

## Troup Baptist Association

### Old Houses

Recently, Marianne and I purchased the property where I was raised. Our goal is to remodel it and use it for either rental income for our retirement years or maybe live in it ourselves and rent the house where we currently live. Who knows? Anyway, when my father built this house, for whatever the reason, he didn't put any insulation in it - period! However, I have jokingly said that what the house lacked in insulation, he made up for with nails! If something called for one nail to secure it - he put six! But I digress. Because the outside walls have no insulation, we made the decision to strip the house down to the studs, move some partitions and reconfigure the layout, replace the current windows and doors with energy efficient ones, install the insulation, and in short, remodel it correctly.

As I have been engaged in this project I have discovered an odd truth: Old houses can teach you valuable life-lessons.

That old house reminded me that even though it was old – it still has value. The purpose for which it was designed has not changed. It is still capable of providing a family with shelter from the storm, warmth in the winter, cool in the summer, a place to rest, a place to make memories, a place to belong, and a place to call home. Hum, that kinda reminds me of family, friends, and people that I love, respect, and value. Even though they are old, they still possess great value. In fact, it kinda reminds me of the church, too. Even though modern society says she's old, outdated, and a relic of the past, she still has great value and is still capable of providing us with what we need to survive and thrive. However, this treasure can only be discovered when we become willing to look past her years, see, and embrace the value that God wants us to experience.

That old house reminded me that it was there for my growth, maturity, and wellbeing. In most old houses you will find a record of a child's growth. It's usually

found behind a closet door. It contains the child's name, a date, a pencil mark, and his height. In one casual glance you see a snapshot of several years of a child's growth. And as you stand and look, the memories of a life lived long ago, forever frozen in time, flood your mind. Somewhere on that chart there will be a final entry. That mark may have been recorded when the child matured to the point that he no longer wanted to be measured, he moved out, or some other life-event caused the systematic recording of a child's growth to stop. I was reminded that when I accepted Christ as my Savior I became a newborn babe in Him. In my Spiritual house there are many growth marks. My prayer is that the entries will never stop until God calls me home.

That old house reminded me that I alone am responsible for redeeming the values of my life that was placed into me in that old house. As I removed a particular piece of dry-wall, I spied a coupon for some dishwashing liquid behind the wall. As I

examined it, it said, "Void if not redeemed by December 31, 1950." At one time the coupon had value. However, its value was unredeemed. I am reminded that our Creator created us with great value. However, each of us alone is responsible for redeeming and using the value and gifts He placed in us. Failing to do so causes our life to become void.

In closing, I have been poignantly reminded that it wasn't that old house that gave the family who lived in it, value. It was the home that two loving Christian parents made inside that old house that gave it its great value to us. And while I am now the owner and no longer a resident, the purpose for which that old house was built remains the same. And with a little TLC it has the potential to once again provide a family with shelter from the storm, warmth in the winter, cool in the summer, a place to rest, a place to make memories, a place to belong, and a place to call home.

Ain't that just like God?

Brother Aaron

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**Troup Baptist Association**

**Mission Statement:**

The Troup Baptist Association is a Spiritual, educational, and community resource that, through cooperative fellowship, equips pastors, staff, and churches as they seek to fulfill The Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

**News From Churches**

**Association** - Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough and Rev. Kenneth Whitlock, Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Greenville, Georgia attended the Georgia Baptist Convention Pastor's Day at the State Capitol on January 28th. They were there to support the Religious Freedom Act, co-sponsored by our State Senator, Josh McKoon. This legislation is intended to stop infringement upon the rights of Christians. Thank you Senator McKoon for co-sponsoring this legislation!

At right: Rev. Aaron McCollough & Rev. Kenneth Whitlock.



Dr. J. Robert White, Executive Director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, addressing the news conference.



**Association** - Rev. Aaron McCollough had the privilege of praying the invocation at the grand opening of the Walmart Neighborhood Market. Stephanie Walker, daughter of Rev. Aaron & Marianne McCollough, sang the National Anthem.



