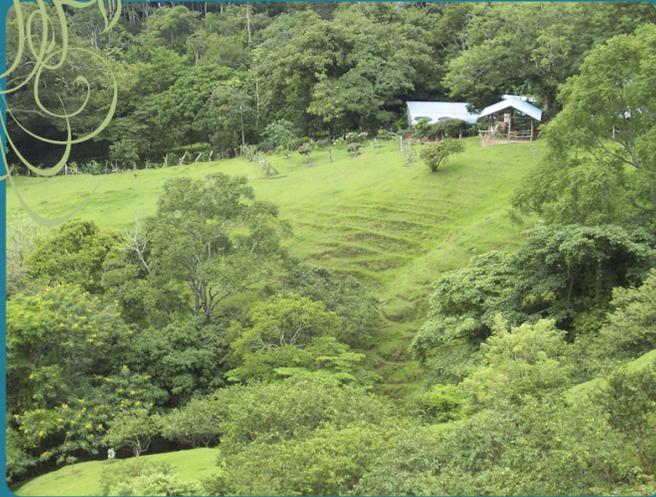


# Paradise Earth



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Cover photo: Robert and Barbara Muller's *finca* on Mt.  
Rasur, Costa Rica next to the UN University for Peace

# Paradise Earth

By Robert Muller and Douglas Gillies

Published by:

**East Beach Press**  
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Santa Barbara, CA 93105

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Edition ISBNs

Softcover 978-0-9702705-9-7  
PDF 978-0-9702705-7-3

First Edition 2008

Printed in the United States of America

Publisher's Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Muller, Robert and Gillies, Douglas

Paradise Earth

1st ed.

p. cm.

ISBN-13 978-0-9702705-7-3

1. Muller, Robert, 1923 - 2010.

2. Gillies, Douglas 1947 -

3. United Nations.

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# *Paradise Earth*

by Robert Muller and Douglas Gillies

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## **Preface**

Ever since his college years, Al Gore hunted for a way to communicate the growing danger of global warming. After 40 years of effort and an Oscar-winning documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," the idea has taken hold that rising temperatures and melting ice caps present a challenge that we humans must all face together. We find ourselves cast in the uncomfortable role of deciding the fate of our planet Earth.

Avoiding a negative consequence is a powerful human motivator in the short run. But one thing that distinguishes us from our fellow creatures is our unique ability to form a picture of a better world and to strive for that goal, no matter how great the sacrifice or how long the struggle. Fear motivates us, but hope leads us to a better future.

In this sequel to Robert Muller's biography, *Prophet—the Hatmaker's Son*, Douglas Gillies edits

edits Robert Muller's *7,000 Ideas and Dreams for a Better World* into a condensed text that reveals a fresh optimistic context in which to measure the multitude of efforts to save our planet.

Paradise Earth is an idea worthy of our consideration. The simple premise is that Earth is a paradise and we humans have upset the balance of nature. The Earth is an intricate network of healthy functioning systems that tend towards an optimum balance in which all living creatures can thrive. It is the most perfect life-support system that we have been able to discover or even imagine in the vast universe.

Our historic struggle to exercise dominion over nature has been won at a dear cost to our well-being and to the systems upon which our survival depends. With growing alarm, increasing numbers of people are asking, "What can I do to help the planet?" Perhaps the better question is, "*How can I change my behavior so that this paradise, which we call Earth, can flourish?*"

It makes all the difference in the world to meet a great challenge with hope and confidence and courage. We live good lives not because we fear the inevitable conclusion of death but because we cherish the incredible profusion and joy inherent in the act of living. Life is its own reward, but the penalties are severe if we recklessly interfere with nature's life-giving capacities. It is hard to

imagine a more generous planet or a more suitable habitat for all the things that live on Earth, so why does a species perish every five hours?

We go to great effort to burn the stored energy of decomposed organic matter, which generates heat to produce energy and releases carbon into the atmosphere. Yet the sun is the source of all that energy and it showers us with just the right amount of light for just the right number of hours per day to maintain our planet's equilibrium. Why not turn to the Sun for our energy needs rather than burn decomposed organic matter? Instead of seeing the Earth as a crippled system that is collapsing all around us, why not view our planet as a paradise that will support life so long as we make the necessary effort to understand our true place in the natural world?

This is the fresh perspective of Robert Muller that is explored in this book. If our starting point is paradise, rather than gloom and doom, new possibilities can take shape in our imaginations. It is as if nature has rewarded Muller with a profusion of fresh ideas that could transform our world from one of struggle and suffering into a grand adventure where people are increasingly fulfilled while the plants and animals flourish.

During World War II our Allies rallied in an unprecedented effort of cooperation not only to

defeat the fascists who took control of Europe but also to create a world that would never again experience world war. In both respects, they succeeded. Fascism is no longer a dominant threat and the world has not suffered another world war in three generations.

As you read this book and consider all of the fresh ideas that spring from the presumption that Earth is a paradise, allow your imagination to wander from time to time in this imagined world. What fruit may be planted in your garden? What is your piece to the puzzle of Paradise Earth?

The challenges ahead require that each of us be a part of the solution. Each of us must examine our habits of consumption. Each of us must adapt our relationship to the Earth. We have so much to learn from one another about the proper way of living. No one will be left out of this great challenge to restore Earth's precious and life-giving balance. But let's not waste time. Join the millions of people who are making the health of our planet their most important priority. A rich and preserved Paradise Earth is the most convenient truth.

### Introduction by Douglas Gillies

I met Robert Muller in the spring of 1994 when I was producing a conference in Santa Barbara called the "Big Picture Summit." The topic was, "How can we speed up the shift to holistic thinking?" On the third day, we had identified 70 strategies when Barbara Gaughen said: "What if we were to come up with one idea per day for a better world? By the year 2000, we would have 2,000 ideas."

The 60 participants sat quietly in their chairs. Barbara's notion to write 2,000 ideas was a bit intimidating. Then Robert Muller said, "I'll do it."

Robert and Barbara married three years later, and by the year 2000, he had written 3,500 ideas for a better world. On his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 11, 2007, Robert completed *7000 Ideas for a Better World*—one and a half ideas per day for thirteen years. Have you ever asked, "What can one person do?" Here's one answer. Write down your ideas for a better world and share them with others. If you keep at it, you could end up with thousands of ideas.

While Robert Muller was writing ideas, I was writing his biography, *Prophet—the Hatmaker's Son*. As I pored over Robert's writings, I began to

recognize a pattern. Ultimately, the most important idea that Robert was expressing is that we are living in a paradise—the most magnificent paradise in the universe. We must recognize this and act accordingly, rather than struggle for supremacy while we exploit nature.

Now we offer you a plain-speaking appeal to get with the program *before* the greatest show on Earth is cancelled.

Each idea is separate and distinct, focusing on one action that human beings can take now. As you read this distilled essence of Robert Muller's lifetime of service at the UN, you will feel the immediacy of our connection to Paradise Earth.

"One Can Do" boxes represent ideas that any one of us can implement to make a difference.

We are beneficiaries of a true paradise beyond our wildest dreams and we are all caretakers. Welcome to our journey through Paradise Earth.

**One Can-Do**

Write your ideas and dreams for a better world.

