

gene ortiz (ogene49@gmail.com)

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To whom it may concern:

This reference is being written via email as I happen to be traveling.

Dr. McLaughlin counseled myself and my wife some years ago. We had endured the loss of our first child many years earlier in our marriage. Our son was almost four years old when he and I were traveling and were struck by a drunk driver. I woke up from a coma to find that my wife had buried our son. Life went on and life was a struggle from that point on. Having become a Christian, many would think that all would be well soon. Thirty seven years later I found myself in an unresolved depression that had threatened our marriage for too long. My wife left with the hope that I would seek help in resolving the myriad of issues that result in the destruction of 90 to 95 percent of marriages that experience the loss of a child. Difficult days and months were ahead. I realized that I could no longer fake that I was well with myself. I didn't know how to fix this thing in my life; I could help others but could not help myself. I was so confused but knew that I loved the wife of my youth. I just didn't know how to be a good husband anymore. During our separation my wife implored me to find a Christian counselor. Her goal was unity under God or nothing. I was too proud to admit that I could not fix what was wrong. At the same time I was ashamed. I finally realized I was in real trouble; I needed help. I was now willing to see if there was anyone in this life that could possibly say any words that would matter. Short of Christ coming to earth and standing in front of me, I didn't believe there could be anyone. Dr. McLaughlin was such a man. He revealed through counseling the words of life. Almost as if Christ was in the room with us. He spoke truth to me which at times was hard to hear but he did it in such a way it was as if Christ himself was speaking. My soul was free for the first time in 37 years. My wife joined in counseling at a certain point and we were whole again. Thanks to Dr. McLaughlin we thrive today; 49 years married. I have all confidence that Dr. Paul McLaughlin is called of God to do what he does.

Yours sincerely,

Gene Ortiz