Stephanie Walker singing the National Anthem

**Association** - On January 22, Dottie Henson was honored with a reception by the Troup Baptist Association on the occasion of her retirement effective January 31, 2015. Dottie has served as the Administrative Assistant of Troup Baptist Association for nine years. Thanks to Dottie for a job well done! Special thanks to Judy King for coordinating the reception, Carol Truitt for making the cake, and the ladies from Lakeview Baptist for serving. It was a great evening. ~ Bro. Aaron



Dottie Henson



Cake by Carol Truitt



Ladies from Lakeview Baptist Church served ice cream, cake and drinks



Carol & Dottie

# News (continued)

**Baptist Tabernacle** - During the month of January, two were baptized and one new member was received.

The Food Closet served 843 individuals which included 395 boxes of food, 301 meals and 60 backpacks. Baptist Tabernacle also did a mobile food drive. They served 277 people and gave away 50 boxes of food. God is truly blessing this church and ministry and is opening doors for them to help more people who are in need.

Baptist Tabernacle hosted the *Feeding the Valley Training meeting* for all agencies in Troup County. There were about 250 plus individuals that attended on January 21. Snacks and drinks for 100 children were provided for Whitesville Road Elementary School. They celebrated 100 days of school for this term with a Math Party.

The HUB youth group rang in the new year with a lock-in and skating party on December 31. As the new year came in, a devotional and prayer service was held by all 42 participants. A great time of fun and fellowship was had by all. They have also been collecting gift cards to be given out during the year to help those in need. This is the second year doing this and it proved very rewarding last year.

Hunters for Christ's Annual 2015 Alabama Disabled Persons Deer Hunt was held January 16 - 18. The hunt was a great success. Eight hunters were able to make the trip this year. As always, they had a great time as they shared Jesus Christ and the outdoors with these guys. Thanks to all of the volunteers and sponsors for making this event possible. Hunters for Christ is a ministry that "Shows the Love of Christ through the sport of hunting". Twice a year US Army Corps sponsors two hunts, one is in December for the Georgia Association of Handicapped Hunters and a second hunt in January for the Alabama Disabled Hunters Association. HFC supplies all of the food and supplies for these hunts. They have formed a strong bond with these hunters and look forward to seeing them every year. These hunters are a true blessing from God. HFC also cooks and sells smoked turkeys and Boston butts for Thanksgiving each year as a fund raiser. Hunters for Christ is open to all men, women and kids. If you know anyone who is disabled and would like to participate in the hunts, please contact Brian Huckleberry at 706-616-2001 or Kerry White at 706-523-2087. (photos below are from the January HFC hunt)



**Baptist Tabernacle** - (continued)

On Sunday, January 18th, Tony & Lynn Hale and Ken & Carolyn Evans were voted in as active deacons at Baptist Tabernacle. Ken Evans was ordained on Sunday, January 25th. They welcome these new deacons.

**Davidson** - joined Roper Heights' members in bringing in the New Year with a spirit filled service. The attendees might have been small in number, but God showed up in a big way! Thank you Roper Heights for inviting us! Thank you God for allowing our Food Closet to grow, and for the renewal of Children's Church with our new Youth Director - Sherry Bennett, and two new members - Billie and Ellen Roberts. Praise Him, Praise Him!

**Glenn** - welcomes a new pastor, James "Jamie" Kelley and his wife Elaine. Rev. Kelley is currently working on his Masters of Theology degree. He will graduate in May of this year. (photo below)



**Lakeview** - continued to collect offerings for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering through January 11, 2015. Ladies of the WMU met at IHOP on Jan. 24 for a breakfast fellowship and discussed plans for several future events. Music and devotions for residents of Poplar Creek continue on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month. Brotherhood met on Saturday, Jan. 31 for breakfast, fellowship and planning for future events.

**Mountville** - January was a busy month! The AWANA Club celebrated a FROZEN theme for the month of January. The kids were able to dress up as their favorite FROZEN character, enjoy frozen treats, and have snowball fights with marshmallows, and most importantly they learned what the Bible says about Love, Fear and Courage! New Desire was at MBC on Sunday, January 11 for the evening service. The service was amazing and the Holy Spirit was truly among us! We love Bro. Dan and Mrs. Brenda and the whole Robinson family.

