

The Crucial Challenge

How to Engage Your Church in Disciple Making

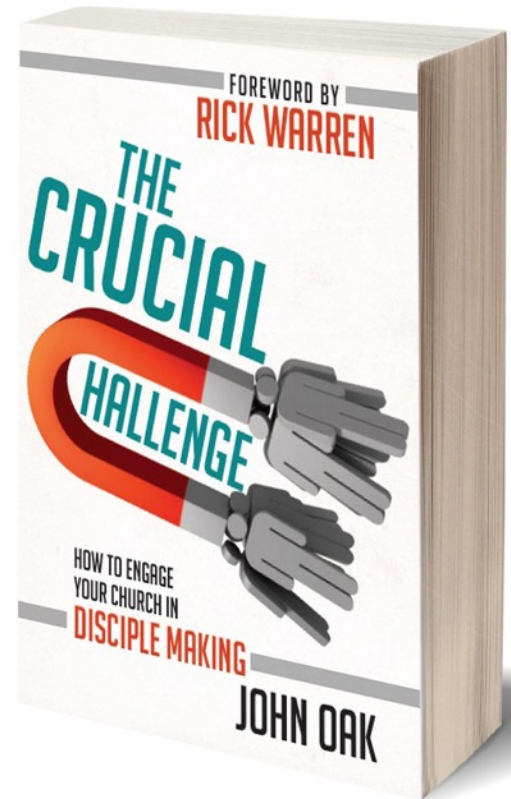
John H. Oak, Rick Warren

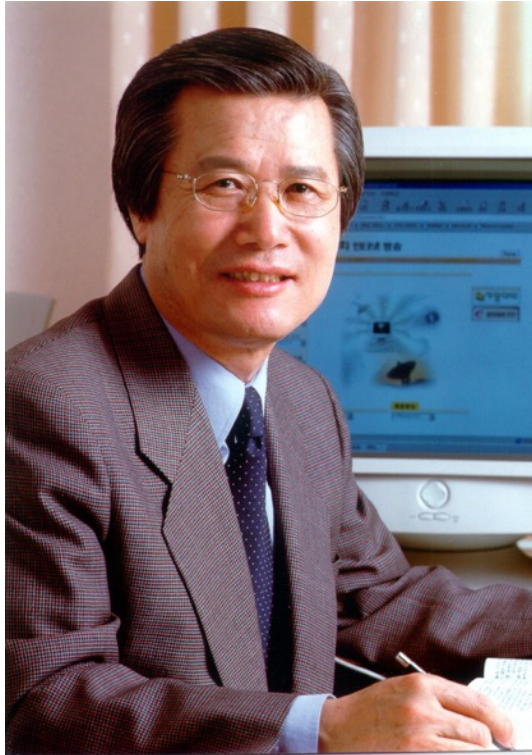
Among the people who file into your church on a typical Sunday, how many would you say are living as true disciples of Jesus Christ? Why does the church exist? What are the roles of the laity in the church and in the world? These are the questions facing today's church leaders who wish to battle the tone of the day, complacency. Within the context of today's ailing churches, many are now recognizing the need to reestablish the critical role of the laity in building a healthy church.

Reverend John H. Oak's piercing and impassioned manual, ***The Crucial Challenge: How to Engage Your Church in Disciple Making*** (formerly, *Called to Awaken the Laity*), has become the main driving force behind the disciple-making movement in South Korea.

Throughout these pages, we sense the unflinching spirit of a pastor who devoted his all to the raising up of each member of his congregation to realize and fulfill their calling as disciples of Christ. More than just a theological study on ecclesiology, this book helped establish Sarang Community Church as one of the largest Presbyterian churches in the world—a faithful and thriving body of believers. This book has already impacted a multitude of churches, not only in Korea, but around the world.

The Crucial Challenge is an urgent appeal to pastors and laity alike, to face and embrace our God-given calling to live as disciples and disciple-makers. In this invaluable resource, Rev. Oak lays out tried-and-tested principles of discipleship as a fundamental biblical strategy, which is essential to the calling of the church as revealed in the Scriptures.





Rev. John H. Oak

The late Rev. John H. Oak (DD, Graduate School of Practical Theology; DMin and DD, Westminster Theological Seminary; ThM, Calvin Theological Seminary; MDiv, Chongshin Theological Seminary; BA, Sungkyunkwan University) was the influential senior pastor who launched Sarang Community Church in Seoul, Korea with a handful of people; it grew into one of the world's largest Presbyterian churches, with over 30,000 members. He often described his passion for discipling individuals as wildly enthusiastic. Indeed, he is lovingly remembered as a voice calling out in the wilderness for churches and lay members to function as salt and light in our world today, and he is still greatly missed by many around the world. Rev. Oak's beloved wife, three grown sons, and six grandchildren survive him.

Endorsements for *The Crucial Challenge*:

The task of every church leader is 'to prepare God's people for works of service' (Ephesians 4:12). Dr. Oak has done this most effectively and has known much blessing in the amazing congregation that is Sarang Community Church. His approach is biblical and practical and will be an inspiration to every pastor, whatever the size or context of their congregation. By transforming church members from passive spectators into active servants and disciples, the church grows stronger and the kingdom of Christ advances. Dr Oak's emphasis on disciple making is a critical element in the wonderful story of the growth and vitality of the Korean church in recent decades. I heartily commend this book to pastors and church leaders everywhere. - **Very Rev. Dr. Stafford Carson, Principal of Union Theological College, Belfast**

As a pastor who read and worked with a previous edition of this book by the late Reverend John Oak, then titled *Called to Awaken the Laity*, to disciple hundreds of laity for over ten years, I strongly recommend this pastors' handbook to everyone who is serious about discipleship. I have found the book to be challenging and its application useful, not only in Korea for the

average Korean parishioners, but also for the expatriates living in Korea, as well as second-generation Korean-Americans in the US, with whom I had the privilege of assisting in their journeys toward maturity. With great joy I congratulate the publication of this new English edition. - **Pastor Yong Moon, Director of Korean-American Ministry, Compassion International**

Legacy is not too strong of a word to use regarding the late Dr. John Oak. I met him over fifteen years ago when I first visited Sarang Community Church. His legacy yet continues in the maturity and spiritual growth of the ever-expanding Sarang community. I was greatly encouraged during my visit this year, and I saw what God continues to do through Dr. John Oh and the discipleship training. There are no brighter lights for disciple making anywhere in the world. Many do not believe that a focus on making disciples can't be joined to numerical growth. How wrong they are, and Dr. Oak's ministry proved it. I am so glad to see this book released, and I pray its truth will circle the globe for the Glory of God and His kingdom. - **Bill Hull Author of *Jesus Christ Disciple Maker*, *The Disciple-Making Pastor*, and *The Disciple-Making Church***

Rev. Dr. John Oak's ministry impact is beyond calculation! His discipleship ministry has been used of God to grow congregations around the globe as well as the largest Presbyterian Church in the world. Here, his secrets for such impact are outlined and developed with biblical and pastoral wisdom. Read and study this work, and you will learn how discipleship of the laity in the context of small groups immersed in biblical study can unleash the ministry of a local congregation that will reflect the power of the early church. - **Dr. Peter A. Lillback, President of Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia**