

Mechanical Instruments Q & A

Most religious people use mechanical instruments of music in their worship and have for hundreds of years. Only a few people ('like you folks') will not use them in worship.

It is true that most religious people do have instruments of music in their worship. It is also true that many groups have done so for hundreds of years. However, this does not authorize the use of them in the worship offered to God by Christians.

Truth is not determined by the majority who practices a thing. A long time ago God commanded Israel: "thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil..." (Ex. 23:2).

The voices of the majority prevailed over Pilate's voice and Jesus was delivered to be crucified. (Mt. 27:11-26; Mk 15:1-20; Jn. 18:39-19:18)

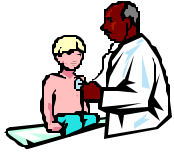
In Mt. 7:13,14 Jesus said: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate and broad in the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at; because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." NOTE: *Many people* (the majority) will enter into the wide gate and will travel the broad way *that leads to destruction!* Only a *few people* will enter into the strait gate and travel the narrow way *which leadeth unto life.*

Truth is not determined by what the majority believes or practices. It is determined by the word of God. (James 1:21,25; II Tim. 3:16,17; Jn. 17:17; I Pet. 1:22; etc.) NOTE: In the view of the fact the word of God is our standard by which we must live, it behooves all of us to carefully examine our beliefs and practices and make sure they are authorized in God's word. Remember that Jesus said: "All power is given to me in heaven and in earth" and "...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (Mt. 28:18 & Jn. 6:63).

The fact most religious people have been using mechanical instruments for hundreds of years certainly does not make it right. Although the use of instrumental music in worship goes back to hundreds of years, it does not go back to the early Christians in the first century. If we can find in the scriptures where the Christians in the first century were authorized (by command, statement, approved example or necessary implications) we would not oppose it.

Historical evidence points to about the 6th century as to the time when instrumental music was first introduced in what we know was the apostate church.

Sick Jean Argabright will be having surgery on Monday at RMH



Mark Brooks & April Harrah had medical procedures on Thursday.

Continue to remember in prayer: Marguerite Charles, Margaret Kratz, Betty Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, Mary Anderson, Curtis Doss.

Happy Birthday this week to:
Martha Wood—5/4

Charlie Gwaltney—5/5
Josh Whitlow—5/8
Brian Bush—5/9
Charlie Puckett—5/10

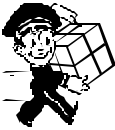


Happy Anniversary this week to:
Ed & Jean Argabright—5/4



MAY ITEMS FOR THE

STAFFORDS: Taco Seasoning packs & dry Ranch Dressing packs. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



MILITARY

Kyle Nester— in Iraq

Erich Felps—in Iraq.

Chris Coleman—in Iraq.



VBS

Water World at West Side

VBS is planned for June 28. We have a fun-filled, exciting program that will be very educational. But we need your help. There is a sign up sheet in the hallway. We need nearly 50 actors this year, so please sign up to act. We need people to work on costumes, props, and crafts. We also need a song leader, a nursery attendant, and monitors. If you can help with VBS in any way please sign up on the sheet on the board or see Greg.

Greg has challenged the skit leaders to have

Gospel Meeting

Our Spring Gospel Meeting will be held on May 11-14, with Glen Colley as our guest speaker. Be making plans now to invite someone to come and listen to good preaching!!

Flyers are in the foyer and Sunday morning will be our **Introduce a Friend Day**.

Team leaders be making your plans now to feed the minister. Team 3 will be responsible for Monday evening, Team 2 will be responsible for Tuesday evening and Team 1 will handle the duties on Wednesday evening.

Remember a personal invitation goes a long way!!!

Send Glenn a note of encouragement!
Mailing labels are located in the foyer!

VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CAMP



8 weeks until Virginia Christian Camp.

Camp Dates—June 15-21. Applications are in the foyer—please return to Curtis

Graves by May 15.

Kitchen item needed by West Side— 16 oz. squeezable bottles of grape jelly. See Velda!

List of craft items needed is on the board. See Melissa or JoAnn.

Congratulations: Rick Perry, son-in-law of Collin Gregory has been appointed president of BC Goodpasture Academy in Nashville, TN

Monthly minders:

- Turn off your cell phone prior to bible class.
- Turn off all lights and check to make sure all doors are locked if you are the last one to leave.
- Adjust thermostat in fellowship hall according to season after using the room.
- Lock your car and hide any valuables.

F Y I For Your Information

Feed the Preacher Schedule
 May 12-14
 Team 1 (Simms/Duff)—
 Wednesday
 Team 2 (Garby) - Tuesday
 Team 3 (Brown)—Monday



WEDDING SHOWER

There will be a wedding shower for Aaron Anderson & his fiancée Emilee today at 4:00 in the fellowship hall. They are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Macy's and Target.

MENS BREAKFAST

The monthly men's breakfast will be next Saturday at 8am at Famous Anthony's.

SW VIRGINIA REGIONAL PICNIC

SW Virginia Regional Church of Christ Fellowship Picnic will be on May 10 at the Franklin Co. Rec Park. See details on the board. RSVP requested.

CTS REGISTRATIONS

Attention all adults planning to ride the bus and attend the Christian Training series at FHU: The dates are July 12- 18. Please see Jerry or Kay to get a registration form for CTS. We need to see how many adults will be going and start matching people up for room assignments. We want to try to get first choice on the room accommodations.