### Robert Muller's Ideas

**M**y most important dream, my Dream of Dreams after writing 7000 Ideas and Dreams during the sixth decade since I joined the United Nations, is to see Earth preserved as a paradise inhabited by spiritual, happy, peaceful, deeply loving people enjoying the miracle of human life in paradise.



How grateful I am to the United Nations for having allowed me to live, to grow in knowledge and love, and to work at the center of the whole Earth and humanity! No other institution on Earth would have been so enriching, so revealing, so motherly. Why cannot the whole world become one United Nation? Our leaders would be more able to make it a peaceful and happy world, a true jewel, the paradise intended by God and Creation.



Why do we speak primarily of paradise in the past tense and not in the present and future? Christians think of Eden as a paradise where Adam and Eve gained consciousness and then were thrown out after God asked them, "Who told you that you were naked?" But paradise is now.

The etymology of the word paradise is: a park, a pleasure ground, a state of bliss, the abode of the blessed death (Greek *paradasos*, Persian *paridazea*: an enclosure; a place walled in). In modern languages, it is the place of optimum, highest beauty, of blessed life and happiness.



Visitors to Costa Rica, where 30% of the land is protected against depredation, are enchanted by the natural beauty. A Marshall Plan could preserve this demilitarized country as a paradise. Costa Rica would then become a model country where people could live in harmony with nature. Such a plan would slow migration from beautiful rural areas to overcrowded cities. Industrialized countries can help Costa Rica become a model of natural development where the errors made in most developing and developed countries can be

avoided. Central America could become a world park preserved as a model of ecology.



The invisible often shapes the visible. When a child inflates a balloon, invisible air gives it shape. It is the same with the invisible energies of humans. If the combined forces of our brains—the global brain—decided to make the Earth a paradise, it would assume the shape of a paradise.

**One Can-Do**

Plant fruit trees as soon as you move in.



So many of my dreams have been fulfilled that I now believe dreams are the surest way to achieve a new reality. My ultimate dream is to see the Earth preserved as the most beautiful paradise in the universe, a new Athens where humanity can live in peace, well-being, and utmost happiness.



I am certain that a peaceful, nonviolent world with universal well-being is possible and that this Earth is a paradise. I proclaim that this is happening. I work for it passionately. I neglect no avenue, no detail, no opportunity, and no person whom I meet. I am a shining example that human beings can be miracle-makers and I will never give up, not even after death.

**One Can-Do**

Decide to think only original thoughts and decide to say only original things and the world will be an unending source of inspiration.



We all want a better world and happier people, so why not think about making our planet a paradise? We might not be able to do it, but formulating the highest objectives will get us closer. This method is used by all good planners. Inventors do not consider anything impossible. Humanists, social innovators, scientists, heads of

state, and leaders of world organizations can do the same. Dante predicted in *The Divine Comedy* that we will achieve paradise on Earth after we correct our sins and errors in Purgatory. Philosophers must compile a collection of all the visions of earthly paradise found in literature and political science.



New York City was selected as the seat of the United Nations after World War II at a time when humanity was concerned only with human problems. The UN Charter does not contain the words *Earth, nature, resources, or environment*. Now that the Earth and nature are the highest priority, it would be appropriate to move the world organization to a site of preserved natural beauty.

The vast campus of the University for Peace is located in Costa Rica, a demilitarized country where visitors experience peace directly from nature in thousands of acres of primeval tropical forest. The cost to the Secretariat and all the delegations would be less than half of New York City. This would fulfill the prophecy of Rasur, indigenous god of children, who said that a civilization of peace will spread from the hills of Costa Rica to the entire world.



Each of us holds a piece to the puzzle. Barbara's vision of paradise includes meditation, living without luxury, freedom from the rat-race, and the absence of trauma, material desires, and emotional disturbances.



Our natural Earth is a temple. No human temple will ever match it or replace it. It is time to organize human life in such a way that the Earth is preserved as a divine temple.



Western 'civilization' established zoos to park animals, reservations to park indigenous people, and national parks to corral nature while Western minds invented new institutions to reinforce their stubborn, greedy, conquering ways. The future of the Earth is at stake. Let us preserve the whole Earth while we place industries and commerce in commercial reserves and industrial parks. Nature comes first; commerce is second.



I dream that humanity will look back at us and say, “They had visions of paradise on Earth with a divine, happy humanity living on a peaceful, demilitarized planet, and their visions spread to the entire world and were fulfilled.”



Send your reports, proposals, plans, dreams and ideas to the Secretary General, Room S 3800, United Nations, New York, NY 10017. Let this outpouring of ideas be a unique event in human history inspired by God, applauded by the saints, and supported by all of the mysterious forces in the universe that are concerned with our actions and our fate. As the most advanced, conscious, and capable species on Earth, let us make this planet a Garden nourishing the fulfillment and happiness of our children and grandchildren.

**One Can-Do**

Re-use glass water bottles. Fill them at the tap and cap them with a cork. If the water has a bad taste, put a carbon filter under your sink.



It is a miracle to be alive on such a beautiful planet, the only place where we have detected life so far. It will be even more wonderful when we have eliminated wars, violence, injustice, and the unnecessary destruction of nature. If we have the will, we can make Earth the greatest evolutionary success in the universe since the Big Bang.



UNESCO or some university must undertake a scientific study of sacred power places where people feel elevated to unusual or mystical thinking and cosmic consciousness. Such places are usually located on hillsides rich with oxygen. They can be used by anyone with a desire to think deeply, dream, or make far-reaching, long-term decisions. The University for Peace sits on a sacred hill in a natural paradise rich with oxygen. It has become such a place of predilection.



The two main purposes of government in the 21st century will be to make the Earth a paradise and to enable humanity to be happy. How

exciting this task will be and how glorious the day when we say, “We did it! We made the Earth a paradise filled with happy people!”



Our language unleashes creative forces. Since we already have words like *humanize*, *civilize*, and *harmonize*, why not add two more—*paradize: to create paradise*; *happinize: to create happiness*. A landscaper or gardener who tends a beautiful part of the Earth is a *paradizer*. A philanthropist who spreads joy and happiness is a *happinizer*.



Dear God, allow me to be your servant to make of this Earth a true paradise of love, peace and beauty where your children can be the divine species which you created. After thousands of years of efforts, allow us at long last to succeed and become the ultimate jewel of your creation.



Humans can do wonders if they are inspired and determined to do so. When I first visited the land donated to the United Nations by Costa Rica to create a University for Peace, I saw a wild

jungle in the hills inhabited by a few poor people. I thought that we should have our heads examined to even consider building a university in a place without roads, electricity or a water system. Today the beauty of the area shows us what humans can do when they are determined to create the highest beauty and live in harmony with nature. We could do it everywhere on Earth.

**One Can-Do**

Use cloth shopping bags to shop every time you visit a store. Reuse plastic produce bags.



I am certain that God wanted me to retire and get far away from New York City, where I could recover in a natural paradise in a demilitarized country and then begin to write, to teach, and to become a champion of a world that makes sense.



The Earth is our precious garden, our temple, our paradise. Our passion must be to preserve it,

to embellish it, and to see peace, happiness, and love reign everywhere, always and forever.



Children are born for living and loving, not for killing and hating. We must eliminate all killing, armaments, militaries, and hatred from this Earth. There cannot be any of these perversions in the paradise we are becoming.