# News (continued)

**Roper Heights** - had a quiet month compared to last month. The Sonshiners enjoyed a night at Jumbo Chinese in LaGrange. Dwayne Morris was the speaker at a Fellowship Breakfast on January 25. Everyone received a blessing. On January 25, Missionaries Stephen & Ruth Hale gave information on "Mission Aviation Fellowship". They share the love of Christ through aviation and technology so that isolated people may be physically and spiritually transformed. Their visit was thoroughly enjoyed. Roper Heights extends a welcome to all.

**Teaver Road** - had two people join the church. The Youth New Year's Bash was a great success. Thanks to Chase Williams for putting it all together. The Youth attended the DNOW event (hosted by First Baptist Church) and they had a great time.

**Wehadkee** - has acquired an updated look at the front entrance due to new doors installed by Joel Brand, a local handyman & Association member, and his crew. The Monthly Church Social was held in the Fellowship Hall and was enjoyed by all. The book, "The Harbinger", by Jonathan Cahn made into a movie was viewed on Sunday night and the following week the Companion film, a documentary on the movie was viewed and discussed by members. Naturally, a meal was enjoyed both weeks before the movie. Condolences go out to the Pilgrim Family during their time of sorrow in the loss of a loved one.

## Association - Church Prayer List

**For February 2015, please pray for following churches:**

- Week of Feb. 1, 2015 - Grace Baptist Church
- Week of Feb. 8, 2015 - Gray Hill Baptist Church
- Week of Feb. 15, 2015 - Highland Baptist Church
- Week of Feb. 22, 2015 - Hilyer Baptist Church

**For March 2015, please pray for following churches:**

- Week of March 1, 2015 - Lakeview Baptist Church
- Week of March 8, 2015 - Long Cane Baptist Church
- Week of March 15, 2015 - Mountville Baptist Church
- Week of March 22, 2015 - Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
- Week of March 29, 2015 - New Heaven Korean Baptist Mission

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

## Brother Aaron's Suggested Reading

Building Churches That Make Disciples -  
Real Life Discipleship  
 By Jim Putnam

# Announcements

**Association** - Camp Rockridge offers summer employment for college students beginning the first week in June through the first week in August. Volunteer positions are also available for high school age students on a week to week basis. In addition, they are seeking volunteers for service projects. For more information, call Jody & Jennifer Thrower at (706) 675-3494 or (678) 877-7018 or email them at [CampRockridge1@gmail.com](mailto:CampRockridge1@gmail.com). The deadline for all employment applications is April 30, 2015.

## Association - Wide Spring Revival

April 26th - 29th

Sunday night 6:00 pm

Monday - Wednesday nights 7:00 pm

at Troup Baptist Association Office

1301 Washington Street, LaGrange, GA 30240

Speaker: Stacy Dyer

State Missionary from GBC

Plans are underway for the Association Men's Day which will include an Outdoor Sportsmen event and banquet on April 25th. Guest speaker will be Stacy Dyer of Xtreme Christian Outdoors ([xtremechristianoutdoors.com](http://xtremechristianoutdoors.com)) and Outdoor Ministry Consultant at GBC. The next planning meeting will be Monday, Feb. 23 from 7 - 8:30pm at the Association Office. All Pastors and Men's Ministry Directors are encouraged to attend.



Pictured from Left to Right: Pastor Andy Buchanan, Pastor Bryan Geter, Stacy Dyer of GBC and Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough.

# Announcements (continued)

## Association - continued



WMU Spring Luncheon

Saturday, March 21, 2015

at

Rosemont Baptist Church

more information to come

**Association** - Baptist Mobile Health Ministry is again the recipient of grant funding from the Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation to offer dental assistance at no charge to ministerial staff and their spouses plus widows of pastors who do not have dental insurance or financial means to obtain dental care.

Dates and sites:

- Feb. 26-28, 2015– Daniell Baptist Assn – Ailey, GA  
Call Mrs. Diana Brown at 770-936-5217

Ministers Wellness Retreats will be:

- Sept. 10-12, 2015– Conference Center Toccoa, GA
- Oct. 8-10, 2016– Conference Center, Norman Park, GA  
Call Mrs. Ruth Smith at 770-936-5364 for both.

