

THE FORESEE

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

January/February 2004 Volume 37, No. 1

Around The Conference

We are launching a new feature in this issue of THE FORESEE entitled “Around the Conference.” In each issue we will include articles submitted on a rotating basis by two of our twenty-four CCCC Area Representatives. In this way over two years we will read articles from each of our geographical regions, which will help us to see how God is working in our churches and in individuals’ lives throughout the Conference. We hope you enjoy this new feature and that it broadens your knowledge about what God is doing “Around the Conference.”

Heeding the Call to Short-Term Missions

by Rev. Maurice Smith, Area Representative, Southern Illinois/Missouri Region, First Congregational Church, Highland, IL

In July of 2003, 26 youth and 7 adults from the First Congregational Church of Highland, Illinois embarked on an incredible spiritual journey. Traveling by bus to Appalachia, West Virginia we could see that the months of fundraising, hard work and fervent prayer were coming to fruition. We had a jam-packed week of ministry opportunities awaiting us including: worship



services, prayer walking, food distribution, home construction, Vacation Bible School, nursing home ministry, and even sightseeing. For some, the trip sparked an interest in entering the mission field. For others a calling was sensed to enter the ministry, and still others were reminded that

evangelism is something that can be done everyday.

Every heart that participated on the missions trip was changed including our “non-religious” bus driver. A missions trip is an incredible opportunity. Won’t

you consider offering one to the young people of your congregation?

Following are testimonies of two of the youths who went on the missions trip:

“West Virginia placed a fire in

each of us. For me, it ignited a spark that has grown into an ambition for full-time ministry.” - Jennifer Chapman

“This trip made me realize that no matter how much you have in life, if you have the Lord in your heart you really don’t need anything else.” - Molly Aeschleman

Sharing the Gospel in Asia

by Rev. Kevin Leach, Area Representative, Central New England Region, West Newbury Congregational Church, West Newbury, MA

We are blessed to have members of the CCCC serving Christ around the world. The following is the testimony of one of our member missionaries working, along with her family, in Bible translation and church planting in Asia.

“I grew up in a Muslim home. My grandparents and my Mom taught me about God and that all humans are sinful. However, deep down in my heart I knew that I was not forgiven. One day, while studying English, I met a couple of American girls. I knew that I wanted to be their friend because they were different than anyone I had ever met. When I was

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From the Conference Minister



There is a definite Missions theme in this issue of THE FORESEE, as the Lord reminds us of His compelling commission to the church to reach the world with the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. We who have put our trust in Him have been given unmerited and priceless treasures: forgiveness of sin, righteousness before God, relationship with God, joy and a hope and a future! How blessed we are!

But the Lord reminds us that we must not be self-focused (Luke 12:48), *“From everyone who has been given much, much more will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”* In other words, the Lord has entrusted us with amazing treasures of His grace, not only for our own sakes but so in Jesus’ name we might share them with others. The Apostle Paul (2 Cor. 5:18) says to the Church, *“All this is from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”*

That’s where evangelism and missions comes in. Our CCCC Constitution states that part of our purpose as a Conference is “To encourage a steadfast Biblical witness by our churches”, and “to facilitate cooperation and counsel among our churches with regards to evangelism...(and) missions....” The CCCC has historically taken seriously our responsibility in evangelism and Missions. As a Conference we encourage one another to do so more and more. I encourage you to pray with me for the

Lord to help each of us and all of us to reach the world with the good news. And as you pray, be available. Ask the Lord for opportunities to share your faith where you live and work. Ask the Lord to show you if He’d have you participate in one of our CCCC short-term Missions trips. Ask the Lord if He would have you prayerfully support one of our CCCC missionaries. Ask the Lord to encourage, strengthen and protect all our CCCC missionaries. Let’s ask the Lord to bring in a harvest of souls in this season where we live, and around our world.



Women’s Ministries Committee News

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness.”
II Peter 3:9

However, we on the Women’s Committee are slow exactly as we understand slowness. But our timing is not the Lord’s timing and His timing is perfect. The long-anticipated devotional is finally beginning to roll off the presses! For that, we are praising God! **Seasons of the Heart** has been a labor of love that comes from the heart of God, through our hearts to touch yours. Our prayer is that God will use this little book to encourage and bless you and to bring glory to Him.

