

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe,
New Scotland Yard,
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Westminster
London,
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27 July 2013

Letter to the Commissioner of the Police for the Metropolis

Cc: Association of Chief Police Officers

Dear Commissioner of the Police for the Metropolis

Re: Pastor Tony Miano:

- 1. Unlawful Police action to silence Christian speech on 'sin' and homosexuality;**

- 2. Dismissal of PC Green, PC Bailey and PC Rutland from Police Force; and referral to Independent Police Complaints Commission.**

The Christian Legal Centre is writing on behalf of Evangelist Tony Miano, who was arrested on 1st July 2013 at the Centre Court Shopping Centre for preaching the Gospel during the Wimbledon Tennis competition. The Christian Legal Centre is a non-governmental religious organisation committed to promoting and protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Factual background

On 1st July 2013, Tony Miano was preaching from 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-12 in relation to the work of God in the Bible to 'abstain from sexual immorality'. It is accepted that he described homosexuality as a sin; as well as describing homosexuality, lesbianism and fornication as wrong. The Bible injunction on sexually immoral conduct is well known.

A passer-by (who used obscene language to Mr Miano) reported a 'homophobic' offence to the Police; and PC Green and PC Bailey arrested Tony Miano pursuant to section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 at 16.50. After approximately 7 hours Tony Miano was released without charge.

A conversation between the officers and our client then followed, which has been recorded. Throughout the course of that conversation it is clear that the officers were harassing our client by firstly refusing to allow him to continue with his preaching, and secondly by belittling his Christian faith.

Evangelist Tony Miano did no more than suggest that homosexual practice is a sin (not sexual orientation). As you might be aware, this is the position adopted by all the major churches in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, the Police officers appear to regard the term 'F*** Off' as non -offensive and lawful (as expressed by the Complainant); and the preaching from the Bible as offensive.

Tony Miano was arrested, taken to Wimbledon police station and detained for nearly 7 hours. At the police station he was fingerprinted, had his DNA sample removed and was interviewed under caution. When questioned by PC Chris Rutland, it is abundantly clear from the transcript (attached hereto) that the police officer shows a woeful ignorance of Christianity; the following is a verbatim extract from the interview:

PC: What was your sole intention by doing this today?

TM: My sole intention, my faith, my Christian faith teaches me to love God with all of my heart soul, mind and strength, and to love my neighbour as myself. There is nothing more loving that I will ever do for another human being that to warn them of God's wrath to come against sin and point them to the only one who could forgive their sin, and that's Jesus Christ.

...

PC: OK and you believe through your, your religion that homosexuality is a sin?

TM: Yes I do.

...

PC: ...do you feel what you were doing today, preaching the Gospel, making the comments about homosexuality being a sin: do you think that could have upset people?

...

PC: That's basically what I was getting at. You don't have any, you don't have any...

TM: I don't have any anger towards them.

PC: And you never discriminate against them?

TM: No.

PC: So if someone you knew as a homosexual came up to you and asked you for a favor, you'd quite happily offer them that favor would you?

TM: The word of God tells me to love your neighbor as myself.

The questioning is unlawful as intrusive to 'private life' within Article 8 of the European Convention; and to the 'forum internum' within Article 9 of the Convention: Smith & Grady v United Kingdom (1999).

From the transcript it appears as though the officers were convinced that if someone perceives there to have been a "homophobic incident" then they believe an offence has occurred and therefore the speaker can be arrested.

We remain of the view that no reasonable Police officer would arrest a Christian for preaching a Bible message in the circumstances of this case, nor pursue such an offensive line of questioning.

No reasonable Police Officer could regard 'F*** Off' as acceptable (or non- offensive) and the reading of a well-known Bible passage as offensive.

We assert that such officers are unfit to remain within the Police Force.

Examples of Police Hostility to Christians:

We remain deeply concerned with the partial application of the law by the Police; and the unlawful use of their powers of arrest and intimidation to silence the Christian message on sin in relation to homosexuality.

As an organisation, we receive enquiries from members of the public who are fearful of arrest simply to publically oppose the homosexual agenda or same sex marriage. There is a real 'chilling effect' on free speech.

We have attached a Schedule to this letter that contains a list of recent incidents of the Police's use of the law to silence views deemed to be 'homophobic'; such a list is incomplete and we can give further examples if needed.

These acts by individual Police officers reveal a systemic violation of the free speech rights of Christians; and we believe such acts must be endorsed or approved by senior Officers of the Police.

