

Brief Bio of Pastor Fred Phelps

Fred Phelps was born Nov. 13, 1929, in Meridian, Mississippi. Graduated Meridian High at 16 with highest academic honors (valedictorian), American Legion Citizenship Award, track letter, Bausch-Lomb Science Award, Eagle Scout, Principal Appointment to West Point Military Academy. The summer following graduation, he had a profound religious experience, gave up West Point, enrolled instead for Bible/ministerial training at Bob Jones College, Cleveland, Tennessee (later moving with them as they transitioned to Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina). Ordained by the Southern Baptists Sept. 8, 1947. Met his wife, Margie M. Phelps, in 1951 while preaching at the Arizona Bible Institute in Phoenix, Arizona. Their marriage May 15, 1952 has been blessed of God with 13 children, 55 grandchildren (to date) and 6 great-grandchildren (to date).

Has served as Pastor of Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) in Topeka, Kansas, since Nov. 1955. WBC has conducted more than 32,000 picketing demonstrations across America and some foreign countries since June 1991 -- aimed at showing Americans their transgression (Isa. 58:1) and causing America to know her abominations. Ezek. 16:2.

Fred Phelps is a Five-Point Calvinist who urges all people to carefully study and discern what are the signs of the times (Mat. 16:3) in the light of the Scriptures rightly divided (2 Tim. 2:15) and church history from Adam to now.

Formal education includes:

- Four academic years of religious education (three at Bob Jones College/University; one at Prairie Bible Institute)
- Associate of Arts degree in Engineering (from John Muir College, 1951)
- Bachelor of Arts degree in History (from Washburn University, 1962)
- Juris Doctor degree (from Washburn University School of Law, 1964)

Awards include:

- NAACP Award – 8/15/87
- Blacks in Government Award – 2/1/86