The publishing of the book was a “stepping-out-of-the-boat” kind of faith test. The work involved, the time and the cost exceeded what we ever could have imagined. We have exhausted our account and are asking for help so that we can continue with our missions projects and our ministry to you. Would you please prayerfully consider how you could help with this need? If you desire to purchase **Seasons of the Heart**, the cost is \$10.00 and you can order a copy through Mrs. Sandy Stewart, P.O. Box 249, Avon, MN 56310. Order several copies and give them as gifts to your pastor’s wife, your neighbor, or your friend who is housebound with young children or because of an illness.

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Conf. President: Larry Scovil
Conf. Minister: Steve Gammon

Conference Office:

Phone: 651-739-1474
Fax: 651-739-0750
E-mail: dmjohnson@cccusa.org
Website: www.cccusa.org

Prayer Requests:

CCCcprayer@hotmail.net

Mail address:

7582 Currell Blvd. Suite 108
St. Paul, MN 55125-2220

THE FORESEE Editor: Carol Wells

E-mail: cawells10@msn.com

Fax: 651-730-6228

Phone: 651-735-1832

Mail address:

2789 Wimbledon Ridge
Woodbury, MN 55125

Deadline for the March/April 2004 issue is January 10, 2004.

Please remember to include a gift for our missions projects so that we can continue sending teens on short-term missions trips and providing books for children and seminary students in India through “Friends of Hope.” Any donations to our missions projects or Women’s Committee can be sent to Sandy Stewart as well. We thank you ahead of time for your faithfulness and generosity. God bless you!

Do not forget to plan on attending our Annual Family Conference in South Dakota this July. Each year seems to be even better than the previous year and we are anticipating that 2004 will be no exception. You will not want to miss it! We are looking forward to having Anne Ortlund as our speaker for the Ladies’ Luncheon. She is just one of the many blessings that God has in store for us this summer. We will see you there!

Thank you, Liz Eklund

Carlton's Comments



2003 was a landmark year for Congregationalists in the northeast. We were reminded in several ways that this past year marked the three hundredth anniversary of the birth of Jonathan Edwards, an esteemed forebear of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference. Over two years ago Tom Ross, a licensed member of the Conference, believed that it would be a wonderful experience for the Greater Hudson Valley Congregational Fellowship to remember Edwards and perhaps to do so by holding an event in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, the town where he spent eight years of ministry among the Indians. The name of a person who would certainly be an appropriate individual to speak at such a meeting came to Tom's mind. It was the Reverend Iain Murray of Scotland. Murray has spent the greater part of his ministry reading and studying Edwards as well as having written a biography of Edwards in the latter 1980's.

As the word began to spread, Tom quickly became convinced that the interest in such an event would be much greater than he had originally thought. Certainly Stockbridge would not be a large enough venue to hold all those interested in attending, and a larger planning group was necessary to organize such an event. For Conference pastors and churches the Edwards seminar would be a Congregational Studies Conference. For those also invited to attend from the New England Reformed Fellowship it would simply be a tercentenary celebration of Edward's birth. With the prospect of a

larger crowd, the expanded steering committee, made up of six CCCC members chose the College Church in Northampton, MA as the new venue and October 3 and 4 as the dates. The committee included Tom Bridgman, John Cunningham, Robert Davis, David McDowell, Tom Ross and Carlton Walker.

The Reverend Mr. Murray spoke on "Jonathan Edwards, The Man: His Character and Influence" on Friday evening. Saturday morning's first message was on "Sarah Edwards: Her Life, Character and Influence on Jonathan." The final message Saturday morning covered "Jonathan Edwards: The Preacher." Following lunch, the participants were invited to take part in one of three tours: Edward's birthplace in East Windsor, Connecticut; the cemetery of Northampton; and Stockbridge, Massachusetts where Edwards ministered to the Indians and did much of his writing. The Jonathan Edwards Academy choir presented a mini concert on Friday and classic guitarist Steve Turley presented a mini concert on Saturday.

