



# Joshua Dufford

Monthly Prayer and Update Letter

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## New Staff Training

As the next step in my becoming a part of Keynote, I've officially completed my Keynote new staff training! I, along with four other new Keynote staff members, completed training just before Thanksgiving. (That's us in the picture above! Me, Nellie, Sharon, Kristin, and Scott.)

Now, if you're like me, you might think of "training" as a long, tedious, maybe even boring process of getting acclimated to the surroundings of a new workplace. Well, let me assure you that my Keynote training was a lot more than that! Yes, there was some "getting to know the office" included in my training sessions, but the majority of our time was spent developing our communication skills, our spiritual well-being, and our perspective on Keynote's ministry, our roles within it, and our lives in general. The best part was that I found I can use most of what I learned outside just the walls of Keynote! (Check my website for more about training!)

## Keynote Philosophy 101

One of the things we talked about in training was where Keynote finds the basis for their ministry in the Bible. Of course, there are many inspirational verses for Keynote and what we do, but the passage we primarily focused on was Acts 17:22-34. In this passage, Paul is preaching to the Greeks, but as he is talking, he uses examples that the Greeks would be familiar with. Instead of making Biblical analogies that they wouldn't have understood, Paul used the example of an altar that they have. And instead of bombarding them with Bible verses they may not have comprehended, Paul used the words of Greek poets to express his message.

The point being, that in order to have the greatest impact on people's (and specifically college students') lives, we believe we ought to speak to them in a language they'll understand. Paul relates to his audience by finding common ground and speaking a common language with them, and Keynote tries to do the same thing. Today's musicians are like the poets of our society, and we believe that by using music and stories from our own lives, we can speak to people's hearts, and give them a chance to discover God in a unique way.

## Changing Lives

Just to give you a glimpse of what God is doing through Keynote's ministry, here are a couple quotes from comment cards that were filled out by people who attended Keynote concerts this fall:

*"I'd like to thank you guys for helping me. You cleared my mind as to what's been bothering me. You gave me a wake up call that I've been going in the wrong directions."* (Emily, age 17)

*"[The concert] was really inspiring me to get in Jesus Christ into my life ... it was a memorable one, and the program made me believe that Christ is really great."*

(Manatha, a college student in India, who invited Christ into his life)

### Prayer Requests:

\* for our marketing team, that we would work together cohesively to have the greatest impact possible

\* for the Keynote bands, who are rehearsing and planning for their next touring season

\* for me, as I join the marketing team and find my role at Keynote

### E-Mail Updates

If you'd like to receive my update letters via e-mail, in lieu of these paper letters, just send me an e-mail to let me know!

### THE LATEST!

It's tough to fit everything that I want to tell you into these once-a-month letters! So, if you'd like to get the latest about everything I'm doing here, check out my Keynote blog at:

[www.joshuadufford.com/keynote](http://www.joshuadufford.com/keynote)

I usually update the site about once a week, so I'd encourage you to bookmark it and check it often!