

# THE JOHN SAMUEL GROUP

Spring 2013 Newsletter Issue #1

## God is moving!

Greetings from John, Karie, Josh, Steve and Amanda.

We are excited to send this newsletter to share with you how God has been working in our lives over the last 2 years! John and Karie Fiorello moved back to CT in August of 2011 and God began to birth a new ministry idea into an already passion-filled calling to worship leadership. Soon Josh, Steve, and Amanda (meet them on page 4) came on board as staff and many others joined us as prayer partners. We are thrilled to finally share how and where God has called us. Allow us to introduce: *The John Samuel Group!*

The John Samuel Group is a concerted effort to bring worship renewal to New England by offering multi-denominational worship experiences that engage worshipers in the diversity of historical Christianity. Supported by a production company, The John Samuel Group (a.k.a. TheJSG) works adjacent to the local church, uniquely augmenting local ministries while creating new media through recording, performing, and web-based broadcasting.

So, what will it look like? Here's what we are designing:

THE JSG



## Worship Plant

*the process of establishing a center for engaging Christian worship. (Not related to green living organisms.)*

Imagine a place in a high traffic area where folks gather any given night of the week to experience authentic worship that spans the historic and ethnic diversity of the Christian community. The physical space where worship takes place (continued on page 2)



## Production

### Company

*the physical business responsible for recording and producing new media, and financially supporting the worship plant.*

The production arm of TheJSG is based around 3 areas: recording, broadcasting, and live performances. All three areas work together to generate revenue which will support the worship focus of TheJSG.

**Recording** The in-house recording studio will court local and regional artists and performing groups seeking pro-level recordings without having to choose between a home studio or traveling outside of Northwest CT. (continued on page 2)

## Our BIG News

We won an amazing opportunity to pitch a project we've been working on to investors at a well-known conference in San Francisco. You can help us! Read more in "A Call to Action" on page 3.

## Find Us

Follow our updates on Facebook ([facebook.com/TheJohnSamuelGroup](https://facebook.com/TheJohnSamuelGroup)), LinkedIn, Google+, and Twitter (@JohnSamuelGroup).



## Worship (continued)

adjusts to the needs of the evening while folks from the local churches take part in creating an engaging worship experience. The worshipers participate freely without financial commitment and without pressure to give up their home church opportunities.

### What we will do:

**Teach** people the who, how, and whys of worship and the diverse ways Christians have worshiped over thousands of years.

**Expose** people to worship experiences that are authentic, engaging, compelling, and distinctly different from home church experiences.

**Provide** people with various materials that help them learn about and participate in worship away from TheJSG, bridging the denominational gap and connecting them to the local church.

**Function** as a safe, welcoming hub for multiple denominations to gather together and learn, grow, worship, and disperse; sharing what they've learned and experienced in their respective church communities.

**Provide** multiple diverse worship experiences that are easy to attend, participate in, and invite friends to, with a focus on modern, historic, ethnic, and culturally diverse experiences.

We are aware that most churches are able to support services each week is because they collect a tithe (a gift of money) from the worshipers. A significant percentage of that money goes to staff salaries and building management. Instead of collecting tithes from the worshipers, TheJSG will use its production arm to finance the worship. The relationship between the worship and production arms of the ministry/business is what makes TheJSG unique and stable without diverting finances from the local church.

*TheJSG will use its production arm  
to finance the worship,  
leaving worships free to continue giving  
to their respective churches.*

## What it could look like...

The actual execution of the worship experiences changes with the needs of the community, but these are some possibilities; remember that education and engagement in worship are key goals for us.

Because of our mission to connect different denominations and worship experiences together, as we see the needs of the community change we will be able to respond accordingly and quickly.

### Monday

**Prayer Service** Warm, dimly lit, inviting space. Room is divided into multiple prayer stations. People use their artistic talents, singing, writing, quiet prayer to express worship. Staff members pray w/ people. Lists of books & websites on biblical prayer are available for worshippers to take home.

### Tuesday

**Spanish/Contemporary Service** Open room, bright colors, rows of chairs. Young people lead the worship band in Spanish and English. Children are free to run while singing and dancing. Prayers are free-flowing and come out of the congregation. Translations are available for everyone.

### Thursday

**Ancient Service** Quiet, seating is in pews or on pillows. Communion is taken. A liturgical dance is observed. Worshippers pray the fixed-hour prayers of the ancient church. Scripture is read aloud between the singing of a few Taize songs. The evening ends with a journey through a prayer path.

### Friday

**Modern Service** Bright, loud, modern melodies, overhead screens for lyrics & videos. A full rock style band, hymns and modern music used. Concert style lighting, atmospheric effects. Prayer is lead by a leader & is free flowing, quiet prayer takes place while band plays instrumentally.



## Production (Cont.)

**Broadcasting** TheJSG broadcast studio is geared towards hosting a series of web-based TV and podcast shows with local, regional, and world renowned speakers, with online audience engagement.

**Live Performances** We will utilize our worship space, trained staff and production elements to host weekend concerts, conferences and shows for local, regional, and national artists.

## Call to Action

God can do amazing things, and He uses PEOPLE. Listed here are some ways God can use YOU!