The Contrast in Treatment between Preacher Overd and Tesco:

Of particular relevance is the case of Michael Overd in January 2012 from Taunton, who was arrested for preaching from 1 Corinthians 6: 9 in relation to condemnation of those who are sexually impure. He was acquitted by the Magistrates Court; but this determination by a (non-binding) court is ineffective to prevent unlawful conduct by the Police and further interference with the Convention Rights of Christians.

In contrast, abusive comments about Christians are free speech.

One example of this is Mr Lansley, the head of Research and Development at Tesco, who publically placed on You Tube the blasphemous homosexual poem about the Lord Jesus called 'The Love that Dares Not Speak its Name'; and who had previously described Christian opponents to same sex marriage as 'evil'. The Christian Legal Centre and its sister organisation Christian Concern directly made a complaint to the Police expressing concern at the partial application of the law. The Police took no action.

If the Police protect to the highest sensitivity one section of society (individuals with a homosexual orientation) and permit another section to be abused (Christian adherents), this means that this type of discrimination is not important to the authorities and has 'demeaning consequences': *Vriend v Alberta* [1998] Supreme Court of Canada.

The Public Order Act 1986:

We would seek to remind you the offence of section 5 of the Public Order Act states a person has committed an offence only if he:

- (a) uses threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, or disorderly behaviour, or
- (b) displays anywriting, sign or other visible representation which is threatening, abusive or insulting, within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress thereby." (emphasis added)

Such arrests are unlawful as they conflate Sections 29B and the Defence of Section 29JA with Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986. Where Parliament has specifically addressed an issue relating to the sensitive subjects of religious affiliation and sexual orientation in the form of a public order offence within the 1986 Act the specific clause must apply in place of the general clause or it is obtuse.

Section 29JA specifically provides:-

In this part, for the avoidance of doubt, the discussion or criticism of sexual conduct or practices, or the urging of persons to refrain from or modify such conduct or practices shall not be taken of itself to be threatening or intended to stir up hatred.

Police use of Section 5 of the Public Order Act is unlawful because it makes this provision obtuse by purposively avoiding its protections.

European Convention on Human Rights:

We would also refer you to the case of *Redmond-Bate v DPP* (1999) 163 JP 789, [1999] Crim LR 998, where it was held that religious speech is by definition often directed at individuals who do not wish to hear it. The case quotes the European Court of Human Rights:

"Freedom of expression constitutes one of the essential foundations of a democratic society subject to paragraph 2 of Article 10. It is applicable not only to "information" or "ideas" that are favourably received or regarded as inoffensive or as a matter of indifference but also to those that offend shock or disturb. Freedom of expression as enshrined in Article 10 is subject to a number of exceptions which, however, must be narrowly interpreted and the necessity for any restrictions must be convincingly established".

In Redmond Bates v DPP and R v Overd the domestic Courts upheld the rights of street preachers; in Kirk Sandown Church [2010] (Northern Ireland) homosexuality was lawfully called 'an abomination'; and the courts have held the use of 'f*** off' as lawful in Harvey v DPP (2011)

The European Court of Human Rights protects controversial speech: in Giniewski v France the Catholic church can be strongly criticised; in Plattform artze fur den Leben v Austria (1989), a case about abortion protests, the European Court held that the duty of the Police is to facilitate free speech on controversial speech and not permit a silencing of viewpoints disagreed with. Free Speech requires a level playing field.

The Need for Guidance from the MPC and ACPO as 'Prescribed by Law' by the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950):

We formally request that you issue Guidance to all officers immediately that the Bible message on the 'sin of homosexual practice' is lawful, unless expressed in a manner which breaches the terms of section 29 of the Public Order Act 1986. We believe that this Guidance is required by the Convention.

The Convention protects freedom of speech and religious freedom of speech; the requirement '**prescribed by law**' does not mean simply that the measure has some basis in domestic law, but requires the quality of the domestic law to be such that an individual is able to foresee the consequences of a course of action: Maestri v Italy (2004) 39 EHRR at [38].

This principle applies even when the powers are express widely in the law purposely as in the Terrorism Act 2000. In Gillan and Quinton v United Kingdom (2010) 50 EHRR 45, the European Court held that the law in question was formulated in an over-broad manner; and was without guidance and used in an arbitrary and discriminatory fashion.