Six hundred and twelve people participated in the conference, some coming from as far away as Europe and Arizona. The overall response was very positive and a great many books were purchased at the book table. Iain Murray was thrilled to see so many people interested in Jonathan Edwards and wanting to learn more about his spiritual life and ministry. He remarked that when he briefly visited Northampton in 1967, he was unable to find anyone who was interested in Edwards!

If you would like to share in the conference, audio tapes may be ordered from Sanders Christian Foundation, P. O. Box 2094, S. Hamilton, MA 01982. Phone 978-468-7306.

Rev. Carlton Walker
Phone: 518-346-3538
E-mail:cgwalker@cccusa.org

Bryan's Bytes

by Bryan Burrell

Are You Part of the Problem?

A recent study by the national Cyber Security Alliance reported that 62% of broadband Internet users were not running up-to-date antivirus software. Since May of 2003 the number of viruses, worms and Trojan horses has multiplied at an alarming rate. If you are not running regularly updated antivirus software, YOU are part of the problem.

In a past article of THE FORESEE we informed all of you that you can get free antivirus software by going to www.grisoft.com. The updates are also free, so cost is not the reason for you to continue being part of the problem. You must also insure that the antivirus software you are running is updated every week.

Some of the new strains of viruses are so powerful that your software alone will not do the job. Make a note of the virus name and type when a warning screen appears on your screen. Some viruses, like the Bugbear virus require starting the computer in safe mode and using a diskette downloaded from any antivirus website.

Did you know that there are FREE fixes for the most difficult viruses on the Norton antivirus website? Just a few weeks ago I downloaded such a fix for my sister's computer. She was running antivirus software, but over 1,000 viruses were removed from her computer when started in safe mode with a diskette fix.

You are part of the virus problem if you do not have antivirus software. You are part of the problem if you don't update your antivirus software weekly. You are part of the problem if you do not note the name and type of virus and check the Norton website to see if the virus in question needs special steps to remove it completely. Be part of the solution. Protecting your computer from viruses, worms and Trojan horses is no longer optional.

Around the Conference

(continued from page 1)

finally brave enough to ask them what made them different, one of the girls immediately said that it was God's Spirit living in her. I started attending a Bible study with the other girl and learned about Jesus. I read in the Bible that God sent Him to save us from our sins and that if I believed in Him, not only would my sins be forgiven, but the Spirit of God himself would come and live within me. I so wanted to believe His promises – to have the eternal peace, joy, and love that never fails. But fear – fear of making a mistake that could cost me my life – still kept me from accepting Jesus as the Lord of my life. I sincerely believed that Mohammed was God's last prophet, but when I prayed to God and told him how torn I was in my

beliefs about the Bible, He told me that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. After this, I prayed to receive Christ as my Savior and I have known Him as the Faithful One who keeps His promises. I long to see Him face to face one day."

We have not mentioned the name of this family because of the sensitive nature of their work. However, they would love to tell you more about their ministry, and share with you how you or your church might become involved in this life-changing ministry. Please contact Pastor Kevin Leach at the West Newbury Congregational Church in West Newbury, MA, 978-363-2673, for more information about this missionary family.

Book Corner

Hero for Humanity, the Life of William Wilberforce
by Kevin Belmonte. Colorado Springs, CO
NavPress, 2002

Gordon College professor Kevin Belmonte has written a biography of British Member of Parliament and reformer William Wilberforce, renown as the primary person who convinced England to abolish slavery. His life demonstrates the place faith has in politics. Rather than withdraw from public life, Wilberforce's conversion fueled his passion to serve God and country. He determined that he could serve God best from a secular, public life within Parliament. He saw his position as Providential, and was both revered and reviled for his moral stand.

While the abolition of slavery was his primary mission, Wilberforce also aspired to reform society in general, and supported many charitable religious groups, what we would now call parachurch organizations. His life's work came after his conversion, which came after he was already well engaged in his political career. Wilberforce crusaded to inform Britain and the new American nation of the evils of the slave trade. He had good relations with American leaders, having opposed England's role in the War of Independence. He corresponded regularly with Franklin and other Founding Fathers.

Belmonte gives a detailed look at the life and motivation of one we would regard as a role model for public office. In our age, as Wilberforce's, it continues to be politically dangerous for elected officials to express their religious convictions. The life of Wilberforce is instructive and inspiring to any who might consider combining faith and politics, and to all who wish to see how an individual lives the courage of his convictions.

Reviewed by Rev. Dr. Robert G. Leroe, Cliftondale Congregational Church, Saugus, MA

This book is available through Foresee Publications at a cost of \$24.00.

Remember Micronesia

by George Allen, Chair, Micronesia Ministries Committee

The Micronesia Ministries Committee is currently asking four things of our CCCC membership:

1. Continue praying for the Chiles and Gardell families and for the Committee as we seek to faithfully support our Brother-to-Brother fraternal workers.
2. Be alert for candidates to teach for a year or preferably two at Mizpah Christian High School on Chuuk, such as recent college graduates who would like to give some meaningful Christian service before settling down to their life callings or retirees who have a lifetime of skills to offer. We are also always looking for pastors who can give a couple of weeks to teach Morning Star Institute classes for local Micronesian pastors.
3. Send a simple but solid theological or biblical reference book that has been useful to you to the Pastors Resource Center on Chuuk. New or kindly used books can be sent to Micronesia Pastor's Resource Center, c/o Oliver Gonsalves, 3557 Lancewood Way, Fallbrook, CA 92028, and he will send them on to Micronesia. If you'd rather give money to this project, send it clearly designated to the Conference Office. If you have a used computer to contribute, contact Pat Chiles.
4. Both the Chiles and Gardells appear to be adequately funded for 2004. As you or your church give to these families, however, would you consider an additional gift to the Micronesia General Fund, which assists in paying non-American teachers at Mizpah and provides capital for advance purchase of Morning Star Institute books. This fund is languishing.

Many thanks for praying about these issues.

2004 Short-Term Missions Trips

There's still time for you to get in on one of the CCCC 2004 short-term missions trips. Won't you consider helping build God's Kingdom in one of these areas: Japan, April 13-23; Belgium, May 14-29; Belize, July 12-26; or Bolivia, September 10-25? Contact Rev. Clair Longuevan for more information. E-mail: 105320.1556@compuserve.com; mail: 2208 Dakota Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81503; phone: 970-243-5949.

Reaching All the Families of the Earth

by Rev. Thomas A. Curry, Community Church of Round Lake, Round Lake, IL

Though a pastor may lay awake at night tormented by one or two Sunday morning cranks, how many of us lay awake at night tormented by the haunting plea of the Great Commission? Is this only reserved for “missionaries” or those with special “callings?”

In reference to the Great Commission of the Old Testament, Genesis 12:1-3, Dr. Walter Kaiser, our keynote speaker this year at Virginia Beach, has said, “Israel was to be God’s missionary to the world – and so are we, by virtue of the same verses! The mission has not changed in our own day. Abraham and Israel were not intended to be passive transmitters of the “seed?” any more than we are to be passive. They were to be a blessing so that they actually could communicate God’s gift to the world.”

As a CCCC pastor, I ask myself, am I a passive transmitter of the “seed?” Are CCCC pastors passive transmitters of the “seed?” Are our churches? As a Conference, how serious are we really about being a blessing to the whole world?

This past March I was privileged to be at the North India Bible Training Institute (one of six such schools of the Evangelical Church of India). For four weeks I taught three hours a day, two classes – World Christian Movement and Personal Bible Study. Though I have been to India many times on short-term missions trips, never before had I sensed such a deep spiritual hunger and presence. Yes, the story of a scorpion found in my room months before I arrived was troubling. Yes, the sight of a poisonous snake was unsettling. Yes, the threat of deportation, sickness, and violence was real... but the fruit of that month was well worth it. It is etched in my psyche for the rest of my life.

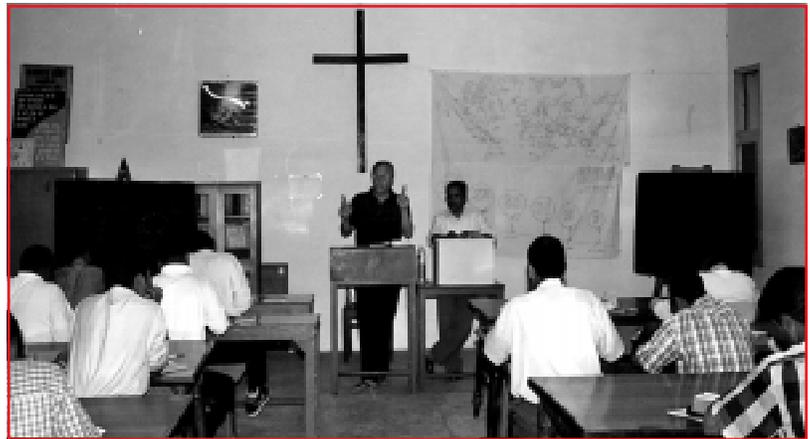
The location of the North India Bible Training Institute is in a state with a population that would make it the 7th largest nation in the world, if it were a nation. It is less than 1% Christian. In the heart of what some now refer to as the “10/40 Window”, it is in one of the least evangelized places on earth. Of the 6 billion people in the world, it is estimated by missiologists that 1.2-1.4 billion have never had the chance to hear the



Teaching staff at North India Bible Training Institute, Lalitpur, India

Graham have long since faded, but God is kindling a fire in my heart for much more than my small community. I have found that I can use my gifts and talents to make a difference in cutting edge, strategic areas.

Dr. John Stott, Rector Emeritus of All Souls Church in London,



Rev. Curry teaching at North India Bible Training Institute, Lalitpur, India

writes, “The nations are not gathered in automatically. If God has promised to bless ‘all the families of the earth’ he has promised to do so ‘through Abraham’s seed.’ Now we are Abraham’s seed by faith, and the earth’s families will be blessed only if we go to them with the gospel. I pray that these words, ‘all the families of the earth’ may be written on our hearts. It is this expression more than any other, which reveals the living God of the Bible to be a missionary God. ... We need to become global Christians with a global vision, for we have a global God.”

CCCC People to Pray For

Update to Previous FORESEE Article

In the last issue of THE FORESEE, the article “CCCC People to Pray For” on page six mentioned that Dr. David Midwood was the Interim President of Vision New England. He has since been appointed President of the organization. Please continue to pray for David as he assumes the leadership role in this important ministry.

Two of our Reserve Chaplains have been activated and need our prayers.

Air Force Reserve Chaplain (Colonel) Douglas W. Knighton from Grissom Air Force Base in Indiana now serves as the Command Chaplain for the Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT) based in Tampa, FL. He soon will be deployed to Qatar for several months. His wife Maja and their daughter Charlynn (15) have moved to Tampa so they could be together. Their other two children, Morgan and Charissa are in college back in the Chicago area. Charissa is a sophomore and Morgan a senior who graduates next May, receiving a

commission as a 2nd Lt in the Army.

Army Battalion Chaplain (Captain) David Langer from Buffalo Center, IA will move out with the 372nd Engineer Battalion Group first to Des Moines, IA, then to Fort Riley, KS for more training, and then deployment for a year. David and his wife Linda have five children: Rebecca (18); Andrea (15); Sarah (13); Matthew (8) (Linda home schools Sarah and Matthew); and Elizabeth (2).

Another Reserve chaplain, Commander Steven R. Morgan from the Naval Reserve Center in Encino, CA was mobilized in February of 2003 and recently demobilized on October 20th. He served with a Personal Mobilization Team for the Navy, counseling and helping with worship services for Seabees at Fort Hueneme. Last summer he served in Iraq. Now he awaits further orders.

Please pray for these men, their families, and their congregations.

The CCCC has many godly, committed, and called missionaries serving the Lord in places around the world, who need our prayers and support. To learn more about CCCC missionaries, contact our Missions Committee chairman, Rev. Clair Longuevan, 970-243-5949.

