

Westboro Baptist Church

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Mr. Brandon Thorp, Assistant Editor
Quintessential Magazine
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Re: 1000-word monograph on Westboro Baptist Church and her pastor, Fred Phelps, solicited by Brandon Thorp or Quintessential Magazine.

To wit:

Westboro Baptist Church is a truly amazing American epic. A Topeka institution at Twelfth & Orleans since Nov. 27, 1955. You can't miss it. The American flag atop a towering pole out front proudly waves (lighted by night) 24/7, year round -- **upside down**. International flag protocol signifying distress. The nation is in acute, fatal, hopeless, irreversible distress. Because the sodomites have seized systemic, plenary control. Atop the American flag waves a huge Canadian flag -- **also upside down**. Ditto Canada's sodomite woes, only worse: Canada sanctions same-sex marriage, **and** arrests and jails Gospel preachers who preach God Hates Fags. They call their new law the Fred Phelps Law, in unintended encomium to Westboro's pastor, for burning the Canadian flag on Parliament Hill. Canada is now the **Homo-Fascist People's Republic of Canada!**

A full tear sheet of Topeka's daily paper dated Nov. 26, 1955 hangs in the church office, announcing Westboro's first public service the next day. Next to that hangs a page from *Time* magazine of June 11, 1951, featuring a picture of a young Fred Phelps preaching on a Pasadena college campus and a story entitled "Repentance in Pasadena." On the opposite wall hang Eagle Scout and associated badges and awards, including American Legion citizenship medals -- all conferred on Phelps in his high school and college days in his hometown, Meridian, Mississippi.

From his Southern Baptist ordination Sept. 8, 1947 as a graduating ministerial student at Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina -- to the present -- Phelps has scarcely missed a Sunday of preaching. His sermons, entitled: "Bread From Westboro Oven," are posted on the website -- www.godhatesfags.com -- within minutes of his preaching them each Sunday, and are heard worldwide.

George Magazine, April 1999, features Pastor Phelps as No. 5 of "The 20 Most Fascinating Men in Politics," behind Jesse Ventura and George W. Bush, but ahead of such as Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Geraldo Rivera.

Gayle Sayers -- the great black NFL running back with the Chicago Bears -- owes much to Westboro Baptist Church. In 1965 when Sayers was a University of Kansas football star, he and some 100 fellow black students demonstrated for equal rights in the chancellor's office. They were arrested and charged with criminal trespass and disorderly conduct. Their college careers and professional careers were at stake -- hanging on the whim of an expected all-white, unfriendly, anti-black jury in Lawrence, Kansas. Nobody not living in those Jim Crow days can appreciate the tension. The stakes could scarcely have been higher.

Two famous black lawyers -- Charles Scott of Topeka and Chester Lewis of Wichita -- desperately needed a white lawyer to face the all-white jury. Pastor Phelps was fresh out of law school, having obtained a law degree and license for the express purpose of representing blacks pro se until *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* was implemented and long-suffering blacks achieved equality in Kansas. Attorneys Scott and Lewis knocked on the Westboro Baptist Church door. Phelps took the case -- and won. Thereafter blacks beat a path to Westboro's door. None were turned away.

Next to Phelps' Eagle Scout medals hangs a large engraved plaque inscribed as follows: "The Bonner Springs Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People honors Fred W. Phelps, Sr. Even though members of the establishment have attacked you from every side, you have remained undaunted and never lost your spark and steely determination for justice during your tenure as a Civil Rights Attorney. Our branch thanks you for being in the vanguard for the pursuit of Human Rights and Human Dignity. Thomas McHenry, Jr., President."

Next to the NAACP award hangs another plaque engraved as follows: "Blacks In Government, Greater Kansas City Chapter: Fred W. Phelps, Sr., In Recognition Of Your Outstanding Contributions In The Field Of Human And Civil Rights." Etc.

The corrupt, racist, Jim Crow Supreme Court of Kansas disbarred Phelps in 1979, in a widely condemned display of wrongful and unconstitutional judicial bigotry -- which Phelps wears as a badge of honor. Hofstra Law School Dean Monroe Freedman, a foremost authority on legal ethics, studied the case and testified to the Federal Court that Phelps did nothing whatever wrong and was disbarred solely because of his prowess as a civil rights practitioner. Others say the Kansas Supreme Court took vengeance because Phelps sued them for discriminating against minorities in employment opportunities within the state's judicial system -- and won. The Federal Courts in Kansas and the 10th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals (where most of his cases were filed) -- in an unprecedented move -- refused to disbar Phelps. Phelps never sought state court reinstatement, though often invited to do so. When asked if he missed it, Phelps replied to a reporter: "Yes, like I missed a bad case of poison ivy when it finally left me, as a Boy Scout."

