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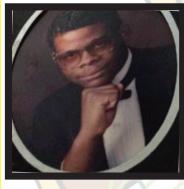
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-- Serving Tarrant County & Vicinity since 2006 --



Minister Derek I ocke **MEMORIAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION 20th Anniversary Calebration Banafit Evant** Follow us on FACEBOOK (Sharon Ford-Turner) for the Live Celebration Service Saturday, March 13, 2021 @ 12 Noon



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"We Will Sing





George LaRue Mason

Remembering & Honoring Late Board Members

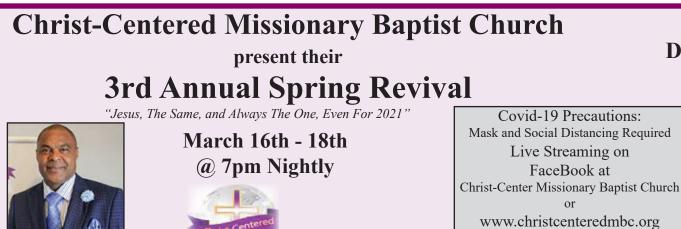


Elder Cecil Maurice Mason, Treasurer 19 Years of Service (until his untimely death in 2020)

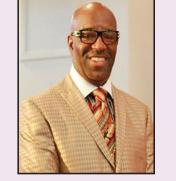


"We can't give up now. We've come too far from where we started from. Nobody told me the road would be easy. I don't believe he brought me this far to leave me.





**Guest Speaker Dr. Roy Elton Brackins** Grace Tabernacle MBC



**Dr. Edward Justice** 

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8



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# "The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

Back near the end of the 20th Century, I was asked by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) to lead a racial-sensitivity workshop for the organization's Coordinating Council, their governing board. As a member of the council (1991-1996) and the chairman of the CBF's Committee on Representation & Relationships, I thought I was familiar with the entity's direction. So, I put a team together, the council was organized into small groups, and my team presented the bare-knuckle truth about this country's racist past and present. Afterward, my team and I met for dinner and debriefing with the CBF's chief executive. And, to my surprise and naiveté, he was fuming. The CEO and I proceeded to argue about the frankness of my team's approach to what was then and is now a volatile subject, then Cecil said, "Michael, maybe this (the CBF) isn't for you."

Needless to say, I was fit to be tied and was ready to put the CBF in churches livestream their worship my rearview mirror, when two level-headed women pulled me to the side, helped me to calm down, and eventually realize that the CEO was right. What he was saying to me was racial justice was not the CBF's fight. The Fellowship was a world-missions network, not an advocate for racial equity. They were a mission-sending body, doing meaningful work among refugees, migrants, and still-developing countries.

That eventful evening in Irving, Texas, was eye-opening for me and since then I've noticed that you can't get a porterhouse steak from a hotdog hut or oyster dressing from a hamburger joint. Top-shelf steak isn't the hotdog establishment's forte and the hamburger joint wouldn't even entertain having oyster dressing on its menu. To push my point even further, there are Churches that major in ministering to those in prison, Churches that focus on the family or marriage or youth, so forth and so on.

When I first came to Greater St. Stephen First Church, over thirty-five years ago, a Charter Member and a woman of wisdom, called me on the phone to tell me specifically what GSSFC was all about. Some well-intentioned someone had come up with an professor, and a certified Life idea to "raise" money and this wise woman told me, "Pastor, we don't do that here." She remind-



ed me that the Founding Pastor taught tithing, not panhandling. listened and the fundraising scheme never got off the ground.

I've said all of this to underscore the truth that, like any organization, the Church must be effective at clearly communicating what the missional focus of the Church is. This is one of the best ways to weed out distracting or superfluous arguments and comparisons that threaten the health of a congregation. In this era of escalating social media influence, where approximately 60% of American services, it is critically important that members know what their Church is about. There's a smorgasbord of pastors and evangelists to choose from and there will always be those who will look at what a Church is doing in Vancouver, Washington and wonder why their congregation in Paducah, Kentucky isn't fighting and/or focusing on the same fight. That's why it's so very important to know your Church Mission Statement and Vision Statement. The Mission Statement focuses on today and what we do, and the Vision Statement focuses on where we are going.