Law enforcement bodies cannot be regarded as impartial and independent actors unless their decisions impacting 'civil rights' are subject to review by the Courts: Zlinsat spol. S.r.o. v Bulgaria of 15th June 2006. Accordingly, the conduct of the Police and the CPS are reviewable by the domestic Courts directly.

Currently, the Police appear (or large numbers of officers perceive their duty) as to enforce the law to silence the viewpoint that homosexual conduct is a sin. This conduct by the Police is unlawful and amounts to a systemic pattern of discrimination against Christians. The citizen is fearful of exercising Convention Rights because of intimidatory tactics by the Police.

Conclusion:

I hope we can agree that preaching the Gospel on sexual ethics (absent extenuating circumstances) is a lawful activity; whilst we recognise absolute clarity in the framing of laws is often not possible to attain, the law in this field is being applied in an inconsistent and arbitrary fashion.

Accordingly the need for Guidance whilst maintaining operational discretion is required.

The situation is serious; it is not possible to leave this to individual court decisions on a case by case basis on grounds of false imprisonment; and a failure to give guidance to the Police means Christian preachers will be subject to arbitrary conduct which 'chills' free speech.

We look forward to :

- your agreement to draft Guidance to the Metropolitan Police on the public speaking on grounds of religion on sexual ethics; particularly the referencing of homosexual conduct as sinful and contrary to Biblical teaching;
- We would like to be consulted in the drafting of such Guidance;
- Your agreement to take full disciplinary action against the officers engaged in the arrest and questioning of Tony Miano; this is required to ensure public confidence in the Police. If these officers remain undisciplined, the Police will be deemed to approve of their conduct and other officers will be emboldened to silence Christian preaching;

We can confirm that we would be agreeable to discussing this further with you; or to mediation and would consider any other system of Alternative Dispute Resolution in order to avoid the need for this matter to be resolved by the courts and would invite you to put forward any proposals in this regard.

We look forward to hearing from you within the next 28 days. Should we not receive a response to this letter within this time frame then we anticipate that court action will be commenced with no further reference to you.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive Officer
Christian Legal Centre

SCHEDULE OF INCIDENTS:

List of cases of "Christian intimidation by Police"

Action taken under Section 5 Public Order Act of 1986 against Christian preaching:

- In 2002 **Harry Hammond** was convicted and fined £695 for displaying a sign which said that homosexual conduct is immoral. The High Court upheld this conviction saying the sign was insulting to homosexuals. Mr Hammond had been assaulted by the crowd but was the only one arrested.
- In 2003 the **Anglican Bishop of Chester** was investigated by the Police for seeking to assist homosexuals by suggesting that their orientation was not fixed;
- In 2006 **Mr Banda** was standing near London Bridge Station with paper bearing quotations from the Bible around his neck and where three policeman ordered him to remove the poster or face arrest under the Public Order Act of 1986 - complaint against London Metropolitan Police filed
- In 2006 **Joe & Helen Roberts** were questioned for 1 hour 20 minutes in their own home about their beliefs after the couple called their local council "to complain about police money being spent on a new project to promote gay rights". The Couple asked for Christian literature to be displayed alongside gay rights literature; and during the telephone conversation, Mrs Roberts expressed her religious belief that homosexual practice is morally wrong.
- In 2007 **Julian Hurst** handed out leaflets in Manchester to invite people to an Easter service. A homosexual man complained and the next day, Julian was visited by police who found the leaflets, which featured a picture of a daffodil and said "New Life, Fresh Hope", to be inoffensive.
- In 2008 the incident of **Arthur Cunningham** and **Joseph Abraham** with West Midlands Police over street preaching in Muslim area (2008) [see below]
- In 2008 **Miguel Hayworth** was questioned and detained by police for preaching from a Bible passage that states that homosexual behaviour is sinful. He was later released and allowed to continue preaching.
- In 2008 **Miguel Hayworth** was detained by police over street preaching in Manchester for a second time [see below]
- In 2008 **Tony Rollins** was arrested for expressing the Bible's teaching on same-sex relationships as a street preacher in Birmingham. He was reported by an onlooker, subsequently arrested and kept in a police cell for 4 hours. The CPS ultimately decided the case was not in the public interest.
- In 2009 **Pauline Howe** wrote to the Chief Executive of Norwich City Council objected to abuse she suffered while handing out Christian leaflets at a homosexual carnival. In response, police officers interviewed her regarding her homophobic letter.
- In 2009 **Andy Robertson** was wrongly told by police that it was a crime to express the religious belief that homosexual conduct is sinful.