WEDDING SHOWER

There will be a wedding shower luncheon for Caleb Guard and his fiancée Carrie on May 18 after morning services. They are registered at Target and Bed, Bath & Beyond.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Our May LNO will be on May 22 at 6:30 here at the building! Info sheet on the board.

GRADUATES DINNER

Join us on May 25 to honor our high school graduates. A pot luck fellowship meal will be after morning services. Make plans now to attend and honor the following grads: Katelyn Brown, Bridgette Bush, Leah Durham, Claire Gray, Nicole Munsey and Weston Rogers



Teens

May Dates:

May 17— Lynchburg Senior Banquet
 May 25—WS Graduates Dinner

VCC & Horizon's applications and bus forms are located in the foyer. Pick yours up today!! Yellow bus forms for Senior week!

Summer Youth Intern 2008. We look forward to having **Trae Bailey**, Floyd and Elizabeth's oldest son, work with us as our Youth Intern this summer. He officially begins work on **June 1** and will be with us through August 3. Our house on Poplar will be his official "bachelor pad" during his stay with us. We look forward to his efforts working with our youth program for a summer full of spiritual and fun activities. "Welcome back, Trae!" – the Elders

Congratulations!! To Katelyn Brown for being awarded a \$500 scholarship by the Roanoke County Schools Credit Union. Katelyn will be attending FHU this fall.

One of our fine teenagers makes us proud again!

WOW

The WOW GROUP will meet on TUESDAY, May 13 at 10:30 AM. Special Guest Speaker: Glenn Colley.

Please sign up on the WOW board for the video Auto-biographies being done by Richard Simms.

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Recent responses: Richard Simms, Katelyn Brown, Thomas Kelly and Tanner Reed. Remember them in your prayers!

Directory Update: Lyn Shrader—
 supersubshrader@hotmail.com

Conspiracy!

May 2008

Announcements	Danny Guard
Song Leader (AM)	Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (AM)	
5/4	Barry White
5/11	Gene Benefield
5/18	Charlie Gwaltney
5/25	Tom Rogers
Preside at Communion	Wayne Dixon
Serve Table	Sam Valentine Roger Mays Greg Edwards Bob Garby
Closing Prayer	
5/4	Jim Harrington
5/11	Glenn Gabbard
5/18	Richard Simms
5/25	Collin Gregory
Song Leader (PM)	Paul Mays
Opening Prayer (PM)	
5/4	Eric Earnhart
5/11	Bob Martin
5/18	Jerry Anderson
5/25	Herb Baker
Scripture Reader	Ethan Rogers
Closing Prayer (PM)	
5/4	Norris Gearhart
5/11	George Mellon
5/18	Mark Brooks
5/25	Squeaky Valentine
Serve Table (PM)	Cameron Brown Bradford Durham
Song Leader (Wed)	Tom Duff
Prayer (Wed)	
5/4	Fred Altizer
5/14	Preston Duff
5/21	David Brown
5/28	Mike Durham
Open/Close Bldg	Eric Earnhart
Greeters	Duff Pettit
Nursery Attend	
	Melissa Marshall Dorothy Mays
Ushers	Glen Hartman John Black
Handouts	Preston Duff Garrett Durham AC Janney Jim Bush
Alternates	
Prepare communion	Michelle Earnhart Marsha Cooke
Cards & Pencils	Chandler Jearls Jimmy Harrington

Last weeks attendance 4/27&30/08

Bible Class—162 Worship Service—197
Eve. Worship—137 Wed. Service—168
Contribution—\$4891

Number 2918
May 4, 2008

It is a charge almost as old as man himself. It is defined as “an evil, unlawful, treacherous, or surreptitious plan formulated in secret by two or more persons; plot.” Conspiracy theories range from the believable to the absurd. They involve ideas of governmental involvement, mob activity and various schemes involving money laundering, drugs, gambling and other such devious designs. Modern conspiracy theories involve matters from the John F. Kennedy assassination, to the death of Princess Diana, to Roswell, New Mexico, to the attacks on September 11. Although many historical incidences simply evolve into theories and unconfirmed stories of conspiracy, there have been many proven conspiratorial acts (i.e. Abraham Lincoln’s assassination). Throughout history, many governments have been overthrown through acts of conspiracy.

The Bible contains stories of intrigue, suspense and, yes, even conspiracy. David was the target of one such plot at the hands of his own son. Second Samuel 15 records Absalom’s attempt to overthrow his father’s government and claim his throne. The chapter begins with Absalom’s attempts to steal the hearts of the people and gain momentum for his cause. He played the role of the consummate politician; from sympathizing with the people’s cases, to “campaign speeches,” to kissing those who came before him (note II Sam. 15:2-6). His ploy was successful and his conspiracy strong when at last his plan took shape. He forced David to flee his capital and abandon his throne (II Sam. 15:14); and, the chapter that began with Absalom’s attempts to garner the favor of the people ended with Absalom’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem (II Sam. 15:37).

Ultimately, however, the conspiracy cost lives, including the life of Absalom (cf. II Sam. 16-18). David’s grief over his son almost cost him the honor and respect of his people (II Sam. 19:1-8). In speaking particularly of the tongue James stated, “Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!” (Jas. 3:5). What is true of the tongue is obviously true of other matters as well, as this Bible story of conspiracy readily reveals.

-Eddy