

Citizens of Heaven

In the last part of Philippians 3:20-4:1, Paul writes to people that he loves deeply. His heart is full, wanting the best for them, when he writes,

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

To this point in the chapter, Paul has been warning them to be careful of false teachers and how they should press on toward the prize and instead of living like the world. Now, with a look toward the future he writes, "our citizenship is in Heaven!"

In these verses, God is giving us, through Paul, the proper PERSPECTIVE. It's a perspective that we need TODAY in our country and the world. We live as those who are passing through this world with our eyes fixed on Heaven and awaiting our Savior, Jesus Christ.

This in no way discounts our earthly citizenship, in fact, as God does, it raises the bar for us as believer's. We live by a higher, perfectly righteous authority and we answer to a powerful, transforming God. When we live with a Heavenly perspective, we'll bring Glory to God in our lives. Here's why...

In Heaven, TRUTH reigns.

Truth is not a my truth vs your truth as the world would have us believe. **TRUTH** has a name and it is *Jesus Christ*.

THE TRUTH reigns in Heaven and it does not bend one way to fit my needs and another way to fit yours – it is the STANDARD for life. Jesus said, "I AM the Truth, the Way, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." In a day where it seems like lies flow across everyone's lips like water, we MUST be the ones who always tells the truth. Why? Because we are citizens of Heaven.

In Heaven, LOVE rules.

LOVE is another corrupted concept in our world today. The world interprets love as a response to what someone else can do for us. Worldly love says, "I'll love you, if you do this or that for me." That's not love! Love chooses to love when it's not easy, convenient, or even fair.

I don't love you because you look like me. I love you because you bear the image of God.

I don't love you because of what you can do for me. I love you because Jesus loves you.

I don't love you because you talk like I do, act like I do, or repeat the same words I do. No! I love you because I'm a citizen of Heaven and in Heaven, LOVE RULES.

Will you love those who Jesus loves... "red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight." Hey citizen of Heaven, love them!

In Heaven, PRAISE echos.

In Heaven, PRAISE echos through the air. In a world where hatred, filth, and unkind words fill the air, we must let PRAISE flow from our lips. We are citizens of Heaven where the One Who deserves praise and has earned our praise, rules and reigns. Therefore, we must let every word that proceeds out of our mouth be Christhonoring, seasoned with salt, filled with love for the building up and encouragement of others. As a citizen of Heaven, let your voice be a voice of PRAISE.

Paul finishes this thought by reminding us that we are being transformed into the image of Jesus Christ by His power and that we should, as citizens of Heaven, STAND FIRM in this world. Let's live with a proper perspective!







OCTOBER 18 @ 6pm

NOVEMBER 27 @ 6pm

Our 40-Days of Fasting and Prayer continues through November 27. Find more information and a signup sheet at

https://troupbaptist.org/40days



Advent is the celebration of the coming of Jesus into the world. It's a wonderful way to pause and reflect on Jesus' arrival during what can be the busiest time of year. This year, Advent begins on Sunday, December 1 and continues through Christmas Day. My theme for this year is "O, Holy Night!" and I will be writing devotionals each day for email and on our website. If you would like to receive the devotionals by email, subscribe at

troupbaptist.org/advent

MINISTRY NEWS

Hurricane Helene brought much destruction across the southeast at the end of September. With that has come another opportunity for us to work with our Georgia Baptist Disaster relief teams in response to the needs of those in Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida. I want to thank so many of you who have responded overwhelmingly to the needs as we have presented them. There is more service and work ahead of us in the future as this will be a long road to recovery. Early in the month I was able to deliver



water and supplies that you donated to Dellwood Baptist Church near Maggie Valley, NC. They were serving those hit hard by flooding and loss of lives.

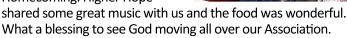
While I was able to travel to North Carolina, we had several of our own Troup Baptist's who were deployed and spent several days cooking and/or serving families in areas that were devastated by the storm. If you would like to serve with the Baptist Disaster Team, please contact me and I will help you get in touch the right people to make a way for you to be trained and serve in the future.





