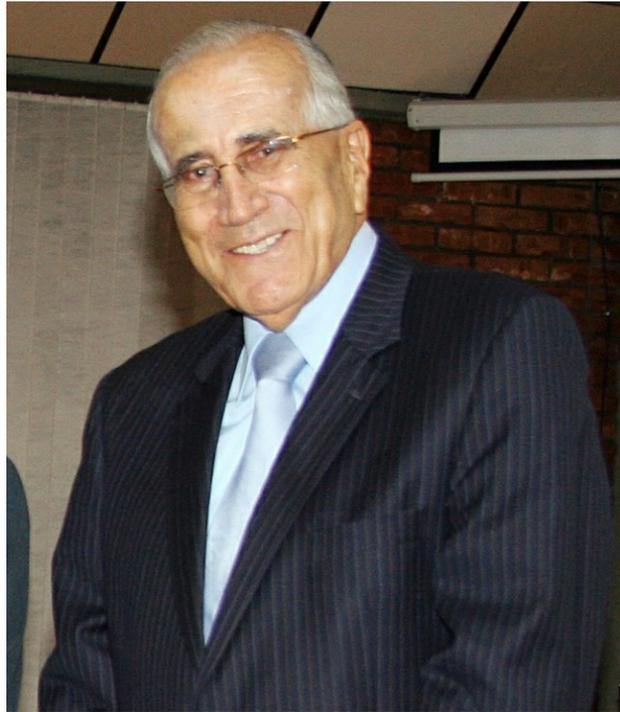


*Speech at the funeral Mass in honor of the great humanist and promoter of Gaviotas, **Mario Calderón Rivera**, in the Chapel of Modern Gymnasium, delivered by Paolo Lugari, General Director of Centro Las Gaviotas Bogota January 14 2014*



Mario Calderón Rivera

Last Sunday we were in Chinchiná we spread your ashes to fertilize trees you planted in honor of your Family. You went back to the vegetal skin of the earth, to whom you delivered so much for improving.

At that moment I remembered the thought that says: that who has planted a tree before he died, has not lived uselessly and you were a co-worker to plant 8 million trees in Gaviotas, in the vastness of Gaviotas, in the most difficult conditions, because you always believed in us, in the beauty of the extreme difficulty.

So we face the wilderness of imagination that is the most dangerous of all. Pessimism cannot deny the hope.

You were a genuine representative of friendship, because not only found you together with us the way to revive the tropics, but you always accompanied us on this tour in the ongoing search for temporary truths with ethical zeal, because in the next generations, humanity's future will be defined.

We insist on being actors of our future rather than simple spectators, with enthusiasm, which is the prerequisite for any human endeavor as President Betancur reminded us, in one of his many visits to Gaviotas.

We need to restore this innocent, symbiotic relationship between human and Nature.

In our walks around Gaviotas, when we talked, among other things, on how to bring solar energy to the cities, which we did later, we said that the problem of our society is the disconnection between the individual and the community, which is not true in an ecosystem.

Hence we need to make connections. Everything is in everything, as Democritus said.

We are not attending your funeral but quite the opposite, because your dreams are ours, and we always carry out our responsibility of making them come true.

You taught us that doing good, is the best definition of love.

We will not stop repeating that maturity is making dreams come true.

Your life was a work of art.

Great trip, Master!