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# Friday Church News Notes

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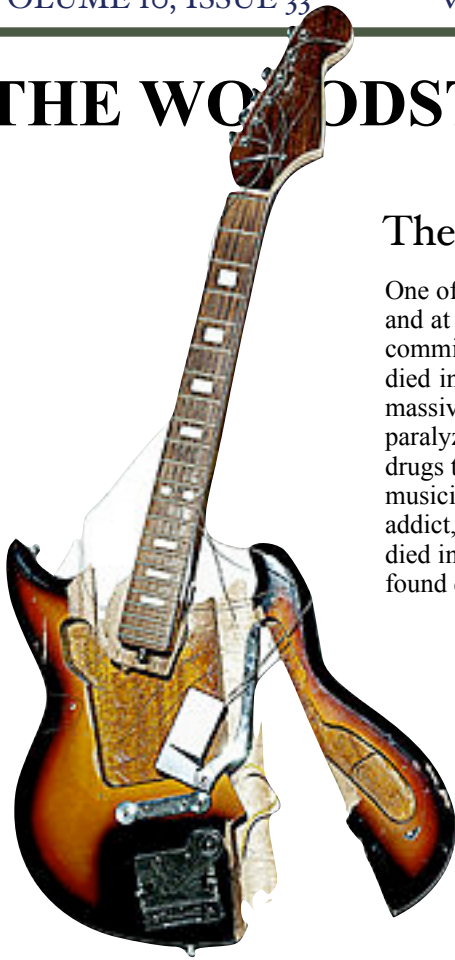


## THE WOODSTOCK LEGACY

Friday Church News Notes, August 14, 2009, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org)

Next week is the fortieth anniversary of the Woodstock Festival, and its legacy is celebrated by a wide swath of modern society. Nearly half a million hippies gathered on a farm about 100 miles north of New York City to immerse themselves in a Dionysian frenzy of sex, drugs, and rock & roll. Billed as “An Aquarian Exposition,” the event promoted the myth that we are entering the Age of Aquarius, a new age of peace and love and unity. This week the AFP news service called Woodstock “epoch-making,” and it was that. Building on 1950s rock, ’60s rock changed Western society in far-reaching ways, essentially tearing down every Biblical influence. 1960s rock was open rebellion against the holy God of the Bible and His moral laws. The theme was “I’m free to do what I want any old time” (Rolling Stones, 1965). I know this very well, because I bought into the rock & roll philosophy and lived the rock & roll lifestyle for many years. I was nineteen years old in 1969. The rock philosophy is all about ME, and is described in Bible prophecy. “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves...” (2 Timothy 3:1-2). The legacy of Woodstock is immorality, drug addiction, drunkenness, rebellion, lawlessness, pride, blasphemy, disobedience to parents, unisexism, and spiritual delusion. Consider the bands and performers that entertained and manipulated the crowd. Dozens of the band members and associates died young of drug and alcohol abuse, including Jimi Hendrix; Janis Joplin; Alan Wilson of Canned Heat; Keith Moon of The Who; Ron McKernan, Brent Mydland, John Kahn, and Jerry Garcia of The Grateful Dead; Tim Hardin; Al Wilson and Bob Hite of Canned Heat; Greg Herbert of Blood, Sweat and Tears; Randy Hobbs of Johnny/Edgar Winter; Paul Butterfield of the Butterfield Blues Band; and Vinnie Taylor of Sha-Na-Na. (If you include the bands that were asked to play but didn’t--The Doors, Led Zeppelin, and the Byrds--we could add to this list Jim Morrison, John Bonham, and Gram Parsons.) Many others, such as Joe Cocker, Sly Stone, and David Crosby, came within a hair’s breadth of dying young from their addictions. Skip Spence of the Jefferson Airplane destroyed his mind with LSD and spent the last decades of his life in psychiatric institutions and living on the streets. Paul Kantner of the Jefferson Airplane almost died of a stroke before his 40th birthday, having consumed massive amounts of LSD. Tom Fogerty of Creedence Clearwater Revival and Dan Hartman of the Edgar Winter Group died of AIDS complications. Felix Pappalardi of the rock group Mountain was shot to death by his wife in 1983 at age 43. Richard Hughes and Issac Sweat, who played for Johnny Winter, committed suicide. What peace! What love! What happiness!