What an incredible natural miracle planet Earth is! Why don't we take good care of this treasure instead of exploiting it recklessly? It is infinitely more important than any human invention. What a pity that we have become such an unintelligent, misguided species. The Earth should always be first and humanity second, albeit a well-integrated part of it. Divine will created paradise first and continues to speak to us through nature to re-establish it.



How beautiful Mother Earth would be if she were without humans, covered with marvelous growing nature and innumerable varied animals.

What a paradise she would be! This may be where we are heading.



Love nature. Forget the crazy pursuit of endless new inventions, accumulation of goods and wealth, and the accelerating destruction of the Earth. Envision a clear, clean, resplendent, beautiful Paradise Earth with nature, vegetation, animals, and birds—totally devoid of humans. See it untouched, tranquil, peaceful, undisturbed, floating in all its splendor in the vast universe at the apex of evolution. But do not lose faith in the human race, the most evolved, advanced life form of Earth's body, even as humans make so many errors and approach the point of recklessly destroying nature.

**One Can-Do**

Compost your vegetable scraps and plant fruit trees and vegetables in the rich soil you harvest. A vermicomposting bin (worms) does not emit any odor and can be placed on a balcony.



Help people to change course, to change their values. Enlighten them. Do not give up. Be a person of hope. See the totality of Earth and humanity and try the impossible. The human species must not disappear. Remember that all humans are living cells, children of God, cosmic units—just like you.



More and more people live in big cities completely severed from the Earth, without any communion with nature. They live in an artificial world fashioned by builders, politicians, business, and the media. When they look out of their windows they see only high-rise buildings. They do not have the slightest notion of caring for the Earth. Visiting a city park or a zoo once in awhile is a mere curiosity or pastime for them.



More people from crowded Western cities are choosing to live in countries like Costa Rica. The most sensitive government services should move from polluted capitals to natural places with ample oxygen, especially heads of state, who need

to think and speak clearly, members of Parliament, who need to hear the natural wisdom of the people, and world agencies that serve the needs of humanity.



You are lucky if you can cultivate an intense communion with the Earth. Give the world the right messages. Be a professor in the common sense university, the University of Nature and the Earth. With peace and the Earth as your main concerns and objectives, you will become part of the new Athens of the world as you cure the cancer which is eating up nature, from the high ozonosphere to the bottoms of the oceans.



The human species is the most creative, most imaginative, most evolved species on Earth. If from now on we devote as much creativity, imagination, intelligence and efforts to save, improve and embellish the Earth as we do for our own dispersed purposes, we will be able to create a complete harmony and merger between humanity and the Earth—an Earth living to perfection and a human species living in optimum happiness. Humanism and Earthism must

become the two major ideologies of the 21st century so that Earth can become a well-run, properly evolving planet.

### **One Can-Do**

Carry reuseable doggie bags. Take a plastic deli food container to the restaurant, divide your meal in two, then take half of it home. You'll eat for half the price, save time, loose weight, and eliminate one Styrofoam container per meal.



When modern technology was born, it was natural that it devoted itself exclusively to the improvement of human conditions. The Earth was only good for exploitation for the benefit of humans. Nations wanted to industrialize themselves as quickly as possible to increase the well-being of their people, their power, and their positions in the world. Giant world corporations were born with the same power interests as nations, the two frequently joining forces. The Darwinian concept of competition and survival of the fittest applied both to corporations and to nations. Now we must change.



For the first time in the entire human history, the Earth is in danger of dying. Who will have the courage to raise a voice resonating throughout the world provoking a revolutionary wake-up? Our entry into a new millennium offers our leaders a great opportunity and an immense obligation.



When the UN Economic and Social Council adopted in 1970 the proposal of Sweden to hold the first World Conference on the Environment, I exclaimed to a group of Ambassadors, "From this day forward, the world will never be the same."



All humanity, all its leaders, groups, communities, families and individuals must henceforth take care of the Earth. Think of her always. Do not misuse, overuse, destroy, nor consume her. We must love her and care for her. Perhaps we are at a turning point in human history. We must let the Earth teach us. We must live in peace and harmony with her, with other life forms, with the heavens, and with each other.



Wise and filled with an incredible knowledge and new wisdom, we humans must never repeat the errors of our ancestors, so that our story will not be paradise lost, but paradise at long last understood and regained.

#### **One Can-Do**

Slow down to 55 mph on the freeway. It will increase your highway gas mileage by one third. To match that in town, go the speed limit and coast when there's no reason to press on the gas. If the light turns red up ahead or you're approaching a stop sign, take your foot off the pedal. Save thousands of gallons of fuel and conserve energy just by giving your foot a rest.



All basic segments of human life on Earth must be reviewed and rethought fundamentally with a thousand-year future in view, including a new political system for the planet, a new economics, new education, new media and communications.



In addition to yearly state-of-the-world conferences, there should be yearly long-term thinking and future-oriented conferences and reports on all of the basic segments of human life. Annual State of the World conferences and reports must be accompanied by yearly Future of the World conferences and reports undertaken by the United Nations, governments, universities, institutions, and associations.



One of the great philosophers of the 20th century, Alfred North Whitehead, said, "There can be no great age without a great idea to inspire it. What will be the great idea to inspire the 21st century and the 3rd millennium?"



So many nations—Spain, Britain, Portugal, the Netherlands—went exploring the Earth with unlimited enthusiasm and self-interest. All of humanity could embark on a new and even more fantastic exploration—finding a way of making this planet a peaceful, just, happy, fulfilled, well-preserved, non-violent paradise.



We must make a new United Nations, the Peoples United Nations, a free academic world body not ruled by governments in a militarized country. Beyond peace, a necessary strategy is to remake planet Earth into a paradise.

**One Can-Do**

Use compact florescent light bulbs.



Earth must become totally disarmed, free of all militaries and all violence, a miracle of peace, a paradise of nature teeming with a diversity of life.



Peace, love, beauty, happiness, a garden of paradise should be our primary objectives for this millennium, to be attained as rapidly as possible. The higher the objective the closer one gets to it. Let's create a new profession: paradise advisors.



It will be much easier to plan and work intelligently for a just, happy, fulfilled humanity on a well-preserved Earth than to cope with the multitude of problems besetting us now in innumerable, disorderly ways. Why not try to achieve Paradise Earth within the next hundred years? Let us set Paradise Earth 2100 as the target, a logo for the celebration of the year 2100.



Simon Bolivar, a great visionary, prophesized that the world's government would be located in Central America—between North and South America, between the Atlantic and Pacific, and between Europe and Asia. An indigenous prophecy says that the eagle and the condor will be reunited in Costa Rica on Mt. Rasur.



Universities can offer a new specialty called "Achievement of Paradise Earth." Isn't that a major dream and objective of the human species? Such faculties could render tremendous service.



We have more than 100,000 international associations working for the good causes of a better world and humanity, but surprisingly not one aspires to achieve Paradise Earth. The phrase is not even mentioned by a single one of them.

**One Can-Do**

Drink beverages from soda fountains using your own cup rather than purchasing aluminum cans.