When was the last time your Church home recited the Church Mission Statement? As a leader, how familiar are you with your Church's Vision Statement? Isn't it about time for your congregation to push the *reset button* and reignite interest in those distinctives that are essential to its existence. Maybe, there's no better time than the present to have a conversation about those values that are foundational to the life of vour Church.

\*dr. michael bell is Senior Pastor of Greater St. Stephen First Church FtW, a seminary adjunct Coach. He conducts leadership seminars and conferences across the country.



## **Bishop K.D. Davis** and the **Sixth Avenue Baptist Church** 125 S. 5th St, Corsicana, Texas

See us on YouTube @ the Sixth Ave. Baptist Church of Corsicana, Texas, Bishop k.d. davis, sr. Listen Each Sunday 8am-9am KAND 1340AM Radio Broadcast KNON 89.3 FM "Just Believe Broadcast" Thursday Morning 4am-7am Community Cable TV Channel 28

Sun 7:30p-8:30p; Wed 12n-1p; Sat 4:30p-5p

You're invited to join the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church for our Annual Choir Day, March 7th @ 3pm, 125 S. 5th St, Corsicana, TX; Thee Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Milford, TX celebrates their Pastor's Aid Program, March 14th @ 3pm; First Missionary Baptist Church of Fairfield, TX celebrate their Pastor's Anniversary, March 21st @ 3:30pm. Please join us for any and all of these worship opportunities.



# **Consumer Beware!!** How to find a legitimate contractor to repair storm damage

The snow and ice created complications including plumbing problems, roof damage and electrical issues for many of us. The wait time for a repair person can be lengthy, but maybe worth that wait.

"Scam attempts will be made whether in person, door to door, over the phone or email. They'll be posing many times as legitimate contractors. They are going to be looking to use an existing company's reputation and claim that they are FEMA," said Jason Meza, the regional director of the Better Business Bureau (BBB). "They're trying to get in the door and to get some kind of payment from you."

FEMA warns it does not certify contractors. Be cautious also of unsolicited offers for help.

"You've got to watch for door to door salespeople," Meza said. "They are high pressure. Usually arrive right on time. They know exactly what you're going through.'

See how they ask you to pay. FEMA said you should not wire money or pay with gift cards. Also, never do this:

'Never pay for all repairs in advance," said Meza. "Do not pay with cash. They want some money to walk away with an agreement in place. They might not ever show up to the repairs."

Ask for a price in writing and read the contract. FEMA said to make sure the contract details all work to the performed, the costs, a projected completion date, how changes will be negotiated and disputes settled.

"Don't leave blanks," Meza said. "We see people all the time leave blanks and the contractor comes in and writes things afterwards and they kind of build the cost back up."

Verify a contractor is licensed, bonded and insured. Watch out for this tactic: It is illegal for a contractor to offer to waive an insurance deductible on a bid said Meza. Also check the three R's: Reviews, referrals and reputation. FEMA said to reject any offers that are too good to be true. Be sure to get at least three estimates.

"You want to gauge it upon what the work is, the scope, the timing," Meza said. "What are they going to charge for overtime after hours?"

Know contractors are required to offer a notice of cancelation if the transaction happens in your home.

"It gives you the chance or right to change your mind within three days," said Meza.

Do some research yourself to find out what materials are the best and ask the contractor what materials they plan to use for your job.

"Just really learning about the project itself will help you ask the right questions," said Meza.

You should also document your contractor. FEMA suggested to take a picture of your contractor, their vehicle, license plate and business card.

Ask if their work is guaranteed before you guarantee them any work. FEMA said customers should demand satisfaction and not sign completion papers or make a final payment until the work is done properly.

Report concerns to the BBB and the Texas Office of the Attorney General by 800-621-0508.

## Schelastic Academy

is sponsoring their First Annual Virtual Shark 5K Walk-A-Thon supporting 6th-12th grades students in need of academic support. Schelastic Academy believes in supporting students in developing healthy minds and bodies through flexible environments. So, join us and flex those muscles.