Legal Note

by Rev. Dr. Robert Leroe,
Cliftdale Congregational Church, Saugus, MA

It is important that CCCC churches have a written policy on the prevention and reporting of child physical and sexual abuse. The policy should state how volunteers and employees are selected and educated regarding abuse, with sample copies of required background information forms. While this does not need to be part of your church constitution, a line in the constitution should simply state that such a policy exists. You may wish to discuss this with your attorney and insurance agent, as well as other clergy and local abuse-prevention agencies. Due to the recent high-profile clergy abuse it is necessary that churches have a clear policy to safeguard their children and churches.

For a copy of the policy Cliftdale Congregational Church has put together, please contact Rev. Bob Leroe at rleroe@netzero.net.

Ten Ways To Pray For Your Missionaries

from Wycliffe Bible Translators In Focus Newsletter,
Vol. 7, No. 5

1. *For protection* (2 Thess. 3:2)
2. *For open doors* (Col. 4:3)
3. *For boldness in witnessing* (Eph. 6:19)
4. *For God's guidance and assistance in travel*(Rom. 15:32)
5. *That their ministry will be accepted by local believers* (Rom. 15:31)
6. *That the Word of God will spread without hindrance* (2 Thess. 3:1)
7. Pray knowledgeably – learn about the country and culture where they live.
8. Pray consistently – choose a time of day or a landmark that will remind you to pray.
9. Pray intimately – think of what you're dealing with in your own life: relationships, health, fears, hopes, spiritual vitality, wisdom, discouragement – and pray for that need in your missionary's life too.
10. Pray using Scripture – here are a few to get you started: 2 Cor. 1:3-11; 2 Thess. 3:1-5; Col. 4:2-4.

56th Annual Family Conference

July 19-22, 2004
Sioux Falls, SD



Sheraton Sioux Falls Hotel & Conference Center

Changes and Opportunities

Pastoral Changes:

Beavercreek OH Mt Zion Church* (Min. of Christian Ed) called
Paul Blend

Pastoral Openings:

Ashford CT	Westford Congregational Church*
Hebron CT	First Congregational Church*
Stillman Valley IL	Congregational Christian Church (Ind)
Newburg IA	Newburg-Chester Congregational Church*
Pownal ME	First Parish Congregational Church
Bolton MA	Trinity Church Congregational (Ind)
Fitchburg MA	Elm Street Congregational (UCC)
Kingston MA	Mayflower Congregational Church*
Lynn MA	Bethany Congregational Church (UCC)
Mansfield MA	First Christian Church*
Newton Center MA	Greek Evangelical Church* (for English speaking cong)
Grandville MI	Grandville-Jenison Congregational Church*
Peterborough NH	Trinity Evangelical Church*
Lake View NY	Lake View Congregational Church*
Kulm ND	First Congregational*
New Rockford ND	First Congregational Church*
Greenville OH	Coletown Congregational Christian Church (MCCF)
Lodi OH	First Congregational Church*
Rural Valley PA	St. Paul Congregational Church*
Zelienople PA	St. Peter's Reformed Church*
Chesapeake VA	Rosemount Christian Church (Ind)

* = Conference member

+ = In process

Health Tips

Cataracts

Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness in the world. Some of the risk factors can be controlled or eliminated through prevention and lifestyle changes. These include: avoiding intense heat or long-term exposure to UV rays from the sun, cigarette smoke (interferes with the eye's antioxidant defense mechanisms), diabetes, long-time steroid use and eye injuries. Take good care of your eyes.

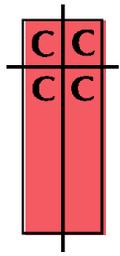
Source: www.preventblindness.org

Reduce Fall Risk

Some suggestions to make your living areas safer: remove tripping hazards such as throw rugs and clutter in walkways, especially around furniture. Use non-slip mats in bathtubs and shower floors. Have grab bars next to the toilet and in the tub or shower. Have handrails on both sides of stairways and improve lighting throughout the home, including night-lights.

Source: www.cdc.gov

By Betty Mitchell, RN, Parish Nurse
Emmanuel Bethel Church
Royal Oak, MI



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7582 Currell Blvd., Suite 108, St. Paul, MN 55125-2220

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Bring the Bible's Way to Weight Loss to Your Church!

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33, KJV



Here's Everything You Need to Start Your Own First Place Ministry!

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