*The energy necessary to recycle one aluminum can is equal to half a can full of gasoline.*

- David Brower



In Paris, nearly all of the public and private buildings have been cleaned and restored to the original color of their beautiful stones. This work of beautification has been possible because there has not been any war since 1945. Imagine how beautiful this world will be once there are no

longer any wars. It is one of the straightest paths to reaching paradise on Earth.



We speak so much about what is wrong or should be corrected, what should not be done, what dangers await us. We should speak more of what has been achieved, what is so beautiful on this Earth, of all the love and good that exists in the people, of our enormous progress over time, of the paradise we have already achieved in so many ways. Let us aim our minds and our hearts to attain paradise on Earth.



It is only when we dream, pray, and meditate that we are fully part of the invisible, heavenly, cosmic energies that want us to help them further shape our planet into a marvel of evolution, the paradise it was always meant to be and has already become in large part.



It is such a sacred duty, such a wonderful way of living to give ideas, to promote and do good actions for a better humanity and world when you

are blessed with good health, a decent living, a proper education and the miracle of a loving family. What a paradise it will be when all humans become peacemakers, happiness givers, idea people, good doers, and Earth lovers.



Build your own little paradise wherever you live. Don't let others pretend to build it for you. If we all do that, we will make the world a paradise. One little paradise multiplied by six billion people—what a wonderful planet that could be.

**One Can-Do**

When you heat water for tea, just heat one cup of water. It will boil in seconds, saving you time while reducing the carbon footprint of your tea.



When the U.S. planned to put a man on the moon, NASA devised a new planning tool called Critical Path Method to organize the means, steps and dates to achieve this target. A man was set on the moon only after a strict plan to attain that

objective was adopted and firmly executed. We can do the same to achieve a proper government for our miraculous planet and our human family that will lead to paradise by 2050.



Making the Earth a true paradise is conceived principally as an action which should come from the top: governments giving up wars, ensuring the well-being of all their people, suppressing the colossal armaments and military expenditures. But there is more to it. Each individual, every one of us, can make of our personal life a paradise and our family a paradise. We can contribute to making our neighborhood and our village or city a paradise of peace, justice, happiness and beauty. Why not create a World Peoples' Movement for Paradise Earth?



Can you imagine a world in which ideas and dreams would be formulated by all humans and communicated to all others? What a treasure house of ideas and dreams for a better world that would be! It would help the world become a paradise. Let's take the best from communism

and capitalism and construct a new ideology—  
Earthism.



Children can be taught in schools that they  
are true miracles whose job will be to create  
Paradise Earth.

#### **One Can-Do**

One airplane ride can put more carbon in the air  
than the average person can save in a year.  
Some of those trips are to educational seminars.  
Save the carbon cost of seminars and save time  
by enrolling in teleseminars. Why not learn from  
your home or office on the phone? Written  
materials can be downloaded.



I do not understand why love is not inundating  
our Earth. Why must it be business, money, 'free  
enterprise', more and more merchandise and  
'goods', and endless activities and agitations?  
How about love for our beautiful Earth and her

nature, love for peace and tranquility, love for our neighbors and our environment, love for the genial meaning of our individual, miraculous human life?

*The difference between what we could do and what we do would be sufficient to solve most of the world's problems.*

—Gandhi.



Only one belief can put an end to all anxieties on this planet: the belief in the perfectibility of the human race. Why do intelligent humans still consider humanity to be on one side and nature on the other? We are part of nature and we must consider the Earth as a totality, as one entity. We are born from the Earth, we live on her elements during our entire life and we return to her body. We must straighten out our relationship with our Mother Earth, the origin of our life, body, mind, and heart. If all humanity will love and care for the Earth, we will have peace and happiness.



If the Earth could speak, she might say, "You are my natural children, made of my ground, vegetation, fruits, air, water and animals' flesh. Love me, take good care of me, keep me healthy, beautify me. Give me children in reasonable numbers. Do not kill each other or wage wars that destroy you and me. Insist on being returned to me at your death to become trees and flowers. I am doing my job. If humans do their job, we will be the most perfect planet in the universe."

#### **One Can-Do**

Set your water heater to the vacation setting, and then stay home. The water will be comfortable for your shower when you turn the faucet full hot. You don't need to pay for scalding water heated 24 hours a day. If a pan is greasy, heat a little water on the stove.



Too few people try to solve the impossible. We need men and women who consider it their duty to solve impossibilities. In particular, we need

*paradisers* who consider themselves capable to conceive and help achieve Paradise Earth.

*To try the impossible is fun.*

—Einstein



Irresponsible predictions of destruction only create more fear and feelings of hopelessness and despair. They serve no purpose and most of them do not come true. It is important to encourage our friends and associates not to pollute their thoughts with fears of the unknown, but instead to work actively in the present time towards creating the Paradise we want. —Dyanne Routh



Humans are the most advanced achievement of the evolution of the Earth's nature, of her living elements. Nature has succeeded to create us as beings with an advanced brain, heart, and soul. She did not do this for us, but for herself, for her further evolution. We must therefore make nature the foremost primary object of our brain, heart, morality and soul. Nature is now number one.



Every day should be a day to give thanks for  
the miracle of human life and of Paradise Earth.



### Decide to Dream

Decide to widely open the gates  
of your wonderful mind,  
heart and soul  
Let in the dreams of God,  
of angels, saints, prophets and sages  
Give birth into the world  
the dreams of your own unique,  
unrepeatable cosmic being



Institutions, like individuals, should have their  
dreams. Write them down and publicize them.  
The world can then become what it is meant to  
be—a world of dreams. The United Nations,  
which is already the world's House of Hope, could  
easily become our House of Dreams. We must  
dream ourselves into a peaceful, disarmed, just  
and happy humanity on a unique, marvelous,  
incredibly rich, well-preserved planet.



Beautiful places on planet Earth should be declared paradises and restored to their ultimate potential.

**One Can-Do**

Reuse plastic bags for produce, granola, etc.



"Ah, my dear, what sort of gladness is there for you if you burn with fever all night and cough as if your lungs were about to burst?"

"Mama," he answered her, "do not weep. Life is paradise and we are all in paradise, but we do not want to know it. If we did want to know it, tomorrow there would be paradise the world all over."

And everyone marveled at his words. He spoke so strangely and so decisively; everyone was moved and wept.

—*Brothers Karamazov*, by Fyodor Dostoevsky



All former UN Secretaries General, Presidents of the UN General Assembly and of the UN Economic and Social Council should create an eminent association and offer to humanity and to all UN member governments each year their ideas, dreams and proposals for a better, peaceful world and for the achievement of Paradise Earth.



To make out of all the Earth an incredible paradise should be the highest objective of the human race. Not only should we say that we want it and plan for it, but we must also work for it and implement it. We need a world strategy for Paradise Earth to be achieved by the year 2050. To elevate our ambitions and plans to that highest maximum objective will help us obtain a much better Earth and humanity than we have today. So let us all aim at making our Earth a paradise, including governments, nations, international agencies, religions, and institutions down to local neighborhoods and families.