WHO: You, Your Company and Friends WHAT: Virtual Shark 5K Walk-A-Thon WHEN: Walk anytime between March 1st and April 30th

WHERE: Anywhere you can enjoy a good walk! WHY: To support the educational journey of 6th-12th grade youth!

How: www.schelastic.com (scroll down to PayPal link)

Call Us: (817) 561-5255 or visit us @ scholastic.com

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# NEW MOUNT ROSE PASTOR TATUM NAMED ONE OF THE 400 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN FORT WORTH IN 2021 BY FORT WORTH, INC., MAGAZINE.

Congratulations to Pastor Kyev Tatum of the New Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church for being listed on the 400 Most Influential People in Fort Worth for 2021 by the Fort Worth, Inc., Magazine.



"Fort Worth Inc.'s compilation of 400 of the Most Influential People in Fort Worth. We launched The 400 in the July 2018 issue of Fort Worth Inc. and it keeps getting better year after year. How do we identify The 400? We define potential members of this list as people in Tarrant County who wield significant influence in industry, philanthropy, nonprofits, government and public policy, economic development, professional services, education, civic affairs, arts, religion, sports, and media, or within their own spheres."

Pastor Tatum is a graduate of the College of Public Health and Community Service at the University of North Texas with a degree in criminal justice. He has served on many local, state and federal advisory boards including the executive boards for the Texas Education Service Center, Region XIII, the Texas Interagency Council for the Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities, Tarrant County Truancy Advisory Committee, the Fort Worth Chief of Police Policy Advisory Committee, Midnight Basketball League, White House Ally for the Obama Administration's My Brother's Keeper Initiative, was recently elected the president of the Ministers Justice Coalition of Texas and has been appointed by District Attorney Sharen Wilson to serve on her training advisory board for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

Since the pandemic hit in March 2020, Pastor Tatum and Coach Vint Hargrave of 911 Ministry have been teamed up to operate the Redemption Bowl Food Day Giveaways that has dedicated, delivered, and donated millions of dollars in fresh food, personal protect equipment (PPE), and other essential supplies throughout the country to "fill their neighbors bowls with blessings for their souls, Lord have mercy."

Pastor Kyev Tatum has served as an advocate, advisor, analysis, and activist for over thirty years.

# **Speak Life Thought** with First Lady & Co-Pastor Yolanda G. Butler

# "A Disheartened Life"

"Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts, saying, "The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven; moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakim there."" (Deut 1:28)

I can recall several years ago planning our Annual 3-Day Women's Conference. This time of the year is always exciting for me. Carefully and prayerfully selecting a theme, color, speakers, location, budgeting, conducting meetings, and working tirelessly all the way up to the day of the event. And when the day finally arrived there was such an excitement in my spirit. Of course, I did not sleep the night before. I believed I heard from God, did all I could to prepare spiritually and naturally, and now released it to Holy Spirit to govern as He deemed fit. The day of the event, I telephoned someone very dear to me to apologize for my failure to get out a proper invitation to her. What followed crushed my spirit. She proceeded to tell me she was hurt and felt used. Just a few hours before the event, all I could do was two things: apologize and break out in tears! This is the first of three nights and I while I meant no harm to this precious woman of God who I greatly loved and esteemed highly, I could not right the error. She was disappointed in me. I was disheartened.