I enjoyed celebrating Pastor Appreciation Sunday at Bethel Baptist as they honored Pastor Chris Hendricks and Stephanie. It was a wonderful day of worship and celebration as they baptized 6 new believers that afternoon!

The third weekend of the month was filled with ministry as I volunteered at Camp Rockridge on Friday, celebrated and spoke at the March for Jesus Rally on Saturday, and then celebrated with Pastor Bryan Geter, Mrs. Janet Geter, and the good folks at Creekside Baptist for their Homecoming. Higher Hope





Higher Hope at Creekside Baptist



Dr. Almond Bro. N



Bro. Max McCord



TROUP BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

87TH ANNUAL MEETING

We had a wonderful meeting at our 87th Annual gathering this year on Sunday evening, October 20, at 6pm. Led by our Moderator, Rev. Terry Rainwater. We celebrated what God has done this past year through the TBA. Rev. Steve Buchanan led us in pre-service worship with some hymns and then again before Rev. Stacy Dyer came and shared an encouraging and challenging word from scripture as only he can do.

Praise God for the good reports and for a new church coming under watch-care in the TBA. Please welcome The Word Church in West Point, GA, and Pastor Mike Slaughter.





Pictured above from left to right: Stacy Dyer, Terry Rainwater, Steve Buchanan

We are also thankful for the opportunities that lie ahead for the TBA as we voted in our Executive Committee meeting on October 15 to sell the property directly behind our building that faces Forrest Avenue so that small houses can be built there for the community. This will also provide us the financial means to move forward with some ministry projects that will benefit our churches in a great way.



Please contact the TBA Office for information on the items we are receiving as donations. The sites have asked us to NOT accept or bring any further clothing due to storage problems.

We can also direct you in how you can give and know that 100% of every dollar will go to the victims of the storms.

Call us at 706-884-1975



Marchers arriving at the square

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - Every Thursday morning from 9:00 – 11:00 am, BTC gives away free food and clothes. If you would like to donate your unwanted clothes you may drop them off in the drop-off building behind the church.

- In October, Mike Craig and Terry Baker took a load of supplies to Helene victims at Trinity Baptist Church in South Augusta and then another load to Republic Baptist Church in Republic, SC. We continue to pray for these people as they try to rebuild their town and their homes.
- On October 10, BTC fed the LaGrange High School football players before their game and Youth Minister Jeremy Ham, led a devotion for them.
- BTC will have a Blood Drive on Monday, November 25 from 2:00 7:00 p.m. Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter "btc" to schedule an appointment.





Above L: BTC loading supplies for Helene victims in Augusta, GA and South Carolina. Above R: Youth Minister Jeremy Ham led devotion for LaGrange HS Below: LaGrange HS football players.



Bethel - On Saturday, November 23 from 1 until 3pm, Bethel Baptist Church will host a Pictures with Santa event. Cost is \$10 for 2 poses and \$2 for each additional pose, up to 5.

Creekside - In September, Creekside held a "Feed the Community" day. Ninety plates were prepared and delivered to senior citizens in the community and surrounding area. Our members enjoyed the fellowship and the opportunity to serve others.

- Creekside welcomed two new members. "Praise the Lord!"
- The Creekside congregation received some wonderful and moving messages from different preachers during their revival in September. "God is good!!"
- The Sisterhood met in October and enjoyed painting pumpkins. The meeting was hosted by April Hill.
- Some of Creekside's members supported Stovall Baptist Church at their revival. "We heard some great moving messages from Brother Joey Knight."
- Homecoming was celebrated on October 20. Higher Hope brought the special music. Brother Andy Buchanan blessed them with a powerful message. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by the Creekside ladies.
- The Fall Festival will be November 3 beginning at 4 pm. There will be food, games, cake walk, hayride, and trunk or treat. Everyone is invited to come.

Dunson - Homecoming was celebrated on October 6 with Dr. Malcolm Harris as guest speaker and Kingdom Express for special music. If you missed this service, you can go back and watch it on Facebook. They were both excellent. Of course, there was plenty of good food and fellowship.

- A group from Dunson (Pastor Kenneth and Pam, Steve and Wanda Vickery, Bonnie Reed and Kathy Pattillo Godwin) went to the Celebrator's Conference in Pigeon Forge. They came back blessed and refreshed.
- Pastor Appreciation Service was held during the Sunday night informal service. They celebrated Pastor Kenneth and also his birthday. "We thank God for sending Pastor Kenneth and his family to Dunson." Different members read scripture emphasizing what the Bible said concerning being a pastor and our responsibility to him. Steve Vickery sang "Thank you for Giving to the Lord" and had a special prayer for our Pastor and Pam. Pastor Kenneth was presented with cards, a money tree, and a gift basket of low-carb snacks for encouragement.
- On October 26, Dunson had a booth at the Downtown Trick or Treating event. This year their theme was "Lego Let God".
- October 30, Dunson held a Fall Festival with games, lots of candy and food for the Wednesday night kids and adults.





Above L: Dunson celebrated Pastor Kenneth Cole for Pastor Appreciation and also for his birthday.

Above R: Pastor Kenneth and Pam Cole, Steve and Wanda Vickery, Bonnie Reed and Kathy Pattillo Godwin went to the Celebrator's Conference in Pigeon Forge.

FBC Hogansville -A group of FBCH men attended the "What's at Steak for Men" gathering at Western Heights Baptist Church on October 11. They were encouraged by this experience and thank Western Heights for hosting this event.



Above: A group of men from FBCH attended the "What's at Steak for Men" event at Western Heights BC.

FBC Hogansville (continued) - A Pastor Appreciation Picnic was held after church on Sunday, October 13, at the Splash Park in Hogansville. The picnic is a fun way to let Pastor Greg and Mrs. Amy Lynn know how much we value their love and leadership throughout the year. There were games and lots of fun, good fellowship, and plenty of delicious food for all to enjoy.

- The Hummingbird Festival weekend in Hogansville is always a busy time. This year the church provided parking for a fee, and many enthusiastic volunteers were available to make that work. We certainly appreciate their efforts to raise money for a good cause. In addition, the Youth Group sold Krispy Kreme Doughnuts to fund their projects. The Youth decided it would be great to write a Bible reference on every box, so they did! They were very successful...who doesn't like a good doughnut!
- Trunk or Treat Cook-Out was held at the Green Patch on Sunday, October 27 from 3:30 to 5:30. Trunk or Treat is always a fun activity with lots of children attending. The Green Patch is located at the corner of Green and Dickerson Streets in Hogansville.
- Christmas Child boxes have begun to go out. This is a project that is dear to everyone's heart.
- November 2 will be a busy day as the FBCH ladies have an opportunity to attend "The Me I See Women's Conference" at Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia. The FBCH men will have their Men's Breakfast at the church.
- "We are delighted to welcome Laura Stitcher into our fellowship through baptism."





Left: Laura Stitcher got baptized! Above: Families enjoying the Pastor Appreciation Picnic

First Baptist on the Square -



Griefshare is a support group ministry that helps those dealing with grief. Grief is harder around the holidays. Surviving the Holidays will prepare you to navigate the season's changes.

Join us at First Baptist Church on the Square on Nov. 9 for this event. It will be in the Fellowship Hall from 10am-2pm. Please go to fbclagrange.org/griefshare to sign up!

Grace - served 244 people with free food in October. This is available every 3rd Saturday at Grace Baptist Church, 3731 West Point Rd, LaGrange. The drive through starts at 9:00 am. The Clothes Closet helps anyone in need.

- RU Recovery #1078 meets every Friday night at 7:00 pm.
- Visit website for more info: http://www.gbclagrange.com

Highland - The Highland Baptist family was blessed by Audrey Daniel and Mike Staley who came on profession of faith during this month. They were baptized on Sunday, October 27. "We are thankful for experiencing an increase in worship attendance as we gather together in worship each week through singing and hearing God's Word."

- The Highland WMU collected hygiene items for Harmony House and also put together Compassion Baskets for patients going through cancer treatments.
- The Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry continues to be active. Through Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry we are grateful to be able to pray and encourage others.
- The Wednesday night Bible Study concluded a fascinating study on the Fruit of the Spirit.
- Highland celebrated Pastor Appreciation Day as they honored Pastor Terry and his wife, Cookie, during the worship service on Sunday, October 27. They had a great fellowship meal for them, too!
- They concluded the month of October with a Trunk-N-Treat that was a wonderful success on October 31 as they gave candy and a gospel witness to over 300 people coming through their parking lot!
- A LifeSouth Blood Drive will be held Sunday, November 3 from 1 until 4 pm at Highland Baptist Church. LifeSouth provides blood services for all local hospitals.

Lakeview - Breakfast is served in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning from 9:15 am to 9:45 am.

- New church officers for 2024-2025 were elected on Sunday, September 29.
- On October 4, the men of the church met at San Marcos in Valley, AL for dinner and fellowship. Some of the ladies also had an impromptu fellowship gathering.
- Lakeview had a large crowd for Homecoming on Oct. 13. Everyone enjoyed hearing Dunson Baptist Pastor Kenneth Cole who sang and preached. Thanks to all of Lakeview's good cooks who provided a bountiful and delicious homecoming meal.
- WMU will be October 26 with Ginny Helton and Dottie Henson serving as hostesses and planning mission projects for the coming months.
- The Third quarter business meeting will be on October 27 after morning worship.



Above: Lakeview's Men met for dinner & fellowship at San Marcos Mexican Restaurant in Valley, AL





Lakeview L: Richard King (L) presenting
Pastor Lamar Truitt (R) with a pastor appreciation gift
Above R: Pastor Lamar Truitt with Pam & Rev. Kenneth
Cole at Lakeview's Homecoming

Long Cane - Long Cane has welcomed 4 new members to their church family!

- Long Cane Trade Day was held on Sept. 21 with a fantastic turnout. The next Trade Day will be held on March 15, 2025. Contact Sharon Geter 706-402-2369 to reserve your \$10 spot. Vendors are welcome.
- A Paint Your Bible Bag Party was held on October 16. Each participant painted their own bag and a second bag to be sent to North Carolina Hurricane Relief with other items.



Painted Bible Bags

Mountville - MBC held workdays on Saturday, September 14 and 21 to complete the outside of the new Family Life Building! Sod was laid and flowers/shrubs were planted. "Mountville is so excited to announce the completion of their Family Life Building!! The journey has been long but the Lord has been so FAITHFUL to us and we are praising HIM for it all!"



Above: Mountville workday, laying sod and planting shrubs around their new Family Life Center.



Above: Mountville MPact went to Judgment Journey at Faith Baptist Church on Friday, October 11.

Mountville - The MBC Women's Group enjoyed a luncheon on Saturday, October 12 at the home of Shannon and Callie Shelton. The menu consisted of steak/chicken kabobs, rosemary potatoes, grape salad, and strawberry shortcake! Shannon shared a sweet devotion about the recipe of a Christian and how all we really need is JESUS! All the ladies brought their favorite recipes to make a recipe book to share with each other. Such a sweet day of fellowship!

- The MBC Mission Team delivered supplies to the hurricane victims in Pearson, GA, a small community in South GA that was devastated by Helene. Water, food items, and gift cards/cash were delivered to Primera Iglesia Bautista Church on Saturday, October 19. What a precious community and group of people! Please continue to pray for all those affected by the recent storms.
- Hanging of the Greens will be held on Sunday, December 1 at 6:00 pm. Such a beautiful ceremony to usher in the CHRISTmas season! Come join us!
- The MBC Ladies will be hosting "A Thanksgiving Christmas Tour with Brenda Robinson" on Friday, December 13 beginning at 6 pm. Dinner will be served at 6 pm and bible study will begin at 7 pm. Please come join us for a wonderful night of worship and celebration!



At Left: MBC Women's Group

At Right: MBC Mission Team with supplies for South GA.



PineView - Happy Fall Y'all - The Bonfire on October 5 was a lot of fun. There was a great turnout with more than 30 in attendance. The teens had fun singing, roasting hot dogs and making s'mores.

