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**USA**

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear Pastor Delaney,

This letter is a reference for Ken Fish and his involvement at Vineyard Ministries International (VMI), from 1983 through 1987, and beyond.

As a little personal background, I first met John Wimber in 1983 through a phone interview that I conducted when working as an editor with *Pastoral Renewal Journal* out of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Peter Wagner had referred me to John after I interviewed him and published an article under the title of “A Third Wave?” I had never heard of John Wimber before that time.

After publishing the Wimber interview I received a call from John in which he said I captured in writing his beliefs better than anyone else up to that time. That began a relationship that led to our signing a four-book contract with Hodder & Stoughton (in England) and HarperCollins (Now Harper & Rowe) in the USA.

I eventually co-authored *Power Evangelism*, *Power Healing*, and *Power Points*, along with various study guides for each; *Power Encounters Among Christians in the Western World* (with a Forward by John Wimber), and *The Way to Maturity* (Regal Books, again co-authored with John). Additionally, I wrote a series of *Kingdom Booklets* (Servant Publications) — as a contracted ghost writer and overall editor. I am not a copyright holder on these latter works, although I was paid royalties for them along with John. There are others, all copyrighted works, but I won’t burden you with the details.

Additionally, and in connection with the above works, it is worth noting that Christy Wimber published an unauthorized version of *Power Evangelism*, without my permission and without Hodder & Stoughton’s (the copyright holder and owner of the negotiating rights) permission, in which she removed my name from the book’s contents as well as its “by-line.” This was a deliberate violation of US and international copyright laws. That edition has since been withdrawn and destroyed, and a new, updated edition was recently published by Regal Books here in the USA.

I believe I am qualified to comment on the part that Ken Fish and others have played in working closely with John Wimber, whom I respect

immensely and to whom I will always be grateful for allowing me to work with him.

In 1983 I came to California to conduct a Pastoral Renewal Leadership Conference at the Anaheim Vineyard. There I met Ken Fish for the first time. We hit it off immediately. Ken was working for John at VMI. Among his duties was writing conference material and sermons, a common practice for men of John's stature due to his extremely busy schedule. Ken worked for John at VMI from 1983 through 1987.

In 1984 I moved back to California from Michigan, and I became an employee of Vineyard Ministries International. This was an easy move for me as I grew up in California, graduating from The University of Southern California (USC). Consequently, Ken's and my tenure overlapped from 1984-1987.

During this time both Ken and I worked closely with John, serving as his writers for conference talks and sermons. Just to clarify, as writers John told us the direction he wanted to go in a given talk or conference, we would put together drafts, and then interact with him on changes and revisions. Sometimes there would be multiple drafts of revisions. Ken and I succeeded Winn Griffin, who left shortly after we arrived, and Jack Simms (who tragically died in a plane crash) who preceded Winn.

Except for the books which I referenced above, there was no "by-line" associated with the conference and sermon materials—nor would it have been appropriate—but be assured that Jack Simms, Winn Griffin, Ken and I all collaborated with John on *many* projects. Also, I heard John acknowledge us by name in conferences and sermons on *many* occasions. John was generous and gracious in crediting others.

In particular, Ken worked on editing and re-scripting parts of the original conference material for *Healing I & II and Spiritual Gifts*; editing for conference use *MC 510 & MC 511* (this was adapting the Fuller Seminary material for popular use) and editing some of the early Kingdom of God material for re-use in sermons. The original Kingdom material, of course, had all been researched and written by Jack Simms and Winn Griffin, and it drew largely on the works of George Eldon Ladd. Other Wimber works that Ken refreshed and updated, and in several cases wrote *de novo*, were *Church Planning: The First Five Years*, *Healing '87*, *Spiritual Warfare*, *Teach Us to Pray*, *Wimber on Wagner*, and *Worship '87*. There may be other titles that I don't recall in addition to these that I have listed. It should be noted that none of these titles includes the many sermons that Ken wrote for John after graduating from UCLA graduate school in 1989 and through 1995, when Ken moved to Virginia on the East Coast of the United States.

I was always impressed with Ken's keen insight into theological, historical, and philosophical matters. In addition to the MBA he earned from UCLA in 1989, he had previously earned his M.Div. from Fuller Seminary after graduating from Princeton University.

In the early and mid-1980s Christy Wimber (*née* Mantyla) was a high school student who, frankly, I don't remember very well. She certainly wasn't a writer for John, nor was she involved in any significant way at VMI during that period. She did not have the educational or theological background to hold such a position, and she became more prominent only after she married Sean Wimber. For his part, during the 1980s Sean Wimber worked in the tape duplication department of VMI, served as a "roadie" for the worship band, and fulfilled other duties of this type. Apparently both of their roles expanded later, after I left in 1994, although I don't know much about that era.

Ken Fish played an honorable and significant role in the early years of the Vineyard movement, along with others. His gifts as a thinker, writer, and theologian were incredibly helpful to John Wimber. This I can attest to as an eyewitness.

If you have any questions, you may write me at [knoblespringer@yahoo.com](mailto:knoblespringer@yahoo.com) or phone here in California at +1-760-464-8855.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Kevin N. Springer