

# Forty Years...Two Generations

by Diane Brask

## TAKE5 is . . .

Your five-minute refresher, a "quick read" for Network members focusing on spiritual growth, resources, and the mission of youth ministry.

Published monthly  
via fax, email and on the Web by the  
National Network of Youth Ministries.  
Phone: 858-451-1111  
Fax: 858-451-6900  
[take5@youthworkers.net](mailto:take5@youthworkers.net)  
[www.youthworkers.net](http://www.youthworkers.net)

## Calendar

### • Paradise

May 25, 2008

Paradise, Kansas

[www.paradise08.com](http://www.paradise08.com)

PARADISE is a journey to awaken students from every part of the body of Christ to the supremacy of God's Son, to call them to adore Him as King, and to inspire them to arise to bravely join Him in accelerating His kingdom purposes for this generation, converging in a national worship gathering on May 25, 2008, convened at the geographic center of the nation.

**E**xactly forty years ago, a generation did what every generation of young people have always done after a long summer of fun: they returned to school, went to college, got a job, married their sweetheart, or went into the military.

However, this was not just any summer. It was the summer of '67.

The season was ripe for change. A growing number of that younger generation were discontented, and wanted to reject the American way of life as they saw it then. It was only 2½ years after the Watts riots in Los Angeles, and 3½ years after our nation's president (JFK) was assassinated. More American troops were being sent to Vietnam to fight what most Americans thought was a senseless, no-win war.

Young people wanted to make a difference in a country that they saw rife with problems of racism, capitalism, materialism, and imperialism. They didn't trust our nation's government, they didn't agree with their parents' values, and the voice of the church seemed irrelevant and out of touch with their lives.

So in 1967, 100,000 young people, ages 15-25 from all over America, converged on the Haight-Ashbury area of San Francisco to launch what was coined the "Summer of Love." It was that generation's statement to their nation that things were messed up and needed to change.

The only problem was they were messed up too. Once they arrived in San Francisco, they experimented with LSD, pot, casual sex, Eastern Mysticism, and whatever else they felt like. What was billed as a "summer of peace and love" turned into a summer of chaos and disillusionment.

By the fall of 1967, many leaders of the counterculture movement realized that the experiment had backfired. Instead of peace, there was increased crime, riots, drug addictions, broken hearts, and aimless young people.

**I am convinced it is a pivotal time in America's history. It seems to me that God is trying to get our attention.**

Some of the hippies declared their own death on October 6, 1967. They had a mock funeral procession through the streets of San Francisco that they called the "Death of the Hippie Ceremony." Burning a gray coffin labeled "Summer of Love," the ceremony acknowledged that the counterculture had been transformed into something much darker than ever intended.

But it was too late. By the fall of '67, the young people who had gathered in San Francisco for the summer were scattered across America and returned home. And with their return came the seeds of the rebellion that they had sown. Our nation has not been the same since.

It is exactly 40 years since that summer ended, and those young people returned to school.

So what? Does it really matter today? After all, 40 years was a long time ago. I believe it is significant, as God highlights the number 40 all through Scripture.

- God summoned Moses to a 40-day fast on Mount Sinai.
- When the Israelites were poised to move into the Promised Land, spies were sent out for 40 days.
- The Israelites were given a 40-year sentence in the wilderness for their unbelief and rebellion.
- Elijah, at the height of Jezebel's cultic dominion over Israel, fasted 40 days and broke off the power of Satan through the prophets of Baal.
- Ezekiel received a 40-day prayer assignment for 40 years of sin in Judah.
- Jesus fasted for 40 days at the beginning of His public ministry.

*continued on next page* ►



## Forty Years... (continued)

As a result of their unbelief, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, died there, and never saw their dream fulfilled. But in contrast, as a result of Jesus' obedience, the Bible says, "He returned in the power of the Spirit."

I am convinced it is a pivotal time in America's history. It seems to me that God is trying to get our attention. There is uncertainty and unrest in the air. The economy is shaky, at best. The war in Iraq seems to be escalating with no end in sight. Our government seems void of solutions to problems at home and abroad. The nation is a bit skittish over when the next terrorist strike will happen. Everyone seems convinced that it is not a matter of if, but when.

In light of these sobering realities, I wonder what would happen if Christians and churches in America actually took prayer and fasting seriously?

What would happen if thousands of fathers and mothers across our nation prayed and repented for 40 days on behalf of this generation of young people? What if they repented of their apathy and tolerance of sexual immorality, pornography, addictions for drugs, food, entertainment, and materialism?

What if a nation of Christian adults in our churches prayed daily for their children to see them genuinely converted to Christ, and freed from rebellion against God, addictions, depression, and suicide? What if this generation of youth joined them and fasted and prayed for 40 days as well?

### Your Help (and Feedback) Needed!

See You at the Pole was September 26.

Every year, we deeply appreciate it when NNYM members help us report on SYATP by asking students or adult observers to:

1. Submit reports from each school at [www.syatp.com/report](http://www.syatp.com/report). If you haven't told your story from Wednesday, please do so now!
2. Send your best digital pictures to [syatp@youthworkers.net](mailto:syatp@youthworkers.net), and also any video to:

SYATP  
PO Box 60134  
Fort Worth, Texas 76115-0134

Please send the pictures as soon as possible after SYATP...thank you!



We want your feedback on TAKE 5.  
Send your comments to [take5@youthworkers.net](mailto:take5@youthworkers.net)  
or fax to (858) 451-6900.

What if they asked God to cleanse them from lust, media addiction, rebellion toward their parents, and apathy and indifference toward God's Word and His ways?

What would happen if we earnestly prayed?

PARADISE is May 25, 2008. On Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend 2008, this generation of young people and their leaders are being invited to what may well be an historic, spiritual gathering in a remote field in Paradise, Kansas.

The dream is that young people from every state in America would come for an audience of ONE – simply to pray and worship their King. I have never heard of anything like this!

God is up to something. Don't miss it. Make sure you check it all out at [www.Paradise08.com](http://www.Paradise08.com). Register now with some key young people and begin to prepare your hearts for that historic day.



**Diane Brask** is all about rural communities-in the United States and around the world. She serves with NNYM as the National Rural Network Coordinator. Her passion for rural communities has expanded to other nations as well. Diane's motto is "the Back 40 to the 10/40." She has partnered rural churches in America with indigenous leaders in remote, rural areas of China, India, the Philippines, Uganda, and Kenya.

## Stop the Noise

Nov 23-25, 2007  
San Diego, California

Join 6,000+ junior high and high school students as they are challenged to "Stop the Noise" from sources outside and inside their lives so they can hear what God is trying to say. Special concerts from Hawk Nelson, Jeremy Camp, Group One Crew. Worship led by Jeff Deyo. Guest speakers include Reggie Dabbs and Monty Hipp.

[www.socalyc.com](http://www.socalyc.com)