- PineView enjoyed our Old Fashion Sunday on October 13. They dressed in period attire and Pastor Joel brought an inspirational message, reminding everyone about our core values as Christians. (photos below)
- In November PineView will prepare Thanksgiving meals for Law Enforcement, First Responders, and the homeless. "We want to bless those who are working on the holiday and those who don't have a home or kitchen to prepare a meal in."







PineView (continued) - PineView teamed up with Bethel Baptist and delivered a trailer load of donated items to the families who have been affected by Hurricane Helene. Another trip is being planned for November. Donations are welcome at PineView and can be dropped off in front of the youth building which is located behind the church. The address is 2668 Whitesville Rd in LaGrange.

• PineView will have an entry in the annual Lagrange Christmas parade set for December 5 at 6 pm. The theme this year is "Christmas Vacation".

• On October 19, PineView's Forgiven Gospel singers joined in the festivities at Veal Community Church in Bowdon, GA to celebrate Joseph Bonner Ministries and his 35 years of bringing praises to God. "May God bless you!"



PineView's Youth at the Bonfire

Reeds Chapel - Homecoming 2024 was great! "We enjoyed the singing, preaching, and fellowship. The food was delicious and plentiful. Thanks to everyone who came and joined us. You are always welcome at RCBC!"

- •Thank you Daniel Peardon for hosting the men's breakfast and Bible study. They were fed well physically & spiritually!
- •The WMU ladies had their recent meetings at El Rio Grande and Pokey's. After a devotion, they discussed current and upcoming mission projects as well as church events. They also provided a meal for a local girls' event sponsored by New Desire Christian Ministries.
- "We Praise the Lord for the one saved and baptized!"

Upcoming Events:

- Feed the Homeless Shelter, Nov 3
- Collect Christmas gifts for local foster kids, Nov-Dec
- WMU fundraiser lunch, Nov 10





• A baby shower was held for Morgan & Dalton Sexton and the following day, Elsie surprised us with an early arrival. Another addition to our SPROUT nursery class and we are thrilled to have so many babies. (Photo at right)



Above & Left: Game Night was a blast! There's nothing better than spending the evening with church family and having great fellowship and lots of laughs.



Roper Heights - On Sunday October 13 the church had Pastor Appreciation Day for Pastor Eric Rice. Photos below.





Roper Heights' Pastor Appreciation, Pastor Eric Rice with cake.

Second - Second Baptist Church would like to say a special thank you to LCS for the work team they sent in October. These young men and women were wonderful in how well they worked: cleaning inside and outside the church, painting, moving shrubbery, and much more. The WMU had a list of items they were hoping to have worked on without any expectations that these students would be able to complete the list. However, they completed sooner than expected and were ready to do more. We might be a small church, but we remain steady and faithful in our efforts to praise God while seeking opportunities to spread the Word. We pray for the TBA often and the many churches in the TBA. God Bless all of you. (Photos below of the students)







Wehadkee - Greetings from Wehadkee Baptist Church. *In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.* 1 Thessalonians 5:18

- Thought for you: Do you know that butterflies rest during the storm? We can learn from the butterfly. When the storm hits in our lives we should rest and listen with our hearts to the One that can calm the storm.
- Dinner was served on the 5th Sunday, September 29, and everyone had a marvelous time, filled with good food and great fellowship. We had a guest speaker, Mr. Connor Guin. Folks if you ever have the opportunity to hear this young man preach, it is well worth it..
- Shout out to all my fellow veterans. November 11 is Veterans Day. "Thank You for your service."
- When you pray, please remember those who are sick and facing surgery. "May God bless you."

November Birthdays:

8 Ruby Yarbrough 13 Michael Gebhardt 9 DeDe Hurt15 Tim Sims

28 Bonnie Lewis

Visit our website www.troupbaptist.org/newsletter and go to subscription preferences to add, change, or remove your address from our mailing list. You may also call Troup Baptist Association office. 706-884-1975.