- In 2010 **Dale McAlpine** was arrested for saying that homosexuality was a 'sin'. He was wrongly told that saying homosexual conduct was 'sinful' was unlawful. The CPS dropped the case, as there was not enough evidence to convict.
- In 2010 **Anthony Rollins** was awarded £4,250 in damages from West Midlands Police after Birmingham County Court ruled that a police officer committed assault and battery against Mr Rollins for handcuffing him when arresting him for preaching about homosexuality. The Court also held that Mr Rollins' rights to religious liberty and free speech had been infringed and that he had been unlawfully detained.
- In 2010 **Paul Shaw** was arrested for preaching about homosexuality. The case was dismissed by the judge due to a lack of evidence.
- In 2011 **Jamie Murray** was arrested for the display of Bible verses in his Christian café in Blackpool; such verses were offensive to persons of a homosexual orientation.
- In 2012 **Michael Overd** was arrested in Taunton for preaching from 1 Corinthians 6:9 that those who practise sexual immorality will not inherit the Kingdom of God. He was acquitted after magistrates found that he did not intend to cause harassment, alarm or distress to the homosexual men who complained about his preaching.

Some of the incidents above with more detail:

1. Arthur Cunningham and Joseph Abrahams-2008

-Arthur Cunningham and Joseph Abrahams were stopped from handing out Christian leaflets and street preaching in Birmingham by PCSO Naguthney of West Midlands Police. They were told they were committing hate crime by attempting to convert Muslims to Christianity and also threatened

-PCSO "began questioning the ministers about their beliefs" and "launched a tirade against President Bush and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan"

-Cunningham also said: "we were in a Muslim area and were not allowed to spread our Christian message. He said we were committing a hate crime by telling the youths to leave Islam and he was going to take us to the police station"

-PCSO said: "You have been warned. If you come back here and get beat up, well you have been warned"

-Apology sought but police refused and instead, PCSO concluded through an internal investigation that PCSO Nagutheny had acted "with the best intentions when he intervened to diffuse a heated argument between groups of men"

-PCSO Nagutheny given verbal advice and training regarding understanding hate crime and communicating with the public

2. Miguel Hayworth-2008

-A Christian street preacher in Manchester was silenced, taken into the back of a police van, questioned and detained for over an hour following a complaint of 'homophobia'

-Miguel Hayworth had been publicly reading from the Bible, from Romans 1:17-32, when a member of the public complained. The officers later released Mr Hayworth and he was permitted to continue preaching.

-Released because he was not blocking the path (one of the arrest charges) and since there were no details from the complainant and not enough evidence regarding what Hayworth said that was offensive

3. Nick Lansley-2011

-Nick Lansley, the Head of Research and Development at Tesco, posted on YouTube his recital of the poem "The Love That Dares to Speaks its Name"

-The publication of the original poem resulted in a criminal prosecution in 1979

- The Christian Legal Centre filed an official complaint to the police as a hate crime, while citing how Christian preachers have been arrested and questioned under the Public Order Act of 1986

-Police rejected the complaint saying it is below criminal threshold since it was only a recital of the poem on YouTube and not personally emailed to someone or recited over the phone

Tony Miano Interview with Police

Rough Draft of Transcription

Date of Interview: 1 July 2013

Date of Transcription: 4 July 2013

Note:

Tony Miano in Italics

Police Interviewer in Regular Script

Michael Phillips, solicitor for Mr. Miano italicized and capped by "LR:"

Begin:

This interview is being tape recorded, and... [unclear] Wimbledon police station. And there are no other officers present. We are at Interview Room Three at Wimbledon Police Station... and I am interviewing... Could you please state your name and date of birth?

Anthony Edward Miano, date of birth is Feb 22, 1964.

Thank you very much, also present is?

LR: Michael Phillips, [unclear] legal representative.

Thank you very much. The date is the first of July, 2013 and the term is 21:08, so 9:08 in the evening. Okay. So, Tony this interview is being tape recorded so should this ever go to court one of the tapes will be sealed and it can be used in evidence should this ever get that far.

Understood.

Okay, Brilliant. At the time of your arrest today, by PC Green, which was at 16:50, you were cautioned by him. Do you remember that? Do you remember him saying something along those lines? You're under arrest and hence I'm cautioning you? Do you remember that?

You'll have to define cautioning.

