

Church of the King Quarterly Newsletter

July 2025, Issue 1

As I sit down to write this letter, I am overwhelmed by the work the Lord has done in and through Church of the King, McAllen (COTK). God has been continually faithful to us and to this ministry. What you are reading is the first of many issues of the Church of the King Quarterly Newsletter.

We are keenly aware that the work of this church could not be done without the faithful support of our congregation and friends beyond our local area. Whether through your prayers or financial gifts, you have played a part in advancing this mission.

Because of that, the leadership of COTK is committed to keeping you regularly updated on the state and progress of the ministry—both the victories and the challenges. We want to be as open and transparent as possible as we continue to proclaim the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Rio Grande Valley.

Thank you for partnering with us. We pray that Church of the King has been, and will continue to be, a resource and blessing to you and your family for years to come.

The Loss of a Giant

As many of you know, on April 8, 2025, Church of the King lost one of its founding elders and its primary teaching and preaching pastor for over 20 years: Dr. Ronald D. Smith. His passing was both a time of deep mourning and of great rejoicing for our congregation. We mourned the loss of a man who was a wellspring of biblical and theological insight, a treasure trove of knowledge in church history, and a faithful leader and shepherd of our church body for decades. His absence is profoundly felt.

Yet we also rejoice, knowing that Pastor Ron is no longer in physical pain but now rests eternally with his Savior, Jesus Christ. The last years of his earthly life were marked by steady physical decline and numerous health challenges, but he finished the race the Lord set before him. He endured faithfully to the end, and for that, we praise God for the perseverance He granted our brother.

Shortly before Pastor Ron's passing, COTK completed major construction in our fellowship hall, now designated as our education building. This project included the addition of classrooms for Covenant Homeschool Co-op, the homeschool ministry we host and support. It also included the creation of an official church library—something Pastor Ron had long envisioned. Before he passed, he graciously donated his personal collection of theological works to the church. In honor of his legacy, we have named this new resource the Dr. Ron Smith Library.

Our prayer is that this space will serve our members, homeschool families, and local friends as a resource for theological study and Christian education. We continue to expand the library's holdings through a small monthly fund and generous book donations. In a region where serious theological training—particularly of the Reformed tradition—is hard to come by, we hope this library becomes a lasting part of our mission to spread the Reformed faith throughout McAllen and the greater Rio Grande Valley.

If you have questions about the library or would like to contribute, please contact Elder David Padilla or Athena Fike at cotksmithlibrary@gmail.com

The Westminster Confession, Homeschooling, and Night Classes

We are excited to share that many of the ministries established before Pastor Ron's passing continue to thrive. Our Sunday adult Bible study is still held every Lord's Day at 9:30 a.m., and over the past year, we completed a systematic study of the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Just last month, we began a new series walking through the Westminster Confession of Faith itself. These classes are valuable opportunities for our congregation to deepen their understanding of Reformed doctrine and theology. Our elders rotate in leading the class, and we are currently using G.I. Williamson's commentary as our guide.

In addition, Covenant Homeschool Co-op continues to grow and serve as a trusted source of counsel and support for Christian families across the Rio Grande Valley. The Lord has graciously blessed this ministry, which provides instruction from a distinctly Reformed worldview. In fact, as of today's planning meeting, we are thrilled to report a record number of families and students enrolled for the upcoming school year. This growth is a tremendous blessing, both for our church and for the families involved.

Pastor Voddie Baucham once said, *"We cannot continue to send our children to Caesar for their education and be surprised when they come home as Romans."* The truth is, there is no neutrality in this world. As Jesus said, *"Whoever is not with me is against me"* (Matt. 12:30). This reality extends to every area of life—from philosophy and business to the arts, civil government, and yes, education. If our mission is to see McAllen transformed into a self-consciously Christian city for the glory of God, it begins with the conversion of individuals and the discipleship of their children into a consistent Christian worldview.

Friends, this is a vital ministry in our region. While we rejoice in the many families joining us in the work of raising children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, the reality is that our ability to expand is currently constrained by limited space. This year, we have reached our building's capacity and as a result are unable to accommodate anymore families. Dozens of children are being taught not just core subjects, but also Bible, logic, debate, and church history, all from a Christian worldview. This is kingdom work with generational impact.

