**8th Birthday 29th Sept 2019**

**Intro**

Today we celebrate 8 years of walking together as a church.

God has been speaking to me much out of the book of Joshua and there would have been nothing I would have liked more today, than to have given you some rousing sermon about where we go from here.

But as I get older, I can see two principles in my life that have kept me. One is the Fear of the Lord and the other is the presence of God. And those 2 things, stop me from going all ‘gun-ho’ into the next year.

This evening I aim to share with you how I see the next stage in the life of the church but **this morning I want us to pause and reflect on what God has done, on his faithfulness and goodness to us.**

Life may not be easy - but God has called each one of us here today, and brought us out of what we were in and into his purposes.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Who would have thought stone stacking was in the Bible! Slide

Read Joshua 4:1 - 9

When the Israelites crossed the river Jordan into the promised land, God told one man from each tribe to pick up a stone, and stack them as a memorial to remember what God had done.

Joshua ensures that time is taken to:

* celebrate their miraculous & safe passage into the promised land,
* to reflect on and take stock of where God had brought them to
* and to safeguard the history and meaning of this event for future generations.

Keith Du Plessis says “If we do not keep a record and interpretation of the interventions of God in our lives, a generation will grow up with no frame of reference for what is important and we will simply label it NOSTALGIA.

While we do not live in the past, it does serve as a reference point to remind us of God’s faithfulness then and His continuing presence in our times of change.”

So I want us to reflect on the time we have been a part of the church here and answer this question.

I’m going to ask folk to share what they’ve written at the end because each one of our testimonies is like a stone we are putting down and the Bible says we overcome the enemy by the word of our testimony.