Basically what it means is he would have said something, I can repeat it to you, and you tell me if you recognize it. He would have said to you, you do not have to say anything but it may harm your defense if we later rely on this in court. Anything you do say may be given evidence.

Okay.

Also I appreciate this isn't your country of origin and you haven't been arrested before by us. So I will explain caution to you, okay? The first part is, I'll break it down into three parts, okay? The first part is you don't have to say anything. Okay, that is your legal right in this country, you can sit here in silence if you want for this interview. I'm going to ask you some questions so if you do

wish to take that right then I would appreciate it if you could just say no comment. The reason for that is at least I know one, you've at least understood the question and two, you've heard it.

I understand.

Okay. The second part is, should you not say anything here, and give a defense should this ever go to court, the court might, may draw its own conclusions, sorry, as to why you didn't just tell me now. Okay?

Understood.

And the last bit is, as I said to you in the beginning, this interview is being tape recorded. One of these tapes will be sealed, and should this ever go to court that seal will remain around it until the court and be opened in front of your legal representation and the criminal prosecution service, okay, and they can play it in court as evidence. Okay?

I understand.

Okay, happy to understand caution?

I do.

Brilliant. Are you happy? [directed to legal representation]

LR: I'm pleased.

Marvelous, alright. As I said to you earlier on, you were arrested by PC Green at 16:50 for a Section 5 Public Order Act with a homophobic aggravating factor. Okay? Do you want to tell me what you were doing outside Centre Court Shopping Center today at that time?

I was preaching the Gospel.

Okay. Were you by yourself?

I was with several friends, a few from the United States and a few from here in the London area.

Okay, and how long have you been preaching the Gospel for?

In totality?

I'm sorry, as in in this country, as in recently?

During this visit since June 22nd.

So since June 22nd, okay yeah. Sorry just to make you aware as well I will be making notes nothing to worry about just for my benefit later on.

I understand.

You've been here since June 22nd, is that right?

Yes.

Okay, and you've been preaching the Gospel. Is there any specific part of the Gospel you were preaching?

All of it.

Okay, and you're starting from the beginning and working your way through?

Yes, I will preach through different passages of Scripture. And part of proclaiming the Gospel is sharing the law of God, bringing people to a knowledge of their sin so that they will understand their need for a savior.

Okay. With regards to the group of people. Is it, would you, break it up into sections and do a bit each or would you do the whole book and someone else would do the whole Gospel? Or does it how does it work?

Each person preaches basically until they're done. They preach the Gospel message as they feel so lead to do. And then someone else would start from the beginning and preach their own message.

Okay, and obviously, one of the things that caused a scene was the cameras. Do you film there?

Yes.

What's the purpose of filming the preaching?

For our own protection, for one, just in case accusations are made against us.

Like this.

Like this, yes. Just in case there's any type of physical assault against us, so that we can document that as well. Also for the edification of other Christians. We use these videos to train other Christians how to share the Gospel. So those are basically the reasons.

Okay. So if we talk about sort of the incident surrounding your arrest. Okay, do you remember specifically what happened when you were arrested? All of the events leading up to your arrest? Anything stand out as the reason why you think you were arrested? Not necessarily that you agree with why you were arrested I just want.

LR: [unclear] if you could just give the lead up to what happened?

Sure, I was preaching from a passage of Scripture in 1 Thessalonians Chapter 4.

You have to let me write that down.

Sure.

1 Thessalonian...

Chapter 4.

Thank you.

I believe the passage was verse 1 through I think verse 11 or 12.

Verse 1 through to 11/12.

In that passage of Scripture, the apostle Paul encourages the Thessalonians to abstain from all forms of sexual immorality. And to live a holy life, that is consistent with a life devoted to God and the holiness of God.

Okay, so you were preaching this chapter, or these verses from this chapter?

Right.

Okay, and then what happened?

And I was preaching about various forms of sexual immorality. Both homosexual and heterosexual, including fornication, which is sex prior to marriage.

Okay.

And including adultery, not only the cheating on a spouse but also looking at someone with lust. For Jesus said whoever looks at a person to lust after them, that person has already committed adultery with that person in their heart. And that all forms of sexual immorality is sin in the eyes of God. Sin that God will judge, but sin that also God will forgive. Now, prior to being able to get to the good news of the Gospel, I was stopped. So I was still working my way through the law of God and the consequences of sin, before I, I was stopped before I could get to the good news

of how someone could receive forgiveness for that sin and the free gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

Okay. And you were stopped by? Do you remember who stopped you?