# THE WOODSTOCK LEGACY



## The WHO

One of the most influential rock bands at the 1969 Woodstock Festival was The Who, and at least four people associated with the band died young. Pete Meaden, manager, committed suicide in 1978 by an overdose of barbiturates. Drummer Keith Moon died in 1978 at age 31 from an overdose of the sedative Heminevrin combined with massive amounts of liquor. Moon, known as the madman of rock, was once paralyzed for days after ingesting an elephant tranquilizer. He frequently abused drugs to the point of blackout, and engaged in binge drinking contests with other rock musicians. Kit Lambert, The Who's second manager, a chronic alcoholic and heroin addict, died from a fall down a flight of stairs in 1981. John Entwistle, bass player, died in June 2002 at age 57 of a heart attack allegedly caused by cocaine use. He was found dead in his hotel room in Las Vegas. What peace! What love! What happiness!

### ***A TESTIMONY TO THE EVIL IMPACT OF WOODSTOCK***

*"I will never forget Woodstock, even though I was 'stoned' most of the time. As a 14 year old impressionable youth it was a life defining moment, and one that has shaped who and what I am today. I am tolerant, accepting and welcoming of different cultures, viewpoints, ideologies and sexualities. To this day, I attribute much of who I am as an adult to my three days at Woodstock. I saw the good the bad and the ugly, but will most of all remember the true spirit of peace and love."*  
*Michael (comment left on a blog this week)*

## The GRATEFUL DEAD

Another of the influential rock bands that graced the 1969 Woodstock Festival was The Grateful Dead. Many musicians and intimate associates of the band died young, some of drug and alcohol abuse. We will mention only six of them here. Ron "Pigpen" McKernan died in 1973 at age 27 of alcohol abuse. Keith Godchaux died in 1980 at age 32 in a car crash. David Torbert, founding member of the Grateful Dead offshoot group The New Riders of the Purple Sage, died in 1982 at age 34 of a heart attack. Brent Mydland died in 1990 at age 37 from an overdose of cocaine and heroin. Jerry Garcia died in 1995 just seven days after his 53rd birthday of heart or liver failure brought on by years of drug abuse. He died in a drug treatment center where he was battling a heroin addiction. John Kahn, bass guitarist who backed Garcia on his live albums, died in 1996 at age 48 of a drug overdose. The Grateful Dead glorified drug abuse from its inception in 1965 as the house band for Ken Kesey's Acid Test, a series of public LSD parties. LSD chemist Owsley Stanley bankrolled the rock group for awhile. In 1971, members of the Grateful Dead were accused of distributing LSD-laced apple juice to an unwitting audience. Police shut down the concert and rushed 36 people to a nearby Crisis Clinic for treatment. What peace! What love! What happiness!

*Jerry Garcia and Keith Moon were both cremated and their ashes scattered...Garcia over the Ganges River in India and Moon in the Garden of Remembrance at a Crematorium in London.*



*The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. For instructions on how to unsubscribe to this list or to change mailing addresses, please consult the information paragraph at the end.*

## MUSLIM CLERIC SAYS THEIR GOAL IS ISLAMIC OCCUPATION OF ENTIRE WORLD

Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, an Islamic cleric in Pakistan, said in February of this year, “We hate democracy. We want the occupation of Islam in the entire world. Islam does not permit democracy or election” (“Double Standards in Pakistan’s Anti-terror Campaign,” *Hinduonnet.com*, Aug. 5, 2009). Saeed called Pakistan’s leaders “the agents of Jews.” Another Pakistan-based Islamic cleric, Maulana Mohammad, agreed with Saeed, saying that there “is no room for democracy in Islam.”

## JEWISH SANHEDRIN CALLS FOR REBUILDING OF THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE

The Jewish Sanhedrin, which was re-established in 2004 after a hiatus of 1,600 years, is calling for the rebuilding of the Jerusalem temple as the way to world peace and religious harmony. “Out of a sense of collective responsibility for world peace and for all humanity we have found it timely to call to the World and exclaim that there is a way out for all peoples. It is etched in a call to all humanity: We are all the sons of one father, the descendants of Adam, and all humanity is but a single family. Peace among Nations will be achieved through building the House of G-d, where all peoples will serve as foreseen by King Solomon in his prayers at the dedication of the First Holy Temple. ... He surely does not want the blood of His creations spilled, but prefers love and peace among all mankind” (“Sanhedrin Rabbis Meet with Adnan Oktar,” July 1, 2009, [thesanhedrin.org](http://thesanhedrin.org)). The occasion of this statement was the Sanhedrin’s meeting with influential Muslim writer Adnan Oktar, also known as Harun Yahya. Oktar, who also wants to see the Jewish temple rebuilt, says that it could be rebuilt in just one year. That is probably

what will happen. Early in the first three and a half years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week, the temple will be rebuilt. It will then be desecrated by the Antichrist’s idolatry and the Great Tribulation will ensue. No doubt, the Antichrist will bring great excitement to the world when he launches his peace program, but it will be a delusion. “For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (1 Thessalonians 5:3).