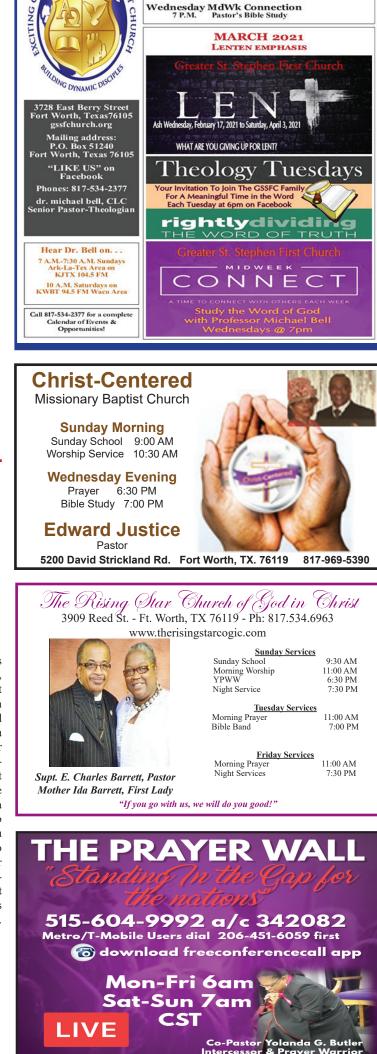
Such was the case for the children of Israel. Twelve spies went out to survey the land. Two came back with an exciting report ready to move forward and probably had the people all hyped up. However, ten came back to outweigh that bad report with such a negative report that it disheartened the people from wanting to pursue what God had already told them was theirs. Dishearten means to cause to lose determination or confidence; to become discouraged or to lose enthusiasm. Moses reassured the people there was no need to fear knowing God was with them. Israel would not have it and chose to remain disheartened. As a result of their lack of faith in God, they were forbidden from entering the promised land. Instead, their children and Joshua and Caleb, who did not become disheartened, would be favored with moving forward.

As I traveled down the road, tears still streaming down my face, I shared my disheartening conversation with no one, not even my husband, who I share just about everything with. Instead, for my disheartened heart, I turned to Holy Spirit for help. I refused to allow myself to enter into God's House with a spirit of disheartenment cast over me. I was reminded that even those closest to you may say or do



something that may hurt your feelings or cause you to second guess yourself, but you must always remember that God's Word is the Final Authority in all situations. When you have worked so hard to get to where you are at, you do get fatigued. The enemy looks for opportunity in your fatigue to discourage your Kingdom work. Holy Ghost within you helps you to recognize the enemy's tactics and crush them with a quickness. Release disheartenment to the Lord and ask Him to refresh you for the work He commission you to do. In the end glory wins out! So dear hearts, be determined to not allow disheartenment to linger in your heart but rather release it to the Father who gives you the power to do His good pleasure. (Philip. 2:13)

Dr. Yolanda G. Butler is Co-Pastor and Church Administrator of Praise Center Community Church, where her husband Bishop Donald H. Butler is the Senior Pastor. She is an intercessor, evangelist, mentor, and published author. Follow her on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and at www. firstladybutlerministries.com.



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# The Gospel Corner with Proclaimer of the Word... **Rev. J.R. Brumfield**

#### **GOD'S GOODNESS TOWARD HIS PEOPLE** Isaiah 40:21-31

#### 1.Introduction

As we begin this chapter, we ascertain that the prophet has shifted from the words of conviction to words of comfort for God's people. The deliverance for the Israelites is introduced with a word of comfort. Isaiah prophesies that the Israelites would have to endure 70 years of Babylonian captivity, but the Lord would certainly bring them out. Although, we may face the challenges of this life, our God is able to see us through any difficulties, depressions, or discouracements.

In Isaiah 40:1-2, the Word of the Lord is given to the prophets to speak a word of encouragement to God's people. This word of encouragement was given so that Isaiah and the other men of God would encourage the people in their day. There were some of the Israelites that felt that all hope was lost. The temple had been destroyed by the Babylonians and they had to endure hard taskmasters. The Israelites needed a word of encouragement! It is the job of every minister to preach glad tidings to the people of God in their day. The people of God were going through hard trials while in Babylonian captivity, but God had a Word. Sometimes people are going through so much that it is easy for them to become discouraged and want to give up. God did provide deliverance for the Israelites and he can certainly deliver you from any distressful moment with just one Word. Remember, it was Jesus that stated, "Peace be still."" Afterwards, there was a great calm.