Well Officer Green, Constable Green. There were several officers with him, I didn't get all their names. One officer was named Ed.

Yeah, that would be PC Green.

Okay, who else am I thinking of? Officer Green was the officer who brought me in?

Yeah, his name is Ed yeah.

Oh well there was another officer.

Yeah, it would be PC Bailey [unclear] I would imagine. But, prior to your arrest, do you remember anyone who may have made any comments to you taking exceptions as to your comment?

Yes.

Okay, talk me through what happened in that instance.

Well, first there was an older gentleman who told me F off. I won't say exactly what he said. But told me to F off as he was getting on the bus behind me. And then a woman, presumably, the woman who apparently called the police, she likewise told me to F off as she was walking into the mall and I don't recall exactly what I said to her. But at one point I asked, I would love to dialogue with you about this.

Okay.

And that's when she walked into the mall and she came back down a short time later. It looked like she was filming with her phone [unclear]. And shortly after the police arrived.

Okay, the lady in question, I would make the assumption, I haven't met her, but I would make the assumption, as you have, that she is the complainant in that instance. She, I won't bore you, well I say bore you, but I won't read [unclear] the whole statement because it just details the fact that she was there, at around today's date outside Center Court Shopping Centre at around 2:30. Okay? She says that she was a pedestrian, so she was on foot. Okay, and she walked out of the shopping center exit near to Wimbledon train station. Is that in relation to where you were, do you feel?

That Wimbledon train station is over the hill from where we were. We were standing...

There is an entrance just by the center court entrance.

Oh there is? I wasn't aware of that. The entrance I've always come out of...

The one at the top?

The one across the street from my favorite restaurant out here. [unclear restaurant name] I didn't know there was one closer to the actual mall.

Okay well yea, I mean.

I just recall her walking down the hill in our direction, in my direction, and then walking towards the center court? [unclear] Yeah, she was walking toward that entrance.

And at about 2:30 the first time she recognized you, she thought nothing of it at the time. Her intention was to go out to try and obtain tickets for tennis.

At 2:30?

Yeah, she came back at half past four and this is when the incident occurred in your direction. She's just detailing how the incident occurred. Sorry, it was at ten past four. She says that she walked back down to the entrance to centre court, which is the shopping centre, not center court tennis, and she noticed that what she described as a male who had originally been speaking about God on the microphone was now filming another male in a red t-shirt. Does that sound about right to you?

Well, my friend who [unclear], he was filming the preaching.

I mean your t-shirt is burgundy.

Yeah, it's not a t-shirt but that was me.

She says again thinking nothing of it, she walked by. She got about five metres from the man in the red t-shirt and she heard him say, "homosexuality is a sin, we all know it's wrong." Did you say that?

Words to that effect, yes.

Okay, she says she was extremely offended by this, which caused her a lot of distress. She said the microphone the man was speaking into was attached to a loudspeaker and could be heard by a large captive audience. She said she mouthed, "fuck you."

I'm glad she admitted to that.

Yes, and she says, for the benefit of this we are going to say you are, was there anyone else wearing a red t-shirt?

No it was me.

Okay, so she says that you said this, and you said, “tell me to fuck off, will you come and have a discourse with me?”

I said words to that effect, that I would like to have a dialogue with you.

Okay.

I wouldn't have used the word discourse.

Okay. She says that she was with another person who was around [unclear], she saw that she was angry and took her by the arm and led her away. They apparently went to have a discussion about it. And she said due to the man making homophobic statements, saying homophobic statements in the public place, that she felt an offense had been committed and she called the police. While she was waiting for them to arrive, she said you said, “God wants the world to be ordered as one man and one woman, heterosexuality. Homosexuality, lesbianism, and fornication is wrong. God knows that, you know that. Will any man here man up and agree with me or that girl earlier?”

That's not what I said.

That's not what you said.

No, particularly at the end.

Okay.

I did use the phrase, “man up.”

So you said, “man up.”

Right, but that is in reference to a man who had walked by and cursed at me. And I asked, in general, when will the men of this community, man up and stand by their convictions? Basically come and talk to me instead of just coming by and cursing me. I didn't say when will people man up and agree with me. I didn't say that.

So you just wanted to...

I wanted, men to instead of whispering as they're walking by, to stop and to have a dialogue and to stand by their convictions and actually talk about it.

