

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebration! Joshua 24:1-18

2 Years – sometimes seems like we've been here all our lives; other times just yesterday  
Anniversaries are like milestones or mile markers along the path of life  
Help us mark time; Reflect back; Look forward  
Most importantly – great opp to thank God for all he's done

That's what Joshua did in chapter 24 of his book – turn there (v1-18)  
Toward the end of his life, after they had settled the promised land . . .  
He paused to reflect and remind them where they had come from; how they got there  
Following that pattern, I want to do the same on this 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of our church  
Anniversaries are a good time to do that; A good time to . . .

### ANNIVERSARIES ARE A GOOD TIME TO . . .

**Remember all that God has done . . . and be amazed (v1-13)**

With the emphasis on what *God* has done  
Not what has happened by chance; Not what *we* did; But what *he* did  
Look at the verbiage here in v3-13 – I, I, I, I, I (read some of them)  
Those are some amazing things

Ann's are a good time to remember all that God has done . . . **and be amazed** by it

God has done an amazing work among us in the last 2 years, wouldn't you say?  
Done our best to capture some of that with some **photos** . . .  
We've come a long way! Church plants don't happen like this  
So I want to make sure we never forget what *God* has done among us; He . . .

Grew our **Attendance** – 599–957 (59% increase); **Graph** of past year  
CM – 215; HS – 45; JH – 55  
SG's – 14-23 groups; 140-340 people  
6 YA small groups for college, career, YM's (fr 2 a year ago) – 90  
YA – another 90 coming; PwtP – 221; PP – 129; DC's – 77

Increased our **Giving** – Average offering \$12,400–20,200 (63% increase)

### Expanded our **Ministries**

Started some and expanded others  
Men's Bible studies; VBS; 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade camp; CO's (Lydia Home)  
WM – added a 2<sup>nd</sup> Bible study; JH&HS – SG's/Bible studies  
Missions – 1<sup>st</sup> partnership  
Ministry Expo; Downpour; Baptisms – 63

### Provided our **Facilities**

God has preserved *this* place – HS continues to be gracious to us as we use more of it  
DC's, CM, SM's  
Backstage seating 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Sept (30-75)  
Provided larger office space (enjoy it)  
Building to call our own

### Increased our **Membership**

54 people are formally expressing their commitment to this body of believers today  
**New members stand**

Bible doesn't say much about how to *formally* express our commitment to one another in the body of Christ . . . but the idea of commitment is certainly there  
And the more we plug in to ministry with each other, the more we feel it

Keeping to yourself or sharing with others? Flash in the pan or love for a lifetime?  
Anniversaries are a good time to make a choice . . . and stick with it

Joshua's people made the right choice/commitment – *Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods (16)* . . .

After all, look at all that he's done for us!

HBC – look at all he's done for us

*Therefore we also [following the example of our leaders] will serve the LORD, for he is our God. (18b)*

That's as good of a renewal commitment as any

If that expresses your heart this morning let's **say it together** –

*Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods . . . Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.*

In addition to renewing your commitment to the Lord, many of you have made a commitment to join this church as members

You made the same commitments as the new members just did

Every 2 years we want to *renew* our membership commitment to one another, and refresh our desire to stick with it

We don't want it to be a thing of the past; A worthless pledge; A forgotten promise

So if you're **currently a member of HBC**, whether you joined 6 months ago, or 16 months ago, I'd like for you to **stand**

I thank *God* for you, because your *faith* is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. (2 Thess 1:3)

And we constantly mention you in our prayers, remembering before our God and

*Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thess 1:2-3)*

Bless you for your commitment to this body of believers – stick with it (be seated)

Remember all that God has done; Renew your commitment to the Lord

**Recognize those who lead . . . and pray for their protection (1, 15)**

God raises up leaders to be followed and trusted

Did so in Moses' day, Joshua's day, David's day, Christ's day, Paul's day

He's still doing so in our day

He has raised up exceptional men and women in our church who are capable, who fear

Lord, and who are trustworthy (Ex 18:21)

Men and women who are faithful and reliable (2 Tim 2:2)

Who love Jesus and love you

Just as Josh gathered them together on an "anniversary occasion," (1) and *they presented themselves before God* – want to do same

Some of you know our elders, deacons, and staff – our Leadership Team

Others of you don't, and I want to introduce them to you this morning

### Elders and their wives . . .

Year ago today we installed these men as our first elders

Laid hands on to confirm calling as elders, and ask for God's blessing in their role

So we've chosen to express our commitment to one another in a formal, public way through membership

We've found that it strengthens our bond, deepens our unity, and moves us from participation to partnership

That's the intention of each and every one of you as you make these **commitments**

By joining this church and making these commitments, you're saying –

Not only *can* you count on me, but I *want* to be counted on

I want to be as fully vested in God's work here at HBC as I possibly can

So on behalf of all of us who've already taken this step – welcome to membership at HBC

We're thankful for you; We commend you; We're committed to you as well

We look forward to many sweet times ahead as we partner together to glorify God and build up the body of Christ

That's our list of the things God has done, just like Joshua's

But there's one more amazing thing he's done – he's changed lives

### Changed lives

Share some of your **emails**

These people are changed because they're growing in their walk with Christ

Others of you are changed because you *gave* your life to Christ for the 1<sup>st</sup> time this year

You repented of your sins in faith, trusting God to save you and keep you

Committed to live for him, no matter what the cost

If that describes you – if you embraced Jesus as your Lord and Savior this past year, will you **stand up** and let us rejoice with you over your changed life?

### ANNIVERSARIES ARE A GOOD TIME TO . . .

**Renew your commitment to the Lord . . . and stick with it (14-18)**

The danger with any great work of the Lord, is that we focus so much on the past that we

*forget* about the present and get *complacent* about the future

Our memories should never be bigger than our dreams

Our nostalgia should never produce more excitement than our hopes

Our past should never be brighter than our future – never

That requires from time to time, a renewal of our commitment to the Lord

That's what God's people did in v14-18 (read)

Joshua is urging them to keep on serving and worshipping God *faithfully*, with *sincerity*, with integrity (14)

*Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD (14b)*

Show some integrity; Stop trying to lead a double life

Renew your commitment to the Lord this anniversary . . . **and stick with it**

Joshua presses the issue – *choose this day whom you will serve (15)*

In other words, what's it going to be – God or gods?

Make a choice; Stop riding the fence; Stop riding the coattails of your forefathers

How about you? What's it going to be this next year – God or gods?

The things you want to do, or the thing *God* wants you to do?

Social acceptance or pleasing the Lord? Living for ease or suffering for Christ?

John and Jamy Cochran (elder chair; Jamy – AA, servant)

Dan and Barb Millage (deacons, building; Barb – teaches CBS)

Dave and Kim Steinbronn (compensation; Kim – ministry to women)

Love these guys; They are partners in ministry; Friends; I'm accountable to them

Together, we are responsible for the doctrine, discipline, and direction of our church

Weighty responsibilities, but you won't find any more humble, capable, or godly men to carry the load

Their wives are exemplary as well

At Harvest, elders don't have hobbies

We meet every Wed evening from 5 to 8 where we open the Word, pray, eat, and talk

The rest of the week is spent doing the things we talked about

### Deacons and their wives

At Harvest, elders serve by leading and deacons lead by serving

Responsible for finances, facilities, and compassion fund

January, installed these guys; Praying over them and commending them to you

Mark & Anne Strawser (budget); Darrell & Susan Henriksen (financial oversight)

Bryan & Sue Sampson (compassion fund); Doug & Lisa Carroll (facilities)

They are of the utmost integrity

### Staff and spouses

We added 5 new staff this past year – 3 directors/pastors, 2 AA's

John and Angie, Dave and Judy, Garth and Deanna, David and Paula, Evie and Jerry

Nathan, Meri, Kinsey and Steve, Lisa, Jamy

Partners in ministry; I wouldn't exchange them for any other

Laugh together, cry together, support each other always

They work hard, have hearts of gold, gifts that are evident and growing

### Introduce **Becky**

We laugh together, cry together, pray together, talk together – she's my best friend,

closest partner, and biggest cheerleader

God has done a work in both of our lives that we wouldn't have believed if told

I'm thankful for you and love you

I want to commend every single one of these people to you

I am so high on them and proud of them

Our commitment to you, as it was for Joshua in his day – is to serve the Lord

15 – [You don't want what you want, but . . .] *As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*  
As for us and *this* house, we will serve the Lord (Sit down)

While we strive to live above reproach, we're not immune to sin; We're not above falling

Anniversaries are as good as time as any to not only *recognize* those who lead, but to

**pray for their protection**

In light of the recent sin on the part of Ted Haggard – a prominent pastor and leader in CO, I can't remind you enough to pray for us, myself included

That situation saddens me and sickens me

I'm well aware that it makes you wonder about *me* – whether I'm going to stumble/fall

That your trust and confidence in me may be diminished  
I wish that weren't the case, but these are the times in which we live  
I also wish I had a magic bullet that I could use to dispel your doubts and fears – I don't

Nobody can legitimately guarantee that they will never fall into the sin of sexual  
immorality – I can't, nobody can  
But what I *can* guarantee . . . is that I won't fall *this* week  
And that I never *intend* to  
And when next week comes, I plan on doing the *same* things I did this week to guard  
my heart and mind against anything that would bring shame to Jesus and  
compromise our ministry/church

Some of those things include –  
Talking as elders every week when we meet  
I meet with our elder chair, John Cochran, every other week for accountability  
I lead a SG and open myself to their scrutiny as well  
Most importantly, I have a second HS by the name of Becky who I live with

In addition to that, I live by some **moral fences**  
Staff lives by them as well

- 1) I will not ride alone in a car or share a meal with a female other than my wife or an immediate family member.
- 2) I will not counsel a woman in a closed room or more than once.
- 3) I will not stay alone in a hotel over night.
- 4) I will speak often and publicly of my affection for my wife.
- 5) I will not compliment a woman's appearance or clothing, only her character or conduct.

While none of these fences can ever *guarantee* the purity of a my heart, they *are* tangible  
ways to keep me far from the slippery slope of temptation and sin  
When combined with your prayers and God's protection, they go a long way toward  
keeping myself pure and guarding our ministry  
Let's end by **praying** for the protection of those who lead our church  
Thank you for all you've done; Changed lives; New members; Current members  
Commitments they represent; Leaders you've raised up; Their protection

Stand for worship  
As you do, praise God for all that he has done in our church  
Renew your commitments  
Pray for the leaders he's raised up  
We've come a long way, but I think some of our best days are ahead