If you would like to partner with us, we first and foremost ask for your prayers—for our leadership, the co-op families, and especially the children. We live in a time when the culture around us insists that rejecting state-sponsored education is harmful or even abusive. But praise God for families who are willing to stand firm and implement biblical principles in their homes, raising their children with Christ at the center of every subject.

Second, we are in urgent need of additional space. There is an ideal area on the second floor of our sanctuary that could be developed into more classrooms. However, to make this space usable and up to code, we need to install a secondary fire exit. While we cannot change local fire regulations, we trust the Lord's provision. If the Lord lays it on your heart to support this building expansion, please contact Elder David Padilla at davepadel66@gmail.com. If you are interested in supporting the co-op directly—whether for educational materials, field trips, or general expenses—please reach out to Mrs. Rose Beall at roseabeall@gmail.com

Finally, we are also pleased to report that we have begun offering small Sunday evening classes throughout the year. Last year we held an 8-week series on Presuppositional Apologetics, and more recently, we concluded a 5-week class on The Millennium, taught from a Postmillennial perspective. These classes allow us to explore theological truths in greater depth than typical Sunday morning sermons permit. Lord willing, we will continue these evening classes later this year—and though I've been asked not to say too much just yet, even greater theological training opportunities may be on the horizon. Stay tuned for more in our next issue.

The Church of the King Pulpit

The primary ministry of any faithful church is the preaching and proclamation of the Word of God on the Lord's Day. That has been our conviction since the founding of Church of the King, and it remains our conviction today. In recent months, we have continued to work through various books of the Bible, verse by verse—preaching exegetically and expositively. These sermon series have been a deep blessing to our leadership, and I pray they have been a blessing to you as well.

We began by working through the book of Hebrews, a rich and profound epistle that anchors the shadows and types of the Old Testament in the fulfillment found in Jesus Christ. From there, we moved into the book of 1 Timothy—a timely and necessary study for our church as we navigate a season of leadership transition following the passing of Pastor Ron. This letter was invaluable for understanding the biblical structure and function of the local church. I am currently in the process of turning those sermons into a full-length commentary.

Most recently, we have entered the Old Testament to study the book of Zechariah. It is a challenging book—full of visions, symbols, and prophetic imagery—but it is also a glorious one. Zechariah proclaims the sovereignty of God and the coming of His eternal kingdom with power and beauty. So far, we have made our way through three of the prophet's eight night visions. Personally, preparing and preaching this series has deepened my own faith. The clarity,

coherence, and theological consistency of Zechariah's message affirms, without question, that these words were inspired by the eternal Triune God.

I ask you to continue praying for the preaching ministry at COTK. I cannot emphasize enough how essential your prayers are. I am convinced that Satan is not particularly bothered by churches that offer motivational talks dressed up as sermons. But he is deeply threatened by churches committed to faithful, consistent, biblical exegesis. That is why your prayers are needed—for protection, for boldness, and for fruitfulness. As Scripture reminds us, *“We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places”* (Eph. 6:12).

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on all that the Lord has done through Church of the King in recent months, we are filled with gratitude—and with expectation. Though we have faced sorrow, we have also seen God's hand of blessing, growth, and provision. From the faithful preaching of the Word, to the expanding ministries of education and discipleship, to the legacy left by our dear Pastor Ron, the Lord has been building His church.

We believe that even greater things lie ahead—not because of who we are, but because of who Christ is. Our desire is to remain faithful, to labor diligently in the work He has given us, and to see His name honored in McAllen and beyond.

Please continue to pray for our church, for our leaders, for our families, and for the work set before us. And if the Lord leads you to partner with us—through prayer, financial support, or hands-on service—we would welcome your fellowship in this mission.

Thank you for taking the time to read this first issue of our quarterly newsletter. May Christ be glorified in all we do.

For Christ and His Kingdom,

Fred Beall
On behalf of the elders of Church of the King