Here is an example how we could attempt to make a country a paradise:

- Prohibit advertisements of smoking, alcohol (Al Kohol, an Arabic word meaning the devil) and soft drinks.
- Promote the divine, healthy gifts of liquids by Mother Earth: pure water and natural fruit juices from a wonderful diversity of trees.
- Reduce the size of billboards or eliminate them altogether, as is done in the U.S. city of Santa Barbara.
- Plant trees along all roads.
- Help farmers stay on the land and offer them a guaranteed minimum income.
- Encourage walking and bicycling as the healthiest means of transportation
- Equip all cars and buses with carbon dioxide quantity meters.
- Do not have small enclosures of zoological parks, but make out of the entire country a world park of all living beings and nature.
- Conduct a survey by the United Nations Habitat and the UN Environment Program of examples in other countries

to follow. Be inspired by other paradises on Earth and imitate them.



Here is a way of arranging a night of paradise in the warm regions of the world. Get some green stems from a cactus called Pitahaya. Stick them in the soil near wooden poles of a fence or trunks of trees. They grow up high and produce an umbrella of branches. Then comes a night during which the flowers become the most beautiful, big white flowers on Earth. They open at midnight and stay wide open for pollination until daybreak. I planted many of them on our finca in Costa Rica and each year at the beginning of May we see the beautiful flowers.



You do not need numerous conferences on how to make the Earth a more beautiful place. All you have to do is leave her alone. Do not deforest and denature her with innumerable constructions and she will be a paradise of tranquility and beauty. Just think of all the oxygen and pure air she produces, compared to the carbon dioxide and impurities created by humans attending conferences!



Why do so many humans want to live by the sea? Could it be to find their inner self, or to receive a healing by the peaceful view of the vast surface and immense depths of natural water existing there for millions of years? There are other healing places and views in the world—vast areas of unbuilt nature, hills, forests, brooks, lakes, and rivers. These healing places should be identified, cared for, and well-preserved to remain as permanent as the seas and oceans. A whole new science could be devoted to their nature, to their effects, and to their need for preservation. Such a land is Mt. Rasur, a hill in Costa Rica above the United Nations University for Peace, a real paradise.

**One Can-Do**

Bicycle to the gym. Bike everywhere you can.  
Walk, run, dance, skip, play and feel young.



Celebrations can be a very important part of human activity. We need a *World Institute of*

*Celebrations* to study all aspects of celebrations in all of our cultures. UN celebrations help to achieve a better, happier world, but they are often of secondary importance. Why don't we celebrate Paradise Earth everywhere on this planet? It should be a world celebration.



Athletes, scientists, business people, religious leaders, politicians, and many other professions have one common rule to succeed. If you adopt the highest possible objectives you can imagine, the more you want to attain them the closer you will get. I recommend that all of humanity adopt the following objectives:

- peace between all nations by the year 2020
- demilitarization and disarmament by 2030
- a proper Earth government by 2040
- paradise on Earth by 2050.



We must live more simply, more frugally and not destroy the Earth so that other humans will be able to live on this paradise in the future.

*Paradise is where I am.*

—Voltaire



More and more people are taking care of their gardens and love to plant flowers, making the whole Earth a wonderful, peaceful, heavenly garden, demonstrating a growing love for nature and for her beauty. It would be wonderful if a similar even more important movement would be born for the beauty of humans, a ‘gardening’, a worldwide ‘flowering’ of human beings.



The United States is so prosperous in large degree because it has such a wide expanse, different climates, soils, resources and people. If the world were one large borderless surface like the United States, it would be an even more prosperous entity, a paradise without militaries and armaments. Why not? Why do we lose so much time and so many resources avoiding that?



The United States government triumphantly announced that it had succeeded in getting a US

spacecraft to land on Mars. The cost of this ‘success’ was 820 million dollars. Think of all the poor and desperate hungry people who could have been helped with that money. The U.S. could better concentrate its care and love for planet Earth which is slowly dying.

*There is nothing like a dream to create the future.*

— Victor Hugo



In my darkest hours, I sometimes believe that humans should not produce any more children and let the human species be extinguished rather than let the Earth and her nature come to an end. People die every year in overpopulated cities due to excessive pollution. This means fewer polluters of the Earth.

Soon the monstrous cities will have stop growing under the threat of being abandoned by the people. Like any other living system, they grow and shrink in response to the surroundings.



One has to pay a toll of 100 colones in Costa Rica to drive on the road to the airport. That is a small sum of US 25 cents but who thinks of the

numerous tons of additional gasoline used around the world to restart stopped cars at all the innumerable toll stations around the world? All road tolls in the world should be abolished. I recommend that the United Nations Environment Program publish every year a list of human actions which are unnecessary but do damage to the world's natural environment.



In each department, agency, and major program of the United Nations, an official or a small unit should be entrusted with the sole task of thinking, that is, having ideas, visions, dreams and specific plans for the present and the future of the world and humanity. Together these efforts could bring about a change of course of humanity, a big step forward toward Paradise Earth.



There are many ways God talks to us. He does it mostly in the morning when we are still ahead of the day's obligations and involvements and in the evening when we are liberated from them. He does it also during the night in our dreams and during the day through what we call or think are

‘coincidences’. And we can best talk to God when we consider that he is part of us, that we are his creation and his instruments to create paradise, peace and happiness on Earth.

*God is a basic tendency of the universe.*

–Einstein



What a pity that after millions of years humanity has not yet found the right way of living happily with Earth and still maintains armaments and militaries ready to kill. It is very hard to understand. How can we still consider ourselves to be an intelligent species? This no longer makes any sense.



I will try never to leave this planet. When I will physically ‘die’ I will continue mentally and spiritually through my writings, speeches, and videos. I will be one of the invisible, cosmic forces on Earth which influence, inspire, and help us through what we call ‘coincidences’. I will, as so many other humans, remain forever an active, though invisible, peacemaker, happiness creator

and coincidences actor. Invoke me and I will help you.



Paradise is a basic tendency in the universe.



### **Decide to Network**

Use every letter you write  
Every conversation you have  
Every meeting you attend  
To express your fundamental beliefs and dreams.  
Affirm to others the vision of the world you want  
Network through thought  
Network through action  
Network through love  
Network through spirit  
You are the center of the network  
You are the center of the world  
You are free, a powerful source of life  
and goodness.  
Affirm it.  
Spread it.  
Radiate it.  
Think day and night about it  
And you will see a miracle happen.



To all heads of state:

- Have a vision of a magnificent, peaceful Earth
- Declare the Earth as priority number one
- Ensure the well-being of all humanity
- Demilitarize and disarm the whole planet
- Stop the world population explosion
- Establish a proper Earth government
- Give ecology priority over economics
- Abolish all borders
- Consider the European Union as a model
- Reform the UN into a United Humanity



Use the word *aloha*, which means "our beautiful Mother Earth," instead of the meaningless *hello*.



We need a world movement of people to conceive Paradise Earth. Innumerable ideas to achieve that paradise could be born all over the world and become the main focus of governments.

Here is one example:

Demilitarized countries form the most honored group of countries on Earth. Newly demilitarized countries are celebrated worldwide by the people. On January 1, all demilitarized countries are honored and celebrated. A philanthropist establishes a substantial yearly demilitarization prize, which becomes more coveted than the Nobel Peace Prize.



We have organs in our bodies working together in innumerable ways. We have trillions of cells all endowed with life making. We have miraculous eyes to see, ears to hear, hands to touch, legs to walk, all working together in an incredibly complex living whole. What a paradise this is, but we are beginning to destroy it, letting a species die every five hours due to our selfish behavior.

