will be two-fold: a) to provide an inheritance for the disinherited, and b) to provide a means through which the possessed may share with and invest in the dispossessed. What the poor need is not charity but capital, not case-workers, but co-workers. And what the rich need is a wise, honorable and just way of divesting themselves of their over-abundance. The Fund for Humanity will meet both of these needs.”*  
— Clarence Jordan, founder of Koinonia Farm, mentor of Millard Fuller and originator of the partnership housing model
- *“‘I will shed my spirit on all mankind.’ (Acts 2:17) A spirit of partnership. The rich man will sit down at the same table with a poor man ... Neither will shiver in a drafty house, nor have to move his furniture when it rains. Both will rejoice in the robust health of their children, who are not listless from having too little nor bored from having too much. They will discover the blessedness of sharing, the warmth of compassion, the quiet strength of humility, and the glow of gentleness, the cleanness of honesty, the peace of justice, the ecstasy of love.”*  
— Clarence Jordan

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