



## Contemporary Christian Music History - 1967

If you were around in 1967, what was the Lord doing in your life?

In January of 1967 the New York Times reported that the U.S. Army was conducting secret germ warfare experiments. A launch pad fire destroyed the Apollo I, killing all three astronauts on board. In February, the American Basketball Association was formed. The 1967 Arab-Israeli war, also known as The Six Day War or June War was fought between Israel and its Arab neighbors, Egypt, Jordan and Syria. As a result, Israel gained control of the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. In October of 1967 Thurgood Marshall became the first black member of the U.S. Supreme Court. In music, Aretha Franklin recorded "R.E.S.P.E.C.T.", the Who performed their first U.S. concert in New York, The Beatles album-Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band was released, the first issue of Rolling Stone Magazine was published. 1967 was also the year that Creedence Clearwater Revival was formed.

And in contemporary Christian music, Terry Blackwood (son of Doyle Blackwood, the founder of the Blackwood Brothers Quartet) graduated from college and joined The Imperials as its lead singer. Bill and Gloria Gaither left their teaching careers in 1967. Chuck Girard, a "Jesus Music" pioneer who was a member of the "Hondells" from '63 to '66, began performing Christian music with Jay Truax as a night club duo in 1967. R & B singer/songwriter Al Green formed Al Green And The Soul Mates this year. Nedra Ross who had formed The Ronettes, who recorded the rock classic "Be My Baby" in '63, helped establish the "Love Inn Christian Community" in 1967 in upper New York State. Connie Scott performed on her father's Gospel radio show this year. She was only three years old!

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. This has been a brief look at the year 1967 in the history of contemporary Christian music.