Express Biblical prohibitions against racism (such as Acts 17:26 -- "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.") -- drove Pastor Phelps to include litigation for blacks as an integral part of his ministry for 25 years. Nothing could stop his redoubtable courtroom advocacy on behalf of oppressed black people. Because, to the Baptist preacher keeping faith with his ordination charge, invidious racial discrimination constituted the dominant national sin of America in those days.

Even so, Biblical prohibitions against the sins of the flesh of ancient Sodom (such as Lev. 18:22 -- "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind; it is abomination." -- drive Phelps today. All Sodom's citizens were not gays and lesbians. Most were not. But they were enablers! Sodomite society had reached a stage of decadence and debauchery whereby homosexuals were accepted with respect and dignity as merely innocent practitioners of a morally neutral lifestyle. "Remember Lot's wife!" said Christ. Lk. 17:32. This condition of affairs very nearly precisely describes modern America -- and is a harbinger of final doom, the end of the world, the Great Day of Judgment. Lk. 17:28-30.

If any would seriously and sincerely ask, What makes Fred Phelps tick?, the answer is simple, immediate, and forthcoming. Journey back in time to a rudy-faced

16-year-old Mississippi lad, just out of high school top of his class, with a principal appointment to West Point Military Academy in his hand -- a thing he had long dreamed of. He's passed the physical at Keesler Field in Biloxi and is only taking college classes while he waits to turn 17, the earliest age for admission to The Point. But meanwhile, at an old-time Methodist revival meeting, he has a powerful religious experience. Straightway he gives up his dearly longed-for West Point, and leaves for Bible college. He never looked back.

On Sept. 8, 1947, the Old Baptist preachers laid their hands on his head, and delivered the ordination charge, including the passage from Isaiah 58:1 -- "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression." The word "show" means get in their faces and make it crystal clear what is the true nature and scope of America's great, current national "transgression," which changes over time -- racism then, sodomy now. And, 2 Tim. 2:15 -- "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (portioning out) the word of truth." What part of the Bible should be vigorously applied now, in this place, to these people?! is the dominant question every faithful Bible preacher must continuously and prayerfully ask.

Without any doubt, homosexuality and the enabling of homosexuality is the great national sin of America. Same-sex marriage is the ultimate, smash-mouth, in-your-face insult to God Almighty, as it blasphemously desecrates the holiest of Bible metaphors: Christ and His Bride the Church. Eph. 5:32. Same-sex marriage defies the law of nature and nature's God, with deadlier -- though sometimes delayed, but even more certain -- repercussions than defying the law of gravity at 30,000 feet.

The challenge in keeping the solemn ordination charge is this: In a modern, technologically-jazzed-up world, how does one cry aloud and get in their faces and make it crystal clear the true nature and scope of their transgression? Beautiful, state-of-the-art, colorful, eye-catching signs -- everywhere sodomites convene. Signs that say: God Hates Fags! Fags Doom Nations! No Tears For Queers! Thank God For Sept. 11! Fags Burn In Hell! And many, many more. Make the spectacular nature of the demonstrations from coast-to-coast and shore-to-shore irresistible -- having an overpowering appeal to TV, radio, newspapers, magazines -- even to news rooms largely controlled by gay and lesbian caucuses. Make them need us for ratings, more than we need them.

Westboro Baptist Church has conducted more than 20,000 such pickets since June, 1991, in all 50 states, Canada, Amman, Jordan and Baghdad, Iraq! WBC's Website -- www.godhatesfags.com -- has some 4 million hits. Every TV and radio network and nearly every TV show from 20/20 to Ricki Lake has featured our message. From Howard Stern to Bill Cunningham, nearly every radio talk show -- hardly a day goes by that Phelps is not on a talk show answering questions from all over America and around the world. Phelps says, "The world is my parish!" Many hundreds of email messages from all nations flood in daily. Remember, WBC accepts no donations. The Old Baptists did not even pass a plate at worship services.

For 50 of his 56 years of keeping faith with his ordination charge, Pastor Phelps has also kept faith with the wife of his youth, Margie, remarkable mother of their 13 children, grandmother to 52, greatgrandmother to 2, to date. The Bible standard is inflexible: One man, one woman, one lifetime. No premarital sex. No extramarital sex. No kinky sex. No same-sex sex. "Let no man deceive you with vain words; for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." Eph. 5:6. "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled; but whoremongers and adulterers God will damn in Hell forever." Heb. 13:4.