## Church Discipline, A Dying Practice

Church discipline is a dying practice in most denominations. “Experts” estimate that only 10 to 15% of “Protestant evangelical” churches in America practice discipline (“Banned from Church,” *Wall Street Journal*, Jan. 18, 2008), but I suspect that this figure is quite high. In a report on church discipline last year, the *Wall Street Journal* claimed that there is “a growing movement” to bring back church discipline, but we have seen no evidence of this. The report mentioned First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals, Alabama (Southern Baptist), which expels five to seven members a year for “blatant, undeniable patterns of willful sin,” but this is a rare exception. Dean Register, former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, said: “It’s very unusual for Southern Baptist churches to take disciplinary action against an individual” (*The Sun Herald*, Biloxi, Mississippi, Sept. 13, 1998). There can be no doubt that this observation was accurate then, and we have seen no evidence that anything has changed. Across the land, there are unrepentant moral reprobates and heretics on the rolls of Southern Baptist churches. Famous Southern Baptists like Billy Graham (who denies the literal fire of hell and has turned countless of his converts over to spiritual wolves) and Bill Clinton (a serial adulterer) are not disciplined. More than a million Freemasons, who are yoked together with a pagan organization in disobedience to 2 Corinthians 6, are members of Southern Baptist congregations. In my experience, many Independent Baptist churches do practice discipline, but large numbers do not. I do not know what the percentage would be, but I do know that God’s Word requires churches to exercise discipline toward sinning and heretical church members (1 Corinthians 5; Titus 3).

## DOES ETERNAL SECURITY MEAN “BELIEVNG” MASS MURDERERS ARE SAVED



In his blogs, mass murderer George Sodini claimed that he was taught in church that “you can commit mass murder then still go to heaven” (“LA Fitness shooter once attended Plum’s Tetelestai church,” *Tarentum Valley News Dispatch*, Pittsburgh, August 6, 2009). On August 4 Sodini opened fire on women in a fitness center, killing three and wounding nine before turning the gun on himself. He claimed to have attended Tetelestai Christian Church in Pittsburgh for 13 years. The senior pastor of this church, Alan Rick Knapp, was ordained by R.B. Thieme, Jr., retired pastor of Berachah Church of Houston, Texas. Thieme taught many unique heretical doctrines, including that believers cannot understand the Bible on their own and that it is a waste of time to study the Bible without a teacher. Thieme does not emphasize properly the fact that genuine salvation is a life-changing event and that those who do not give biblical evidence thereof are not true believers. One of Thieme’s doctrines is “Rebound.” A former member of his church observes, “Rebound, at its core, is a completely false notion. ‘Rebound and keep moving’ gave thousands of Berachans free reign to have affairs, take the Lord’s name in vain, and sin with wild abandon. Confess it in the morning, get back in the club, and move on...” (“Interesting Former Thiemite Testimony, July 23, 2008, <http://thiemite.blogspot.com>). I have read Thieme’s sermon on “Rebound” and, unlike the apostle

Paul, nowhere does Thieme say that professing believers who are living in sin should examine themselves “whether ye be in the faith” (2 Corinthians 13:12). Jack Rickard, a deacon at Tetelestai church, told the press that Sodini is in heaven because “professing a faith in Jesus as Saviour means you will have complete eternal salvation” (“Once Saved, Always Saved,” *Valley News Dispatch*, Aug. 8, 2009). Rickard is wrong. While the Bible does teach that the true believer in Christ has eternal life, it also warns frequently that many who profess Christ are not genuinely saved. There is a serious difference between profession and possession. “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Titus 1:16). That is a fitting epitaph for George Sodini, whose blog was filled with cursing, moral filthiness, bitter rage, and murderous hatred.

**CONCLUSION:** The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature’s Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God’s will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord’s coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, UNSUBSCRIBE, or CHANGE ADDRESSES go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org).