

God is Love Article

The plan seemed so wonderful at the time. More than 100,000 people would camp out in a pristine glade in upstate New York where everyone would get along and love each other. This meeting was part of a movement – one that its followers believed would change the world. The movement began in 1967, which some called the “Summer of Love.” Its members were called hippies. The slogan expressed noble ideals: love, not hate; peace, not war. One of its cornerstones was “free love.” Hippies thought they could ignore God’s standards, as well as thousands of years of social rules, and gratify themselves with free sex.

The Woodstock Festival in the summer of 1969 culminated this national “Love-In.” Instead of 100,000 hippies descending on a quiet countryside, 1.5 million long-haired young people wearing beads and feathers flooded the area for three days of music.

Was Woodstock really a place of peace and love? No. Peter Townsend, a member of the band “The Who” which played during Woodstock, said, “What was going on off the stage was just beyond comprehension – stretchers and dead bodies, and people throwing up, and people having (drug) trips... I thought that the whole of America had gone mad.”

Tempers flared; people were assaulted; a concession stand was almost ripped apart; roads were clogged for a twenty-mile radius. Nudity, sex and drug dealing were going on everywhere. One young man was crushed in his sleeping back by a backhoe. And when the uncontrollable crowd went on their way, they left behind acres of trash.

What was supposed to be a monument to free love and brotherhood was actually a hedonistic mess resulting in total chaos. Selfishness and a disregard for theirs reigned. The summer of love had turned into a time of disaster and disappointment.