A few days ago, we experienced a winter storm like we have never seen in the State of Texas. Temperatures plummeted to new record lows and the snow/ice became a nightmare for most drivers. In Fort Worth, there was a 100 plus car pile-up on I-35. Nevertheless, there was a but God moment in Fort Worth. There were some survivors. There were lots of people without electricity and there were plenty of accusations herald toward ERCOT. There were many busted pipes throughout our cities, but God provided a way of escape. The temperatures did climb above the freezing point, and we saw some beautiful days after the winter storm. After the storm, our God can grant a beautiful day. Despite everything that we are going through currently, we still have the joy of the Lord. God's people should be a comforted people in this world even in the worst of times. Although there were several power outages, our God allowed us to see a brand-new day. The days of trouble are numbered in every believer's life. Trouble won't last always!

Aren't you glad that the Lord has favored you to see another day's journey? The people of God must be prepared for God's special favors through repentance and faith. The scripture speaks of a voice crying in the wilderness. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus Christ. We must accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior if we are going to truly reap the special favors that God has for us. If you want to fulfill your God-given purpose in life, then you must allow the Lord to navigate your lives. Do you want all that the Lord has for you?

#### 2. Remind God's People, v.21-24

Sometimes God's people must be reminded of the goodness of the Lord God in their lives. There are four rhetorical questions that are asked the Israelites regarding their history concerning the Yahweh or the Lord God. Have you not known? Have you not heard? Have you not been told from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?" The Israelites had heard about the Lord God as the creator of the universe from their very beginning. The Israelites were

5



ight the scriptures and they had the benefits of the prophets in Old Testament history. From the beginning, the Lord God stated, "Let there be light and there was light." The Israelites knew the story of creation and they knew that God took dust and made a man in His own image (they knew this).

The Israelites knew about the consequences of sin because they were taught the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. One might say that if they had all this prior knowledge, what happened? Why did the Israelites forget that the Lord God hates sin, but He loves the sinner? Well, I'm glad that you asked me. Sin is alluring. Sin is appealing, and sin has an appetite. When we are drawn away from God to that which is alluring, we too can stumble along the way. The Israelites were drawn away from God because they placed emphasis on idol worship. This was the reason why the Israelites were in captivity in Babylon. The Lord God decided to punish His chosen people with the heathen nation of Babylon. This was the way that the Lord God decided to utilize to get His people's attention. What does God have to use to get vour attention?

The Israelites knew about God's call to Abram and the covenant that the Lord God established with Abram (Genesis 12:1-3). They know about the birth of Israel in Egypt. The Israelites were acquainted with the four centuries of slavery that the descendants of Jacob endured in Egypt. They knew about Moses and how the Lord God used Moses to set his people free. With all this knowledge, one would think that the Israelites would not have backslidden to worship idol gods. The Israelites knew about God's goodness toward them, but they needed to be reminded by the prophet Isaiah. Today, we know that slavery started in America approximately 400 years ago. The Lord God has brought us a mighty long way. The Lord God has brought us from the Jim Crow era to the modern-day era. With the help of Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King, Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, President Abraham Lincoln, Sojourner Truth, Medgar Evers, Mary Fields, Langston Hughes, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, and many others, we have overcome some obstacles along the way. Yet, the struggle continues for freedom and democracy in this country. God is not through with us vet!

From the heavens, God sees everyone as if they were grasshoppers which includes the Israelites and the Babylonians. All people are but like grasshoppers in the eyesight of the Almighty God which includes the slaves and the slave owners. What happens next depends not on the slaves or the kings, but on the Lord God. A quick stomp of God's foot would destroy Babylon in an instant. Later, we ascertain that Cyrus of Persia defeats Babylonia and he defeats it easily and decisively by the grace of God. This was the first step in God's plan to free the Jewish exiles.

Here is another measure of the Lord God's majesty. The Lord God "sits above the circle of the earth" (v. 22b) and "stretches out the heavens like a curtain" (v. 22c). In God's hands, the heavens are no more substantial or impressive than a piece of fabric that he moves as he desires. The Lord God spreads the fabric of the heavens to form a tent and

#### the heavens are His dwelling place.

3. Reason with God's People, v. 25-26 A few verses earlier, the scriptures imposed a similar question: "To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to him? A workman has cast an image, and the goldsmith overlays it with gold, and casts silver chains for it.