Okay. So basically as you said earlier, to spread God's word in a sense. You wanted essentially to teach, well I can't remember the exact words earlier on, but you know, preach the Gospel.

Yes.

So, she also says that these, I can't even pronounce it, vitriolic statements, again caused me alarm and distress. And she says, while this was happening, a man with a gray [unclear] started to film her reactions to the words. She said that she felt intimidated by that. And that's basically, she just goes on to describe you. She says a white male, overweight.

He is, he's working on it though.

Well, no. She actually says the red t-shirt. I wouldn't suggest you're overweight. [cordial laughter]

Oh, I am too. I need to lose some weight myself.

She says about late to mid 50s.

[unclear] Wow, close, that's pretty much.

She's a bit harsh. American accent and she said she's never seen you before. And she said it last about 5-10 minutes. Okay, so I've read you the statement, what do you think about that? How do you feel about what she said?

I feel she was trying to intimidate us by filming us.

Yeah.

So it's interesting that she said she was intimidated by being filmed. The camera was, I don't recall how long the camera was actually on her because I was preaching, but I do distinctly recall her, her, filming me. And saying to her that I hope she will watch the video and listen to it and come to repentance and faith in Christ. Or words to that effect.

And what was your... I appreciate you saying this to me earlier. What was your sole intention by doing this today?

My sole intention, my faith, my Christian faith teaches me to love God with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. There is nothing more loving that I will ever do for another human being than to warn them of God's wrath to come against sin and point them to the only one who could forgive their sin, and that's Jesus Christ.

Okay.

So my intent was to love people with the Gospel.

Okay, and you believe through, your, your religion, that homosexuality is a sin?

Yes, I do.

How do you feel... Members of the public may feel?

[unclear interruption] LR: *Can we just, I think it's important just to say, to distinguish between homosexuality as an individual, and the sin itself. Would you be able to just distinguish between that. Is a homosexual person evil, they have...*

No, a person who tells a lie, a person who steals, a person who harbors bitterness or resentment or hatred in their heart, a person who is discontent with what God has given them in their life and covets what other people have, a person who takes God's name in vain, who is selfish, a person, if a person sins against God they face the same righteous judgement from God as any person committing any other sin.

Okay.

LR: *So what, just to recall the distinction between the act itself and person who has the inclination to do the act. So they're not the same. You're not saying that person is an evil person just because they have an inclination to be homosexual. For that reason alone.*

I'm not sure I understand the question. The point is that all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. That's why when I was speaking out there today, I wasn't speaking exclusively about homosexuality. I was speaking about fornication of any kind. Heterosexual fornication, heterosexual adultery, looking at a person with lust, whether or not you're married, any form of sexual immorality is a sin before God.

Okay. Let me give you an example just for my benefit. You'll have to excuse my ignorance regarding religion. You know... If two males walked past you holding hands, and in your view apparently homosexuals, would you consider them a sinner.

Yes.

Okay, that is what I wanted to know. So in that sense of the word, in that respect, do you feel what you were doing today, preaching the gospel, making the comments about homosexuality being a sin, do you think that that could have upset people?

I think it could upset people because people love their sin. I think if someone walked by when I was talking about lying, and they had just lied, someone would be upset with that. I think if I was talking about hating another person and someone was harboring hatred in their heart towards someone else, they could be upset with that. That's because people do not like to hear that they have sinned against a holy God.

Okay, the issue as well is that not everyone is religious, so not everyone would see homosexuality as a sin, would they?

I don't think that's relevant. Because God sees it as a sin.

No? Okay. [unclear]

We don't determine... excuse me?

So you [unclear] are you offended by it because you are religious?

Am I offended by what?

By homosexuality.

Homosexuals don't do anything to me.

No.

They offend God. Just as...

Okay. It doesn't offend you.

Just as my sin offends God.

It doesn't offend you?

No. I harbor no bitterness or resentment...

Okay.

Toward homosexuals or...

That's basically what I was getting at. You don't have any, you don't have any...

I don't have any anger towards them.

And you never discriminate against them?

No.

So if someone you knew as a homosexual came up to you and asked you for a favor, you'd quite happily offer them that favor would you?

The word of God tells me to love your neighbor as myself.

Okay.

So if a homosexual walked up to me and said, I'm hungry and I need something to eat. I would walk them to the nearest restaurant, give them something to eat, and share the Gospel with them because I love them.

