

Dear Sword Friend,

I am writing to you today to share an urgent need regarding the Sword facility, specifically our roof system.

We are currently dealing with multiple active roof leaks over both the editorial building and the auditorium. These leaks have already caused interior damage. Age related deterioration is evident, and replacement is now unavoidable. Without immediate action, the damage will continue to spread.

For several years, we have managed leaks with patches and temporary measures, including placing containers to catch water as it entered the building. We were aware that larger issues would eventually require attention, but we have now reached the point where repair is no longer sufficient. This past winter caused further damage, including long cuts in the roof membrane that allowed significant water intrusion and compromised the underlying insulation. The roof surface, which should be smooth and flat, is now buckled and uneven.

Because of the seriousness of these issues, we have signed a contract with a reputable local roofing company to replace the roof. This step was necessary to prevent further interior damage and escalating costs.



Over the past six months, we have carefully researched our options. With the aid and advice of a *Sword* subscriber in North Dakota who is a professional roofer, we thoroughly evaluated the condition of the roof and the scope of work required. Through this process, we obtained a solid quote from a well qualified local contractor.

The current rubber roof was installed in 2002 and carried a ten-year warranty. We are grateful for the extended life we received from it, but after twenty-four years, it has reached the end of its service life and can no longer be reliably repaired.

Based on these evaluations, full roof replacement is the responsible and necessary course of action. **The total cost of this project is \$119,000.**

This project is not about expansion or property improvement. It is about stewardship. A sound roof protects the building, the ministry, and everything that takes place within its walls.

I am asking those of you who value this ministry to prayerfully consider a special gift toward this roof replacement. Every gift is appreciated and will be used to ensure the long-term use of our facilities.

Thank you for your prayers and for your continued support of this ministry. I am grateful for your partnership as we care for what has been entrusted to us.



Dr. Shelton Smith



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