Announcements

Association - Church Prayer List

For **November 2024**, please pray for the following churches:

Week of November 3, 2024 - True Believers Baptist Church Week of November 10, 2024 - Unity Baptist Church Week of November 17, 2024 - Wehadkee Baptist Church

Week of November 24, 2024 - Western Heights Baptist Church

For **December 2024**, please pray for the following churches:

Week of December 1, 2024 - Anointed By Faith
Week of December 8, 2024 - Antioch Baptist Church
Week of December 15, 2024 - Baptist Tabernacle Church
Week of December 22, 2024 - Bethel Baptist Church
Week of December 29, 2024 - Bethlehem Baptist Church

Please pray for God to bless these churches and meet their needs.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS

2024 Troup County, GA Shoebox Dropoff Location

Western Heights Baptist Church, 2382 West Point Rd. LaGrange

	From	-	To
Monday. November 18th	10:00 AM		11:00 AM
Monday November 18th	5:00 PM		7:00 PM
Tuesday November 19th	5:00 PM	-	7:00 PM
Wednesday November 20th	10:00 AM	-	12:00 PM
Thursday November 21st	5:00 PM		7:00 PM
Friday November 22nd	5:00 PM	*	7:00 PM
Saturday November 23rd	11:00 AM	2	1:00 PM
Sunday November 24th	1:00 PM	÷	3:00 PM
Monday November 25th	7:30 AM		9:30 AM

Other time(s) available by appointment only. Please contact Cathi Martin for Details (706 957 3075)

On The Lighter Side

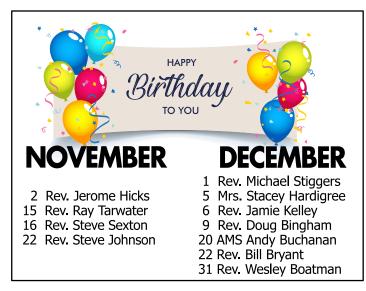
Jim went to his audiologist and got the latest, greatest, newest advanced technology hearing aids. The audiologist set up a follow-up appointment for two weeks.

Two weeks later Jim came back and the audiologist asked,

"How do you like the new hearing aids?" Jim responded, "They are fantastic, light years ahead of my last pair. I can hear every word, even in noisy situations!"

> The audiologist said, "I'll bet your family is happy too."

Jim said, "I haven't told them yet, but I've changed my will three times."





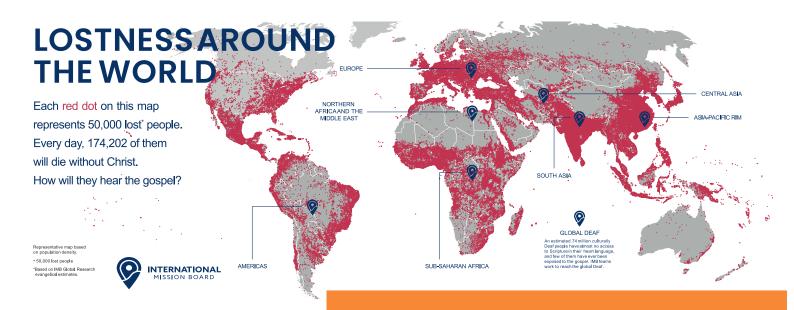


\$30 will purchase a Christmas box that includes:

shoes, toy, candy, underwear, socks, hair bows, wallet. (items vary by age) \$30 will purchase a Christmas tub for a family that includes:

flour, sugar, lard, bullion cubes, spaghetti, sauce, rice, beans, detergent, toiletries. For more info, call 770-324-0005 or 706-773-1935

Sponsored by New Desire Christian Ministries / Reeds Chapel Baptist Church



WEEK OF PRAYER DECEMBER 1 – 8

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®



100%

OF YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS

MISSIONARY PRESENCE





THROUGH GEORGIA GOAL, YOU CAN CHOOSE HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT!

Through Georgia GOAL, you can choose where to send your tax dollars so that families can choose to send their children to our school. The opportunity is great, and the impact is life-changing! Submit your 2025 tax credit application at goalscholarship.org.

You actually have an option! Your taxes going to Atlanta or invested in ministry to children in Troup County. This is an easy way to be a good steward of the taxes you have to pay anyway!

For more information or to register for the 2025 tax year please contact Mark Davis at

 706-668-1340 or mdavis@lafayettechristianschool.com

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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