How ridiculous to imagine that a piece of wood or silver or gold that is fashioned by human hands can rival Yahweh? When humanity chooses to worship the little gods over God, then this is simply ridiculous.

To whom can we compare the Lord God? Who is the equal of the Lord God? The answer to both questions is obviously, "Nobody! No one compares to the Lord God! No one is the Lord God's equal!" Once again, these rhetorical questions recall what these exiles already know. But, having served in exile for so long, they have been tempted to forget God's promises. Like everyone suffering a prolonged trial, the Israelites have asked themselves if God really exists. Have you ever doubted God? If he really exists, why isn't he doing something? Does he lack the power to do something? Has he abandoned Israel? Will they be stuck in Babylon forever? Is there any hope? These are possibly some of the questions that pondered in the hearts of the biblical Israelites. We must be careful that when we do through our trials, we still need to remember that our God is able

4. Reassure God's People, v. 27-31 This is what Jacob/Israel has been saying. "My way is hidden from Yahweh, and the justice due me is disregarded by my God." We know that the statement is false. How would the Lord God, who keeps track of each heavenly body. lose track of his own people?

In verse 27, it states that the justice due me is disregarded by my God. This question suggests that the Israelite exiles think that they have been treated unjustly by the Lord God. They believe that God has abandoned them and allowed them to be treated in an inappropriate manner. The Israelites were accusing God of treating them unjustly. This is something that is totally out of character with God's holiness, which requires him to act justly. The truth of the matter is that God gave His people ample warning and they would not listen to the Lord God. Whenever people choose to ignore God, then they run the risk of getting in trouble with God.

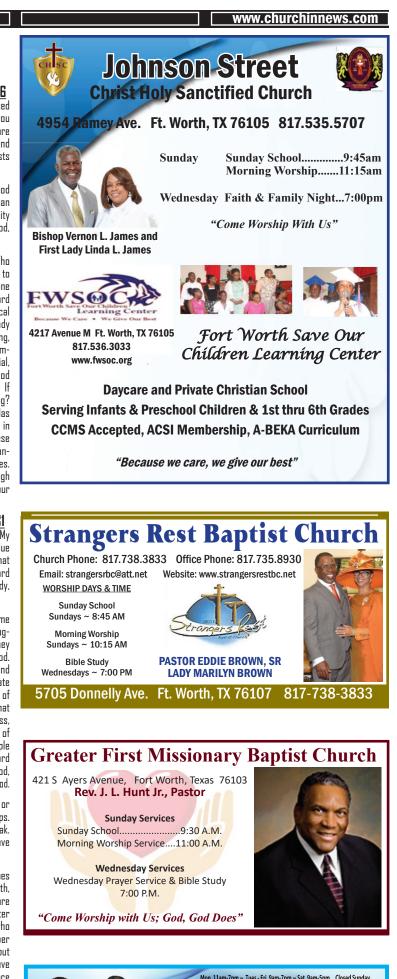
There is no end to God with regard to time or space. Our God never slumbers nor sleeps. He never gets tired and needs to take a break. Our God does not faint or gets weary. Have vou not heard?

God does not grow faint (v. 28b), but he does empower the faint. He does not lack strength, but he does give strength to those who are powerless. The scriptures speak time after time about God's tender heart for those who are vulnerable. We should always remember that we have a God that can do anything but fail. Nur God can heal the sick and He can save a sin-sick soul. Our God provided deliverance for the Israelites from Babylonian captivity and He can do the same for us. Is there anything too hard for our God? Do you have rivers that you feel that you can't cross?

If God's chosen people can just wait on the Lord, they will renew their strength during adversity. It is the Lord God who empowers those who wait upon him.

#### Rev, J.R., Brumfield is a member of Berean Bible Fellowship Church in Plano, Tx.

Look forward to his monthly articles covering Sunday School and Bible Lessons each month. Please direct all comments to Rev. Brumfield at his contact information listed above





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