We must wake up to a great new worldwide design, the natural culmination of our evolution which we must cherish, take care of, preserve, improve, and embellish. Let us concentrate on that incredibly important objective.

**One can-do**

Use rechargeable batteries



We should eliminate from our lives and actions the stupidities and wrongnesses inherited from a dead or dying past. On the other hand we should welcome, support and expand new activities that preserve and improve our planet.



Rich people around the world should make every effort to protect and save our Mother Earth. They could buy potential building areas and land and give them back to nature. Please wake up!

Why am I more depressed when I am in the United States than in Costa Rica? It starts with the newspaper in the morning which carries almost exclusively negative, depressing world, national, and local news. It was the same seventy years ago when I was a child and watched my mother reading the newspaper. When will the media wake up and become active participants in the construction of a true Paradise on Earth? In the meantime, I let their stories go by and work with positive dreams and ideas. That is enough for me.

### One Can-Do

Three days before the winter solstice of 2007, the US Congress passed its first bill in 32 years to increase fuel economy. Automakers will have to boost their average mileage to 35 mpg by the year 2020 from 25 mpg in 2007. According to the EPA's website [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov) only 2 cars sold in the US meet the new standard: Honda Civic (42 mpg combined) and Toyota Prius (46 mpg combined). Let's pass our own law of the people by refusing to buy any new car that gets less than 35 mpg.



All builders and building companies around the globe should be considered as potential Earth and nature destroyers. They must be controlled and prevented from destroying the Earth for the mere purpose of making big profits. This new control should be instituted worldwide.

*Climate change is not a hoax. The hoax is that we're doing something about it.*

—Thomas Freedman. *New York Times* 6/24/07



I do not have to dream what is possible or what I can implement. My dreams can induce other human brothers and sisters to implement them. They might live at a time when it is easier and when humanity has become ready and receptive.

*A mind that is stretched to a new idea never returns to its original dimension.*

—Oliver Holmes

## **Our Dream 3000**

by Robert Muller Barbara Gaughen-Muller



Photo by Douglas Gillies

We dream that all humans, the most advanced miracle of life in the universe, will lift our sights, hopes and dreams to the year 3000 and make the third millennium a tremendous, unbelievable success.

We dream that all governments will join their minds and hearts to manage this beautiful Earth and its precious humanity in peace, justice and happiness.

That all religions will join in a global spirituality,  
That all people will become a caring family,  
That all scientists will join in a united, ethical science,  
That all corporations will unite in a global cooperative  
to preserve nature and all humanity.

We believe that once and forever, we will eliminate all wars, violence and armaments from this miraculous planet.

We dream that the incredible and growing distance between rich and poor nations will be eliminated as a blemish to the miracle of life.

We dream that we will stop the destruction of our miraculous, richly endowed planetary home.

We dream that we will eliminate all lies, corruption and immoral advertisements for purely monetary purposes.

We dream that we will all live simple, frugal lives in order not to waste unduly the precious resources of our planet.

We dream that each decade and centennial will be celebrated as a great worldwide thanksgiving for our successes.

We dream that we will succeed in making our planet the ultimate success of God, of the mysterious forces of the universe of which each of us is a miraculous, cosmic unit.

Dear brothers and sisters, dear children, youth, adults and elderly, dear spirits of all the departed, let us join forces in fulfilling God's loving destiny intended for all of humanity

Let us prepare the year 3000 as the most extraordinary celebration of our grand mysterious journey in the star-studded heavens.

Let us make this third millennium a Jubileum filled with overflowing peace, tremendous love, happiness and thanksgiving.

## Dialogue about Paradise Earth

A teleseminar with Robert Muller with Douglas Gillies  
recorded on March 10, 2007

As Robert Muller approached his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday, emails were sent to people who had kept in touch with Robert and Barbara over the years announcing a teleseminar to explore Robert's ultimate idea—Paradise Earth. Everyone was asked to submit a question or comment to Robert.

Douglas: What do you mean by Paradise Earth?

Robert: Living in this paradise is *incredible!* I have lived a good number of years. I see birds. I see the beauty all around me. Human beings are getting married and having children. From the beginning, I loved the animals and still today, at the age of 84, I have the same attitude. When I wake up in the morning it is a great moment to see nature again. I go out and I look at the plants and the heavens. This has been so deep in me that I never had to find out why it was so. It just was so.

Douglas: Are you always this optimistic, or do you sometimes get discouraged?

Robert: I get so in the evening. I'm very high up in the morning, and then progressively during the day, especially in a place like the United Nations, where I worked for 40 years, you have only problems, you have discouragements, or you have reports that this does not work, or that some new problem has arisen in some country. At the end of the day, I often found that I was somewhat pessimistic because there were so many things that were wrong. But I didn't mind it, I just had dinner with my children, because I knew the following morning all of this would be gone. In the morning I would be again, as always before, the happiest man on the earth.

Douglas: That has been my experience of you. It's not that you have your head in the clouds. You see the real problems in the world, but you regenerate yourself and you approach each day as a new miracle. Have you been able to teach other people how to do this?

Robert: Oh yes. In the United Nations, I became a kind of model of it. When something was very wrong, or when people in the United Nations were desperate and said, "I do not know how to handle this," the Secretary-General would say, "Talk to Robert Muller," I would try to get them out of

their despair and make them happy again. One thing I would say was, "Do not imagine that you can solve this problem in a short period of time. These things have accumulated over a long time and it will take a long time to resolve them. So do it systematically, do it with hope, but do not despair if it cannot be done immediately."

I have known Secretaries-General who had great ideas, and they died without the idea being adopted, but they knew that in a few more years, something would change and it would become a reality.

I became a United Nations officer due to the fact that I dreamed that someday I would be in a position where I could do something that would be addressed to the entire world! Out of the blue in a small town in France in a very poor family, I was asked to join the United Nations. I spent my entire career at the United Nations and I still do what I have always done, even though I am not now working at the United Nations.

Douglas: Your experience at the United Nations gave you a unique sense of history. Do you see any likelihood that we can achieve Paradise Earth based on your experience of history?

Robert: Oh, definitely! There is no doubt about that! I have seen other things become a reality

after being told that they could not become a reality. For example, at the beginning of the United Nations I was told that I could not use the word *peace*. I said, "What? I cannot use the word *peace*?" "No, because there will be no peace on Earth. There will always be something remaining, and in the United Nations we have been told by governments that we can speak about the progress of peacemaking, but they do not want to hear that peace will be the normal situation for all of humanity in all the countries."

After a couple of years, everything changed. Now *peace* is a word that is used everywhere in the United Nations. If you are working for a better world, there is one thing which you should not count on, namely that what you dream, what you would like to happen, will happen during your life. Some of them will take longer than that, but that is not a reason for not continuing to advocate what you believe, and to bring it nearer to reality.

Robert Schuman is remembered as the "Father of Europe." In Europe there were many wars between countries. My grandparents lived through three wars between France and Germany. My father lived through two wars and I lived through one. Schuman was Prime Minister of France, and later was Foreign Minister when he issued the Schuman Declaration in 1950 proposing that West Germany and France jointly

manage their coal and steel industries. This led to the origin of the European Union in 1963, just after Robert Schuman died. I went to his tomb to tell him that there was now a total acceptance of the European Union.