**Prayer** Please pray for the ministry! See the Prayer Request section.

**Financial Support** We have two short term goals we're trying to fund:

- Attend the Launch Conference in San Francisco, in one month, where we will have the chance to meet with investors and business start-up professionals for education, networking, and possible investments into our company. This has tremendous potential from a business and ministry standpoint. To accomplish this we need to build a prototype of our recording and production ideas.
- Launch our first worship service in Torrington.

Our current fundraising goal for these two short term projects is \$10,000. Please prayerfully consider helping us by financially supporting us. You can use the enclosed envelope to give to The John Samuel Group or you can visit our website, [www.TheJSG.com/donate](http://www.TheJSG.com/donate), to give via credit card.

**Tell Others** Share TheJSG on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, or casual conversation. Like our Facebook page and follow us on LinkedIn, Google+ (communities: Worship), and Twitter (@JohnSamuelGroup)!

**Complete a Survey** Help us document the need for worship revival and production by going to our website and filling out a survey!!

Visit: [www.TheJSG.com/survey](http://www.TheJSG.com/survey)

## How To Pray

Please pray specifically for God's provision and guidance in these key areas.

**Financial Goals** Pray that we reach our financial goals so that we can make a big impact for the Kingdom through this work. Pray for investors that will be able to help the production studios reach its highest aspirations.

**A Building** We need a building to hold all the different activities that will take place at TheJSG. Ideally it would be a large, empty space between 12,000 and 15,000 square feet with 20 foot ceilings. This would allow for ground up construction of the exact space we'll need for the studio and live performance areas. However, we need any space more than we need the "perfect" space so if you know anyone who would give us access to a building of any size for no/low rent or would even consider donating their building for the cause, we would be eternally grateful!

**A Grant Writer** One of the very next staff positions we are looking to fill is for someone who has experience finding and writing grant proposals. This is a complicated and time consuming process but it will help us raise the large upfront costs! While our goal is to pay a grant writer as money comes in,



we would love to hear from anyone who has experience in this area and would like to donate their time for the first few projects!

**Leadership** Please pray for the leadership and staff, that we can serve with wisdom and grace. Pray about future leaders, that

*...we need any space more than  
we need the "perfect" space  
so if you know anyone...*

God will send us willing and able individuals for this high calling. (We will be hiring soon, so if you know anyone in recording and production please send them our way!) And pray for John and Karie as they venture into brand new territory, that they would remain open and sensitive to God's plan for TheJSG's Worship and Production Studios.

## How We Are Different From The Church:

We focus in on engaging, purposeful worship experiences while deferring to the local church for everything else familiar to Christian tradition. At TheJSG you won't find...

- Use of 'sermons' as a focal point of worship experiences.
- People giving their tithes to TheJSG.
- Discipleship opportunities like Sunday school or small groups.
- Organized care-type ministries like hospital visitation or counseling.

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## Our Backgrounds

### Getting to know TheJSG founders, John & Karie Fiorello

A graduate of Eastern University, John Fiorello received his BA in music with a church music concentration and is nearing the end of his Masters of Worship Studies from The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies. John toured the country in a worship drama ministry with Arc Ministries and has served on staff for 12 years at various churches as a worship leader and media/technology director. John has worked extensively on church sound, video, media and lighting installations. John loves to play guitar, and has a passion for teaching about worship and leading people into deeper connection with God. John is a self starter, a vision caster, extremely outgoing and a hard worker.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in youth ministry from Eastern University near Philadelphia, Karie Fiorello served on staff in various churches for 12 years, planning and hosting conferences, retreats, mission trips, and youth ministry training, as well as Bible studies, small groups, and fundraisers. Passionate about worship (participating and helping others engage with God), Karie has planned & hosted many worship experiences, from ancient to out-of-the-box, engaging the spectrum of Christian worship in historical and relevant mediums. Karie is gifted in organization and team building, executing ideas from vision to final product and bringing balance to the Fiorello relationship.

*Thank you so much for checking us out  
and for your support!  
We look forward to partnering with all  
our supporters in this Kingdom work!*



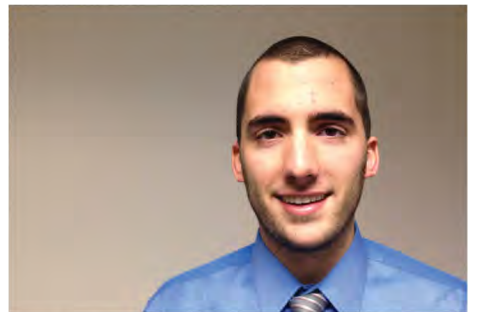
## Joshua Grover

An arborist & professional drummer, Josh is married with 3 beautiful girls. He served with ARC Ministries for 2 years, attended Eastern University & continues to seek out opportunities to reach others for Christ. He can't wait to see how TheJSG will provide the opportunity for worship revitalization for New England.



## Amanda Morse

Quirky and passionate, Amanda attended the Global School of Supernatural Ministry in Mechanicsburg, PA. Now back in her hometown of Torrington she is excited to be serving at TheJSG & looks forward to seeing people connect in deep relationship with God!



## Steve Canciani

An active member of his church and community, Steve is currently a student at UConn in Psychology & Human Developmental Family Studies. He enjoys preaching & looks forward to his own traveling ministries after being equipped through TheJSG. Steve has a passion for God and winning souls for Christ.