



Contemporary Christian Music History - 1965

If you were around in 1965, what was the Lord doing in your life?

In 1965 the first American combat troops are sent to South Vietnam. A Russian cosmonaut became the first person to walk in space. Civil rights activists led by Martin Luther King began their march from Selma to the capitol in Montgomery. U.S. President Lynden B. Johnson signed the Social Security Act of 1965 into law establishing Medicare and Medicaid. In October of that year, in St. Louis, Missouri, the 630 foot tall parabolic steel gateway arch was completed. Sony introduced "Betamax", a home video tape recorder. CBS switched to the "color standard". 1965 in music saw The Beatles getting a lot of attention. The wedding of Beatle, Ringo Starr to Maureen Cox took place, The Beatles played Shea Stadium which was the first rock concert to be held in a venue of that size. Over fifty-five thousand attended and the movie "Help" starring The Beatles was released. The Beach Boys appeared on "Shindig!". The Grateful Dead, The Byrds and Jefferson Airplane all started their careers in 1965.

And in contemporary Christian music... Jesus music was beginning to have a noticeable effect on Christian music and getting noticed by the Church. Keith Green signed a 5-year general market contract with Decca Records in 1965 and was expected to be the next teen idol. He was twelve at the time and he did become the youngest member of ASCAP. By 1965 the Imperials had been singing together for about a year. They were started by the Statesmen Quartet's Jake Hess. They recorded and toured with Elvis Presley and Jimmy Dean. This is the year that Barry McGuire who had been a member of The New Christy Minstrels since 1962, went solo and recorded the number one anti-war theme "Eve of Destruction". He began his Christian music career about seven years later.

I hope this brought back some memories for you. It is encouraging to look back, remember where we were then and see the hand of God in our lives over the years. This has been a brief look at the year 1965 in the history of contemporary Christian Music.