There was a border I could see as a child from my window at the edge of town, which I hated, and I asked, "Why do the birds go there? Why do the animals go there? Why can't I go there as a human without having to fill out a paper?" The border has now disappeared and nobody complained about its disappearance.

Douglas: So there has been progress toward uniting the world. Now we are looking at the possibility that humans could adapt to the idea that Earth is a paradise. What would be the next steps that we would have to take in order to move from our world, that is in so much struggle, to a world that can unfold as a paradise?

Robert: I would not jump immediately to that as the main objective. First we have to create friendships and destroy borders, or reduce border formalities in many places around the world. That is my first priority. Number two; I would declare that we are the only paradise in the universe! We have seven other planets orbiting the Sun, and the conditions are not right to have a human

species. For life to be created on any planet, there are so many conditions to fulfill. On Earth, we are the only ones who have life because all of the conditions are right—the distance from the Sun, the right amount of heat, and the composition of the waters. This is the only place in the universe where life has been found.

Douglas: Is there any way one individual can have an influence on the United Nations?

Robert: Many people write me letters and say, "Mr. Muller, do you think that I should send this proposal to the United Nations." I write back, "Maybe you can change this a little bit. Please send it to the Secretary-General of the U.N. but do not expect an answer, because very often it goes to officials who may work on it but they do not answer you."

When I write to the Secretary-General I say to him, "You never have to answer me. The only thing I expect is that you or your successor will implement it."

Douglas: So you don't depend upon the recipients of your letters to acknowledge you and tell you what they are going to do. You simply send them the idea and trust it will take seed somewhere.

Robert: When the president of a country accepts an idea, he should be the author of the idea and not have to say that this idea was received from Mr. Muller. It will not have the same strength if it comes from someone else. I tell them this must be *your* idea. You do not have to mention my name. Then there is a better chance that the rest of the world will listen to him.

Douglas: There are so many different indigenous cultures. Will they be challenged or helped as we move toward Paradise Earth? Will they lose their languages and have to give up their traditions?

Robert: In the European Union people work together and they get married across the border, but the Germans continue to speak their German. The French speak French. They are beginning to learn about the other languages, too. This was totally prohibited when I was a young child. I could not use any word that was not a French word. When the Germans occupied us, they said, "We do not want to hear another French word in this school. Everything has to be German." This now has disappeared.

It is very difficult to move from the various languages. You cannot ask all the people to unite overnight. All you can say is, "Work together. Try to do things together. Learn from each other,

because you might learn something which you have not thought of in your country." To keep our ideas and our languages, but to work together—this has not yet begun. But with the United Nations we have the first example that it can be done. Many years will pass before we have a world united like a United Europe. It will come, but we are not yet ready.

Douglas: We are not approaching each other in various cultures with curiosity. We are not yet saying, "Let me learn from you, and I will teach you what I have to teach." So we're not yet at the place where we are approaching each other with respect. What about places that are in so much turmoil, like Iraq and Afghanistan. If we are creating Paradise Earth, what do we say to the people who are suffering in war?

Robert: Nations that are composed of so many enemies of each other are very difficult to unite. Iraq is an example because you have so many deep differences between them. I visited China in 1972 with the Secretary General, and at one point the Secretary General asked Premier Chou En Lai, "What is China's position on the Middle East conflict?" The Premier said, " You will still have it in a hundred years. I have nothing else to offer as an opinion." This has been true for 35 years now.

Many countries around the world consider the Middle East, and Iraq in particular, as the most difficult problem we face when we think about a united world. They are not ready. One day they will wake up, especially the children. When they are educated in foreign countries they will say, "Why do we continue this way? This is not the normal way of doing things." It will happen, but not yet. There are too many differences.

Douglas: Part of the solution is not to build walls to keep each other out, but rather to encourage people to travel back and forth and get to know each other.

Robert: We have so many marriages between different countries. I was talking to a lady and I asked, "How are the children doing?" She said, "My children! I don't see them anymore. My two boys have married girls who are far away on the other side of the Earth. But they are happy, so that's okay with me." No one so far has even come up with statistics of the number of marriages between nations. It would be good to have statistics every year in order to see if this is growing. In my own family, I have a grandson who says he is interested in working in Africa. Another says he is going to work in Latin America. As human beings they are interested in knowing

other parts of the world. This is growing, which will create, finally, a united world.

Douglas: So one of the elements leading to Paradise Earth is the natural curiosity of human beings as they travel and move to new places and form relationships with people who are different from themselves. Is it inherent in human nature that we will continue to create a healthier and happier world?

Robert: When the animal world was created thousands of years ago, there was one animal, namely the human animal, that didn't have a vocation to do something special. Wherever they went they said, "Oh, that's a nice place. Let's have a village here." After they settled down they had to have a language and they had to have a religion. As a result humans often have wars between neighbors, even on a worldwide scale during the past century.

This has now come to the end and we know we cannot continue this way. We have to understand that even though we have all these languages and we have all these gods and religions, we must work together. Religions have difficulty working together if each religion thinks it is 100% the right one and it cannot even talk with other religions. I proposed the formation of a United

Religions organization in San Francisco which is working on the beginning of a religious world humanity. They no longer say, "We have the answer and you have to follow us or we will kill you," as is the situation with the Arab nations today. This has to be worked out.

Douglas: How do individuals bridge the gaps between religions?

Robert: Religious leaders are beginning to work together. For a long time they refused to talk to each other and forbade their people to have relations with other religions. They were told by the heads of their faiths, "There is only one religion, our religion."

But progressively people are starting to become interested in other religions as they discover that they are not so different and realize they should not be condemned. They have been born in different conditions, which might be just differences in nature which affect how they view heaven and the earth. It is difficult to obtain a worldwide union of religions because most of their Bibles condemn relationships with other religions. This still exists and has not been overcome, but it is not a reason to stop the evolution of the planet! They just need more time to be part of the totality!

Douglas: I wonder if one of the roots of our biggest challenge is that we believe that we are separate from one another and different from one another. Do you sense that there is a shift toward a new awareness that we are actually connected and that we are all one human family?

Robert: I think that the major obstacle to forming a religion between countries is the military. The militaries are diminishing. They are disappearing. In my hometown in Alsace-Lorraine, every morning after church the children had to walk in front of a procession in the name of war to show that France was capable of dominating other countries and having wars. Today it has all disappeared. The armies are having more and more difficulties continuing to exist. Nobody is interested in war any more.

I have made a proposal that the militaries become part of the police force. The police are here to put order if there is trouble, but not in another country. In France, we do not call them *police*. They are called *l'Agence de la paix*. French police have been called agents of peace since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. When we were children, if we had a problem, if we had difficulty crossing the street because there were too many automobiles, we went to the police and we said, 'Monsieur l'agent, would you be so kind and help me to cross the

street?" France is one country where the police are an agency of peace. If we transformed the armies into the police, we would no longer have them looking for wars in order to survive.

To get a united world is very difficult and you cannot solve this overnight. It might take 50 years, maybe 100 years, but it will take place. There is doubt about that.

Douglas: There is growing concern for genetically engineered seeds. Companies sell seeds that won't reproduce the plants so you have to keep buying the seeds. That spills into a larger controversy that business is changing the landscape of the world and how that might affect our ability to achieve Paradise Earth. What is the role of business in this evolving vision of Paradise Earth?

