



Contemporary Christian Music History - 1970

If you were around in 1970, what was the Lord doing in your life?

In March, 210,000 out of 750,000 U.S. postal employees walked out. The strike lasted two weeks. The president signed a law that year that banned cigarette advertising on television in the U.S. On April 10th, Paul McCartney announced that The Beatles had disbanded. Davy Jones announced he was leaving The Monkees and Simon & Garfunkel released their final album together-Bridge Over Troubled Water. Another group that broke up was the Dave Clark Five. Jimmy Buffet started recording in 1970 and groups that started that year included Styx and Genesis.

And in contemporary Christian music, Dallas Holm and Praise began recording in 1970. The group was formed as part of David Wilkerson's Evangelism Crusade. Lamelle Harris began touring with the "Spurlows" as a drummer this year. Jerry Williams of "Harvest" performed in honky-tonks until 1970 when he attended Oral Roberts University, became a Youth Pastor and then became an ordained minister. This is the year that Randy Matthews began recording as the first solo *Jesus Rock* act for Word Records. Mylon LeFevre left the Singing LeFevres (later to become the Nelons) to pursue a solo career. In '79 he formed the group Mylon LeFevre and Broken Heart. Dan Peek formed the Folk/Rock trio America, best known for the songs "A Horse With No Name" and "Sister Golden Hair". He went on to record such Christian Oldie hits as "All Things Are Possible" and "Door of the Word". 1970 was quite a year for Randy Stonehill. He performed the lead role in Jimmy Owens' first musical "Show Me", appeared in the movie "Return of the Blob", and his song "I Love You" was featured in the film "Time To Run". The next year he began recording with Larry Norman's record company.

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 1970 in the history of contemporary Christian music.