

June 1, 2023  
Good evening,

My name is John Kim, and I am a member of the Board of Trustees for Vineyard USA. My primary vocation is investor and entrepreneur, but I am also ordained as a pastor in the Vineyard, and I have 25+ years of experience in all stages of church development.

While I am writing principally to the Christian AAPI community in Southern California, what I have to say also applies to those beyond the AAPI/SoCal borders. The issue at hand is the church formerly known as Vineyard Anaheim (now called Dwelling Place Anaheim, DPA), and its leadership comprised of lead pastor Alan Scott, worship pastor Jeremy Riddle, and board members like Banning Leibscher of Jesus Culture.

I write this with a heavy and pastoral heart as I have listened to countless testimonies over the past 18 months that detail incredibly disturbing patterns of abusive leadership that surpass anything that I have ever encountered in my entire time in church leadership. The same pattern of behavior goes back 25 years when Alan was a pastor at Causeway Coast Vineyard in the UK, and continues up to his current post at Dwelling Place in Anaheim, California. While the places and dates have changed, the common thread is Alan Scott- a man who systematically attempts to control and manipulate vulnerable people by suggesting that anyone who goes against his will is being disobedient to God. The impact of this abuse on victims is heartbreaking as it tears into the very fabric of reality and the victims' understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Like all forms of abuse, it negatively affects victims' lives for years and even decades after the abusive episode concludes.

Over the past couple months, multiple individuals who are physically proximate to DPA have shared with me that Alan has made a concerted effort to "target" the AAPI community, and some have indicated that up to 35-40% of the congregation is comprised of AAPI brothers and sisters. As a Korean-American son of immigrants, I was deeply disturbed in my spirit when I heard this. We love people of all races and ethnicities equally, but it is also my belief that AAPI folk are particularly susceptible to abusive spiritual leadership given our culture's high view of authority, specifically spiritual authority.

Everything I have stated above is effectively in the public domain and supported by extensive documentation from reputable sources (links below). My primary desire right now is to make the Christian AAPI community in Southern California aware of what is happening as my sense is that men like Alan often operate in darkness. While I reside 3,000 miles away and I myself have never been targeted or treated in this way, I now know after listening to countless victims that the negative impact and ramifications of being under this kind of leadership are very real. I cannot sit still and be idle while this is happening.

Finally, I have come to the conclusion that this is not a case of two sides to a story as this is often our default position whenever there is conflict inside the church. No, this is a story of a man with a self-proclaimed "anointing" who is wreaking havoc in the name of Jesus. I personally

feel compelled to do all I can to bring this to the light. If you have connections into this community, please forward this along so individuals can be informed before stepping foot into this dangerous world.

I will make myself available to anyone who is similarly concerned and would like to learn more.

-John

//Links to articles and public statements

1. [Roys Report Article: Former Staff share their experience under Alan Scott](#). This article is just a small fraction of the testimonies I have heard, and was released on May 17, 2023
2. [Noah Debolt Video: Former drummer for Jeremy Riddle- his experience](#). Released on May 17, 2023. This video has received over 30K view on Youtube, and similarly on TikTok and Instagram.
3. [Vineyard USA statement regarding Alan Scott](#). Released on May 17, 2023. There is a long trail of statements since early 2022 at this same link.
4. [Roys Report Article: Alan Scott's response to abuse allegations](#). Released on May 31, 2023. Worthwhile to watch how Alan responds to the allegations. He portrays himself as the victim, which is a familiar move from a vulnerable narcissist.
5. [Christianity Today Article: Disaffiliation of Vineyard Anaheim from Vineyard](#). Released right after disaffiliation in March of 2022. Highlights how Alan's treatment of Vineyard USA is substantially similar to how he treats his victims, and it was upon reading this article that countless individuals came forward to share their stories with Vineyard USA.
6. [Christianity Today Article: Lawsuit against Alan Scott and Board of DPA](#). Former board members and congregation members- including Carol Wimber (the founder of the Vineyard along with her late husband John Wimber)- have brought a lawsuit against Alan Scott and Board of DPA. There is good reason to believe that Alan's plan from the beginning was to secure the position of senior pastor to procure the real estate assets and disaffiliate from the movement.
7. [Causeway Coast Vineyard Statement](#). This was the church Alan pastored in the late 1990s. The lead pastor is brother-in-law of Alan Scott. This was released on June 1, 2023.