Robert: We have a problem because the United Nations got an order from the United States to not have anything to do with the multinational corporations. So you have no worldviews that would condemn certain actions of the worldwide businesses.

Each year in the United Nations, we invite them before the opening of the General Assembly to meet with representatives of the nations. They have a meeting to give us indications about the

future. The heads of multinational corporations who come to the meeting are often the people who make great proposals for unions between nations. I would not condemn the world corporations.

But many of them are arms manufacturers. Even the United Nations was first located in an arms factory on Long Island. When I first arrived at the United Nations in 1947, half of the building was the Sperry gyroscope factory and the other half was where I worked for the United Nations.

The poor countries are beginning to complain and say, "We cannot develop economically because we are completely invaded by foreign corporations. All the advertisements in our countries come from the US or Europe. We cannot compete with the rest of the world anymore. "

Douglas: And yet, we are moving towards a better world. You see that and you believe that in your heart.

Robert: Absolutely. Whether you like it, you have to be positive if you want to get good results from anything. You have to believe it and you have to be in love with what you're trying to do.

Douglas: Your background is as an economist. You received your masters in economics and your

doctorate in law, and you always worked in the United Nations Economic and Social Council. So the United Nations for you was an experience that led you to believe we are moving towards a better world. Sometimes when we hear about the United Nations it sounds as if everything is going wrong and the UN is powerless to do anything about it.

Robert: I am recommending that they should have an entirely new United Nations. The UN has had practically no reform during all these decades since its creation because it was taboo. You cannot change the UN. The UN today is not in a position to deal with many of these problems.

Douglas: What motivated you to write 7,000 Ideas for a Better World?

Robert: When a new idea comes, at the beginning it is rejected. A new idea goes through the four phases: (1) it is hated, (2) it is ignored, (3) people look at it, and (4) they take it over! Such is the history of humanity.

In the United Nations, I said to every Secretary General, "Every day you should come out with a statement that goes to all nations on Earth in which you say, "Here is something good that has been done somewhere which should be followed by others." They all refused. They said, "Muller,

we would not be allowed by governments to do that."

One day I mentioned this to Barbara, and she said, "Robert, why don't *you* do it?" Then she created "Good Morning World" and printed it out on paper. A man named Easy published my ideas on the Internet. Now people receive it every day. They are concrete proposals, but it would be better if it came from the United Nations.

Douglas: When someone asks you what can one person do, what do you say to him or her?

Robert: To young people I always recommend that they create unions among themselves. Find a few people who share the same view in the same city. Become a member of a local organization where you can come up with new ideas.

When I have an idea I write it down. I want to be part of the further evolution of humankind on this beautiful planet. I do not have ideas by being excited. It is very natural. I take it easy and write it down!

Barbara: I just want to add what makes Robert tick at 84. You know what it is? Happiness. This is the happiest man on the planet. He wakes up in the morning and he is happy. And even though he's tired at night he is still happy. In his book

*Most of All They Taught Me Happiness*, the people in his life who meant the most to him taught him happiness.

Robert: You are right. As I came to the telephone for this interview, I brought two things, which I have in front of me. The first one is a little 10-hole harmonica on which I am able to play the "Ode to Joy" by Beethoven. The second thing comes from the indigenous people, with whom I had very good relations at the United Nations. They always had a stick that they held before speaking. They would look at it, and on it they wrote down ideas as to what they should do. I was given one of these sticks and I have had it for years. I have it in front of me. Here, I write for example, "Speak with love. Speak with the heart. Love is the answer. Much happiness in your life. Think with love. Smile a lot. Act with love. Behave with love."

When people ask me to give a speech, I take it along and I look at it to see if there's a philosophy that will be applicable. Can you imagine! My attitude is based on a stick and on a little harmonica.

Douglas: Do you have that harmonica with you?

Robert: Yes, of course! I have it always in my pocket. When I see a lady with children, I smile at

them and they smile at me. I say to the mother, "Do you think I can play a little harmonica for them?" And these children are so happy! Very often my wife carries little harmonicas and she gives a little to the children!

### **Barbara Gaughen-Muller's Earth Alphabet**

Planet Earth is my home and mother  
I am all Earth and I will return to Mother Earth  
after my miraculous life.

I therefore decided to:

A APPRECIATE nature and know I am responsible  
for its future

B BE joyful as I live my life on magnificent Planet  
Earth

C CONSUME less, buy only those things that I  
really need

D DECIDE to make the Earth a Better Place for  
all humans and life

E ENERGY CONSUMPTION at home and in transportation can be reduced

F FINANCIAL SYSTEMS and business that protect nature serve me and Humanity

G GLOBAL COOPERATION rather than competition serves humanity best

H HUMANITY working together can make this a sustainable, well-managed, heavenly planet

I INDIGENOUS PEOPLE have many ideas on preserving Earth to teach me

J JUICES from fresh fruits and vegetables help me protect my health

K KINDNESS begins with me and spreads from person to person and to the world

L LOVE and respect all humanity and all living species

M MEDIA truth telling begins with the Framework for World Media Coverage

N NATURE uses all resources, there is no waste,  
business can learn from nature

O ONLY I can inspire others by my example to  
preserve Earth

P PEACE through proper global education is the  
right of all world children

Q QUIETLY walk in nature daily and breathe  
deeply to be renewed and refreshed

R RESPECT all religions

S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE of our planet is  
possible

T THE EARTH CHARTER provides me with an  
ethical vision for my future

U UNITED NATURE is possible because I protect  
all living things

V VOICE my thoughts, tell the truth and act  
responsibly toward Earth

W WATER is precious, never waste one drop

80 – Paradise Earth

X EXCUSE no waste, no greed, no destruction of  
Nature

Y YOU AND I are miracles with unique talents, we  
must use them to save the Earth

Z ZERO POPULATION GROWTH at this stage  
helps preserve Planet Earth



**Photo of Robert Muller**  
**UN Assistant Secretary General**

Robert Muller devoted 40 years to the United Nations, working behind the scenes on global cooperation to bring about a lasting world peace. He rose through the ranks of the UN to the highest appointed position: Assistant Secretary-General. Nicknamed "Prophet of Hope" at the United Nations, Muller is recognized as the "father of global education" as a result his "World Core Curriculum," which earned him the UNESCO Peace Education Prize in 1989. Dr. Muller received the Eleanor Roosevelt Man of Vision Award and the Albert Schweitzer International Prize for the Humanities. His latest book is *Most of All They Taught Me Happiness*.



**Photo of Douglas Gillies**  
**Author, *Prophet—the Hatmaker's Son***

Douglas graduated from UCLA Law School in 1972 and practiced law in the Bay Area for 16 years. He is author of the biography of Robert Muller, *Prophet—the Hatmaker's Son* (available at [www.eastbeach.org](http://www.eastbeach.org)). With Ron Dexter, he produced "On the Edge," award-winning documentary featuring Mikhail Gorbachev, Ted Turner, Jane Fonda, Carl Sagan, Houston Smith, Jane Goodall. A facilitator public speaker and producer, he is a board member of Santa Barbara Graduate Institute and is the founder of Concensus Designs, a strategic planning company.