

December 2023

Dear Fellow Laborers in the Gospel,

As we look back over 2023 as a year of mountains and valleys,

1. In 2023 the *First Baptist Church* celebrating its 65th anniversary of gospel ministry,
2. 50th year in Christian education, *Milford of Christian Academy Day School*,
3. 50 years in *bible publishing, Bearing Precious Seed*,
4. 50 years with Master Ministries.

It also in 2023 found us also calling our new pastor; Rev. Edward Barclay III. He's only the third pastor at FBC in the last 55 years; Pastors *Keen, Duttry*, and now *Barclay*.

Another mountain peak event in 2023 for us was the announcement of a new phase to our Bible printing ministry, the establishment of the Whole Bible Division. I want to put more emphasis on the production of whole Bibles in the coming years. We do not want to reduce the production of John/Romans and New Testaments but add the Whole Bible Ministry to what we are already doing.

Why are we adding a WHOLE BIBLE DIVISION to our production schedule?

1. Because God has increased our production capabilities at BPS.
2. There is more detailed information about God in the Old Testament than in the New Testament. If our goal is to introduce a pagan world to the true God, the more information we can give the pagans the better off we are.
3. We believe the assignment of the missionaries is not only soul-winning but also church planting and it's highly unlikely we can plant many churches if we don't have the whole Bible.
4. I would like to see us increase our goals *from* printing partial Bibles (J/R, New Testaments) *for* a partial world (1040 window) **to a whole Bible for a whole world**. It is true BPS has printed some whole Bibles, but it is also true it's a tiny percentage (-2%) of the 230 million of our total production since '73.

My personal valley in '23 was a health issue. That took me out of the pulpit for seven months.



Charles Keen



The Wise Men of the past were led to a cradle,
Wise Men of today to a cross.