

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight filtering through the trees. The path is dirt and leads into a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The sunlight is bright and creates a warm, golden glow throughout the scene.

WHY REKINDLE RETREATS?

"becoming healing disciples of Jesus"

BY THE REV. JOSH ACTON

If you have questions, would like to inquire about hosting a retreat or are interested in taking a more active role in these retreats, please reply to Laura Sinclair, Executive Assistant to the North American Director, at nadoffice@osltoday.org.

The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as 'Christians' will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence.

- Dallas Willard, Christian Philosopher

The Rekindle Retreats are meant to form authentic disciples of Jesus. A disciple changes the world for others when the Holy Spirit uses them in a moment of love and truth. A disciple is developed through intimacy and joy in the Holy Spirit, as well as in failure and suffering. The disciple presses on because they have fixed their eyes on Jesus, and the Kingdom of God is forever in their sights.

OSL is an unusual and beautiful wonder in the life of the church because we are a community of people who come from different brands of Christianity. We represent the whole church, and each one plays a role that is indispensable to the whole. And because we have such a special vantage point of the kingdom, I believe that we have reached a Kairos moment—a moment to disciple others to be followers of Jesus, whether they become OSL members or not.

Jesus provided healing for one purpose only. That purpose was to make disciples. He said, *"if by the hand of God, I drive out demons today, then you know that the kingdom of God has come among you"* (Luke 11:20). Jesus wanted people to be sons and daughters of that kingdom. He said follow me. Even if you're not sure about me, you can be sure of the signs and wonders I perform. As I've said before, in various contexts, healing is the calling card of the kingdom of God. It is like a carpet sample of our heavenly home in advance. And with this gift and all the gifts of the Spirit, we can draw others into an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

And friends, this is ultimately the foundational purpose of our lives: To glorify God and to share his love with the world so that they may know him, love him and follow Jesus. The audacious goal of the Rekindle Retreats is to be apprentices of Jesus in love and power. You will want to experience these moments when there will be a ripple effect from our encounter with the Holy Spirit and the presence of Jesus at these retreats. Afterward, others will look to us and say, "They really have been with the Lord."

REKINDLE RETREATS

Join OSL North American Director Rev. Josh Acton for a time of going deeper in your walk with Christ. These small group discipleship retreats will be offered for OSL members throughout the year in various locations. Topics will include spiritual disciplines, the power of intercession, hearing from God and sharing the message of the Gospel.

A Rekindle Retreat will differ from a training or a conference in that it will be a reflective time for you to have a deeper encounter with Jesus. There will be time for prayer, silence and small group discussion as you take time away for the weekend.

SAVE THE DATES!

April 21–23, 2023

Rev. Josh Acton and Rev. John Rice
Co-sponsored by The Blessing Place of Western North Carolina

Location: High Pastures Retreat Center in Burnsville, North Carolina

The inaugural retreat with The Blessing Place of Western North Carolina will have some special features. It will be a hybrid program, offered both in-person and online. In addition, Rev. John Rice will be giving two of the talks during the retreat in addition to talks by Rev. Josh Acton.

ONLINE REKINDLE RETREAT FOR INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

June 2–3, 2023

Co-sponsored by the OSL Jamaica Healing Communities

Currently open to OSL Members outside of the continental US

ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS:

We are in the process of scheduling the Rekindle Retreats to take place in various locations during 2023. Stay tuned for more info about the location nearest you!