



Paul's father died when he was only ten years old. He was then raised by his mother, Merriam, with devotion, often under great financial difficulties, turning to the Center of the Covenant. Service to the Cause became his quest in life. At one point, when Paul was attending middle school, he had to assure his mother not to worry because there was no attraction to the wild life which so many youth feel to be necessary proof of their manhood. He enjoyed being decent and achieved a state of spiritual mindedness.

Paul took up an active part in conferences, conventions and summer schools. He was able to form a close relationship with Mary Maxwell, whom he met along with other Bahá'í children at the Green Acre Bahá'í School. His mother and he moved into a small apartment in Washington D.C. in order to assist in organizing the first Convention for Amity Between the Colored and White Races, held in May, 1921.

His first job was in a government office in Washington D.C., while he attended night school. He became a member of the first National Youth Committee in the United States. Later, he attended Northwestern University and received a MBA. He became a professional economist. When he was twenty two years old, he was appointed to the National Teaching Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada.

He published an article in the January, 1934 issue of the Bahá'í magazine: 'The Economic organization of Society in the New World Order'.

He was first elected to the membership of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada in 1946; in 1948, Canada formed its own National Spiritual Assembly. Paul served on the National Assembly of the United States as chairman from 1950-1957. He served in numerous ways, including as chairman of the Temple Trustees Construction Committee. He represented the National Assembly at the formation of the National Spiritual Assembly of Canada. In 1951, he represented the National Assembly at the formation of the Regional National Spiritual Assembly of South America, and in 1953, the Regional National Spiritual Assembly of Italy and Switzerland.

Paul married Helen Margery Wheeler, a Bahá'í he met at the Green Acre Bahá'í School, on July 15, 1942. They resided in Washington D.C., not far

from Merriam, until moving to the Holy Land, in 1958. He became one of the founders of the Caesaria Golf Club and often would act as a judge in competition and tournaments; one was an annual event for a trophy presented by the Bahá'í community of Haifa..

Paul Haney received the appointment on March 19, 1954, by Shoghi Effendi as a Hand of the Cause of God. Thus the next three years were complete service to the Bahá'í world community. He attended on behalf of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States the Convention of South and West Africa in April, 1956. He represented the Guardian during the first Alaskan Convention that was held in Anchorage, in April, 1957.

The sudden passing of the Guardian, in London, on November 4, 1957, brought to all the Hands of the Cause of God the greatest hardship. Paul was elected to become one of the nine resident Hands of the Cause of God for the Holy Land, latter to be known as the Custodians. This was a great sacrifice for he would be far away from his beloved Merriam and had to turn down a very high and well paid professional position. He represented the Hands of the Cause of God at national conventions throughout the Bahá'í World and at the First World Bahá'í Congress in London's Albert Hall in 1963.

The Universal House of Justice was first elected in 1963, and one of its first actions was to invite five of the Hands of the Cause of God to remain in the Holy Land as advisers and to carried out specific duties. Paul was one of the five, and his first appointments were to the Editorial Committee. He represented the Universal House of Justice at the fifty-sixth Annual Convention of the United States in 1965. He traveled throughout the world representing the Supreme institution. [3] He took part in all four International Conventions held during his lifetime and chaired the opening session in 1968.[4]

On September 1, 1965, Merriam Haney passed away to the Abhá Kingdom. This was indubitably a great loss for Paul. He entailed considerable sacrifice for his dedication to the Cause, pressing onward, being sound in his judgment. He again traveled throughout the world representing the Universal House of Justice, advising, instructing, and encouraging the friends with their activities. He attended diplomatic and governmental functions in Jerusalem as a representative of the Bahá'í World Center; he played a great part in the development of the Continental Board of Counselors and latter, the International Teaching Center. In 1982, he

represented the Universal House of Justice at the Continental Conferences  
Quito,  
Ecuador, Costa Rica and Panama.

Paul Haney met death suddenly and instantly on December 3, 1982  
from injuries sustained in an auto accident in Haifa.

Notes

The Bahá'í World, vol. XVIII, p. 614. In memoriam, Paul Haney, by  
Amatúl-Bahá Ruhíyyih  
Khánúm and David Hoffman.

The Bahá'í World, vol. XVIII, p. 614, Excerpts from Bahá'í Tablets taken  
from Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

The author first met Hand of the Cause of God,  
Paul Haney at the Intercontinental Conference at Marida Mexico in February,  
1978.

We had a conversation on the attributes of the Fund. "Ironically, I was  
actually  
trying to argue my point until I realized with whom I was going to be in the  
argument  
with." He was also a Resident Hand of the Cause of God in the Holy Land during  
pilgrimage in July, 1981. The author recalls how Paul Haney assisted him while  
being extremely ill on his first day in Haifa. He was too sick to stand when  
first entering the Shrine of the Báb, lying on the floor in front of the  
threshold,  
unable to even move. Paul Haney helped him to his feet and held him so that he  
could stand up, then read the Tablet of Visitation: " He just picked  
me up from the floor where I was in front of the Báb's holy threshold and the  
strength in my legs somehow returned so that I could stand during the entire  
prayer."  
He personally inquired about the progress of my recovery over the next several  
days. A few days latter we walked together through the gardens between the  
Western  
Pilgrim's House and the Shrine of the Báb, without saying a word, just  
taking  
in its splendor.

For additional references  
to the activities of the Hands of the Cause of God during the Custodian period,  
see The Ministry of the Custodians 1957-1963, published by The Universal  
House of Justice, 1992. Also see The Bahá'í World 1954-1963, vol. XIII,  
published by The Universal House of Justice,  
1970.

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