Okay, so. Tell me what you were doing today then. It's apparent from this statement we have, that you have upset someone. Okay. She's saying that what you said she found distressing, okay? Someone else has told you to "F off" as you put it. A gentleman, so whatever you were saying at that time people obviously found distressing I don't know.

There's also, according to the definition of terms we're using, it's kind of distressing to tell someone to F off, isn't it?

Well I'd agree with you, a hundred percent. Because as far as I understand, swearing in a public place, isn't acceptable, yeah?

I agree.

Yeah. Obviously I can only work with the information I'm given today.

Sure, I understand. I'm not looking for a pound of flesh from anyone.

No no no, I appreciate that.

I'm not looking for any retribution.

I can assure that if you had told me at the time that she had told you to F off the same thing would have happened to her. Because as far as I'm concerned, two wrongs don't make a right.

I appreciate that.

The issue obviously as well, is, well, you know, I appreciate what you're saying regarding your beliefs and the fact that you were preaching the Gospel. As I said to you earlier, not everyone is religious. Okay, so they don't have an understanding as you, as you obviously as you do of the Gospel.

Right.

I certainly don't. So, do you accept that what you were saying, is likely to upset some people.

No, I don't accept that. Because I've also seen people with tears in their eyes come to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, realizing that they've sinned against God. Regardless, my understanding is that what the word of God says about the nature of man is that regardless of what a person expresses with their mouth, or with their demeanor, or with their body language, even if they would say that they were offended or insulted does not necessarily mean that's the case. It could very well be that they've been convicted but their heart and they don't want the preacher to see that.

Okay.

And that's always my hope.

Okay.

My hope is that that lady will go home tonight and she will turn from her sin and put her trust in Jesus Christ the Lord for her salvation. That one day I will get to worship with her side by side in heaven.

Okay. And, last question I've got for you, is do you think what you did was acceptable in a public place...

Absolutely.

With, I don't know how many people walking past you during the day bearing in mind the tennis championships are on, do you feel that what you did, making the comments you made, is 100% acceptable in a public place?

Not only 100% acceptable, but commanded by God.

Okay.

I'm commanded by God to love people and to proclaim the Gospel to as many people as I can for as long as I can.

Will you do this again tomorrow?

If I have the opportunity, yes.

Okay. Okay. I'm quite happy about, I've asked the questions I need to ask. This is your interview, so this is your opportunity to give your account of what happened today leading up to your arrest, anything else you wish to, you think's relevant to the case. This is your opportunity to give it so I will offer you the opportunity now before I turn the tapes off. Is there anything else you would like to add?

I don't think so, I think we've covered everything.

LR: Just a couple questions I had. What would you say to anybody that said you were trying to insult people.

I would say they're wrong.

LR: And why would you say that?

The reason for being out there. The reason I flew all the way from Southern California to London, was to love people and share the Gospel with them. I hope to be used by God to see people come to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. There's never intent to insult, there's never any intent to inflame. Of course people aren't going to agree with everything I say, just as I don't agree with everything other people say. But my intention, is, to love people as others loved me and shared the Gospel with me so that I could receive forgiveness of my sin and the free gift of eternal life. That's why I came to London last year during the Olympics. That's why I came this year to Wimbledon. And that's why I hope I can come back as many times as possible. Because I love this country and I love the people of this country. And I don't want to see anybody perish in their sin.

LR: And [unclear] just about the cultural context. Some people might want to say, well that's America that's more religious. This country is less religious. What would you have to say?

Well, certainly regarding the issue at hand there's no difference between our two countries, culturally. I'm not uninformed as to where your country is regarding this issue because my country is in the same place. And the message I brought today, and the message I've brought about many different subjects are no different than the messages I preach to the people in my own country. Because the issues are all the same.

Okay, fair enough. Yeah, happy?

LR: Yeah.

Okay, as I've said, I've got nothing else to ask you. Obviously I've covered everything I need to cover. We'll just establish that you don't feel like you've done anything wrong. You've come over here, you've come to share your love of God. You've come to share, to preach the Gospel to people...

All people.

Yeah, certainly not going to say that it's only certain people. And you know, you feel that what you've done is not necessarily upsetting people but in fact helping people. Would you agree with that?

Yes.

So, I appreciate your views on it. Okay. Is there anything else you wish to say?

Not at this time.

Okay, brilliant. In that case, this interview is concluded at 21:34, on the first of July 2013.

[End.]