



Contemporary Christian Music History - 1968

If you were around in 1968, what was the Lord doing in your life?

In January of 1968, North Korea seized the U.S.S. Pueblo, claiming the ship violated its territorial waters while spying. In February, Yasser Arafat was elected leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (the PLO). The Boeing 747 had its maiden flight and Peggy Fleming won a gold medal in Olympic figure skating in Grenoble, France. In April, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. In June, Pope Paul VI announced an encyclical condemning birth control. In October, NASA launched the Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission. The U.S. presidential election was one of the closest in U.S. history as Republican challenger Richard M. Nixon defeated Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

In music, the Beatles launched "Apple Corps Ltd." in 1968, Priscilla Presley gave birth to Elvis Presley's only child – Lisa Marie, the 58th and final episode of "The Monkees" aired on TV, the rock musical "Hair" opened on Broadway, Elvis Presley's "comeback special" aired on NBC and Led Zeppelin formed after the break up of the Yardbirds.

And in contemporary Christian music Andrae Crouch attended Life Bible College in 1966 and twin sister Sandra was instrumental in Andrae's first songwriting deal. In 1968 he began recording. Russ Taff formed "Sounds of Joy" that year and opened for the Imperials as a solo act. He ministered as a lead singer for the Imperials later from '77 to 1981.

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 back at the year 1968 in the history of contemporary Christian music.