Real Life Stories Charles E. Fuller (1887-1968)

Charles E. Fuller is famous for the classic radio show <u>The Old Fashioned Revival Hour</u>, and for founding <u>Fuller Theological Seminary</u> which started up in 1947.

Charles E. Fuller was born in Los Angeles. He was converted at the Church of the Open Door in 1916, an interdenominational church founded by R. A. Torrey as part of Biola's downtown mission. The preacher who Fuller came to hear that day, however, was not Torrey but Paul Rader, a former boxer who was preaching a sermon entitled "Out of the Cave." As Fuller's biographer (his son Daniel Fuller) summarizes the message, Rader argued that apart from the Holy Spirit's illumination, people were in a cave, as it were, blinded and unaware of the glorious and marvelous things God had in store for them. They needed to 'come out of the cave'



and realize the blessings God had promised to impart. As Charles Fuller listened to this message, the Holy Spirit convicted him that he was not living as one who looked forward to such blessings.

Fuller spent a few more years making a living in the orange business, and began teaching a Bible class. He and his wife Grace drove into Los Angeles to hear Torrey's preaching at the Church of the Open Door whenever they could. Finally in 1919, he was able to enroll full time at Biola and graduated from the Bible Institute in 1921.

In 1925 Charles saw vast possibilities in the new invention called "radio". He soon resigned from his pastoral responsibilities to give his full time to radio evangelism. He started broadcasting in 1925 and on October 3, 1937 the *Old Fashioned Revival Hour* aired its first broadcast over 13 stations on the Mutual Network. In 1941 Fuller's nationwide broadcast was moved from a Hollywood studio to the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium where thousands of servicemen, in route to the Pacific during World War II, attended the broadcast. Dr. Fuller and his OFRH (Old Fashioned Revival Hour) musicians traveled throughout North America, holding citywide rallies that were often broadcast live.



By 1951 the OFRH was heard over the ABC radio network that circled the globe through 650 radio stations. Dr. Charles E. Fuller and his associates of the Old Fashioned Revival Hour appeared in the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium for the last time on January 12, 1958 and later moved the program to a Hollywood recording studio for a 30-mintue broadcast.

Dr. Fuller's last broadcast was in 1968, the same year he went home to be with his Savior. The broadcast continued without Dr. Fuller beyond this for over another decade as the "Joyful Sound". After the discontinuance of new programs, some stations still continued replaying old worn out recordings of the original program until the reintroduction of the Old Fashioned Revival Hour in 2002.