

***Inland Lighthouse Church. 1123 S. Cactus, Rialto, Ca. 92377***

*In response to the letter sent to the ministers of the U.P.C.I. concerning Paul Price's message to the Western District Conference, and his sending of the tape and letter to the Executive Board.*

August 27, 2003

Dear Brother Kilgore,

Greetings in the Most Beautiful Name of all—to my good friend of many years. In your recent letter to Brother Paul Price and the ministers of this fellowship, your long years of love and respect for him definitely bled through. I pray that my love for you is as apparent as well, for I write this in the fear of God and with very deep respect for you personally and a love for the United Pentecostal Church that is only surpassed by my love for God. I write this in defense of my 'adopted' pastor—Paul Price.

First I would like it to be noted that Brother Price made his remarks to the ministers that were at the Western District Conference who overwhelmingly voted their approval and adoption of it as being their stand as a District. A few days later Brother Price sent a letter and copy of the tape, not to the General Board, but to the much smaller Executive Board, which was about to be in session. Except for his office staff sending out the tape upon request, he never sent the tape anywhere else—but like many tapes—it did make its way through the fellowship as most of our churches have tape duplicating equipment—and most pastors have friends. The really important point of his actions is being missed in much of the discussion:

***Is what Brother Price said true or not?***

1. Was (or is) there serious discussion on the part of key people in our fellowship for us to advertise on television? The answer is unequivocally; yes.
2. Did Brother T.F. Tenney appear on national Television on the *Trinity* Broadcast Network? Did he have Oral Roberts write the introduction to his latest book? Yes, on both counts, and the video tape of the television session is going around the nation as well.
3. Did Brother Haney go to Ethiopia and give Brother Teklemariam the highest of accolades—in spite of the fact that he is teaching a doctrine that had already been condemned as heresy by the General Board? Yes.

Not since Elijah was accused of being the trouble-maker, has there been such misplacement of blame. Brother Price did not create these scenarios—*he merely pointed them out*. And, as we all know, Brother Price is one of the longest standing board members in the United Pentecostal Church today and indeed has given himself selflessly for this movement that he loves and has proved that he is willing to die for.

Is there scriptural precedent for Brother Price to do it as he did? Yes. The Apostle Paul called the name of Alexander the coppersmith in II Timothy 4:14-15, the name of Simon Peter in Galatians 2:14, the names of Hymenaeus and Philetus in II Timothy 2:17, and the name of Demas in II Timothy 4:10. Also, the Apostle John called Diotrephes name in III John 9.

Furthermore, if Brother Paul Price is to be believed, he did try to converse with Brother Haney on several occasions but could not seem to get through—or through to him.

Brother Kilgore, my dear friend whom I do truly love; 'Unity' truly is a wonderful thing—when the unified are going in the right direction. But surely, and especially when it comes to the Kingdom of God, the *direction* one is going is more important than the fact that others agree and are going with him. Brother Price's cry is not for disunity but for us to keep going in the right direction as a movement.

Are his concerns valid? In my opinion, and the opinion of many, many others, they are absolutely valid. Did you receive dozens of concerned phone calls? Of that I have no doubt. Did Brother Price receive dozens of concerned phone calls about where we are headed as a movement? Yes. But he did *not* receive one phone call—no, not one—from a single member of the Executive Board to whom he sent the letter and tape. Should he have received at least one phone call from one of them? Without question. This is Paul Price... one of the Elders and champions of the faith of this generation.

Though you in no wise suggested this, it has been said by some that Brother Price is now "just a *little too old*" and has somehow "slipped a cog or two" thus this aberration in his preaching. Anyone who would say this has obviously not talked to him personally—*the man's mind is as sharp as ever*. Furthermore, I have seen Brother Price minister in this manner before. Several years ago at a Western District Conference he preached a message that was nicknamed "The Shootout" in which he told us that he had danced around some of us long enough and was "ready for the shootout." We had several ministers leave the U.P.C.I. after that—but not one of them had held to the Holiness teachings of our movement for several years. But then, he received flack from around the nation for that message as well.

Brother Kilgore, as God is my witness, I have absolutely no vendetta whatsoever against Brother Haney, Brother Tenney, yourself, any leader or man. You, these men and this fellowship have shown me the utmost kindness through the years. I trust I have striven to exhibit a good, kind and fair spirit in all situations. ***But Brother Price is like a father to myself and to many in this fellowship.*** I have worked with him very closely on many and varied situations. He has *always* shown nothing but the most beautiful Christian spirit, and as you graciously said in your letter, really is the "most conscientious" leader that I know. For the past many years he has preached and displayed the theme of "knowing and loving Jesus" like no other in our movement, at least to my knowledge.

At any rate, this is my small effort to defend a man that I love and believe in, who has also stood by me and others in times when our motives have been misunderstood. If he has made any mistakes in his efforts—they were done on the side of sincerely trying to protect a movement that he has given his life for. Furthermore, Brother Paul Price is one of the most *un-political*, and most *spiritually minded* office holders that I have ever known, or known of.

Again, Brother Kilgore, I love you very much. *I truly believe* that you would *never* want to hurt Brother Price—and please believe me that *I would never want to hurt you*.

Every now and then I preach a message about Sarah, Hagar, Abraham, Isaac and Ishmael called, "*Human Frailties...but a Divine Plan.*" I pray that somehow in the midst of all our human failings and frailties—*there is a Divine plan* in all of this and that it is even now at work in behalf of His people. As we all have our roles to fulfill in the light that we possess—God help us to continue to do it with utmost Christian charity.

Sincerely,  
Your Friend and Admirer,

  
Larry Booker