**Baptist Tabernacle** - February is Deacon Appreciation Month. Everyone is encouraged to recognize and show appreciation to their deacons for all that they do. Baptist Tabernacle is fortunate to have such a great and caring group of deacons. Thank you for your service! Hunters for Christ will hold a turkey hunt March 14 and 15.

**Creekside** - will have a singing at 6pm on the third Saturday in February (21st). Everyone is welcome. They are also making plans for an all-day singing in May. The date will be announced later.

**Davidson** - welcomes everyone to join them:

Sundays: Breakfast - 8:45am, Sunday School- 9:45am, Morning Worship - 11am, Evening Service- 6pm.

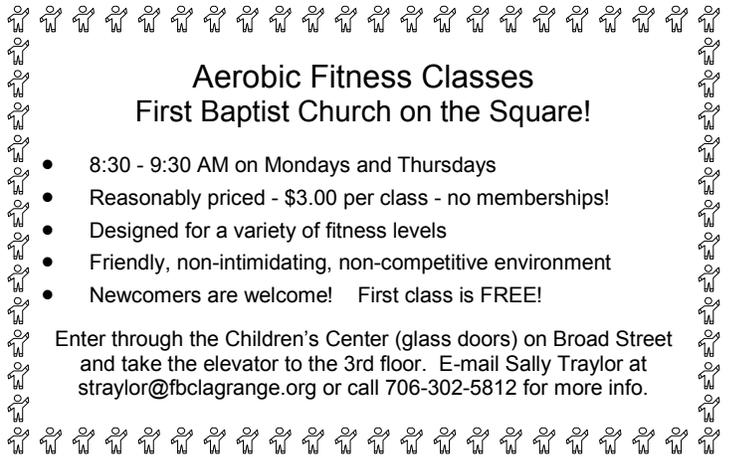
Wednesday: Food closet 12-2pm; Bible Study- 6:30pm.

3rd Friday of the Month: Prayer Night- 7:00pm.

5th Sunday of the Month: Singing- 5pm.

The Youth will be attending the Winter Jam on February 7.

## First LaGrange -



**Aerobic Fitness Classes**  
First Baptist Church on the Square!

- 8:30 - 9:30 AM on Mondays and Thursdays
- Reasonably priced - \$3.00 per class - no memberships!
- Designed for a variety of fitness levels
- Friendly, non-intimidating, non-competitive environment
- Newcomers are welcome! First class is FREE!

Enter through the Children's Center (glass doors) on Broad Street and take the elevator to the 3rd floor. E-mail Sally Traylor at [straylor@fbclagrange.org](mailto:straylor@fbclagrange.org) or call 706-302-5812 for more info.

*Save the Date!*  
*First Baptist Church on the Square*

**Extreme Couponing 101**

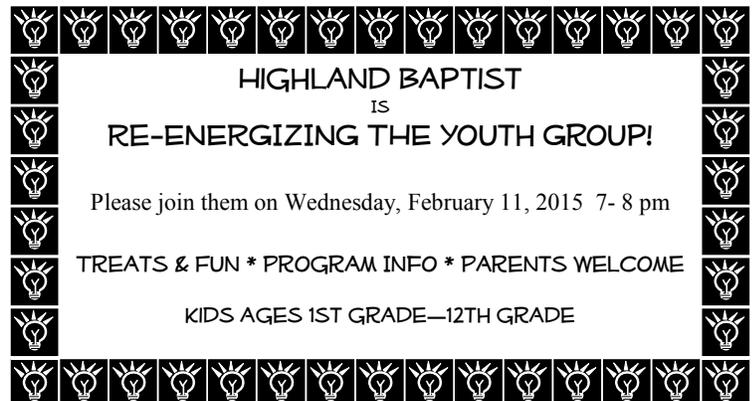
Led by Southern Savers  
Sponsored by our Financial Peace University Group

**Thursday, February 26**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Cost is \$10.

For more information and/or to register:  
<http://www.southernsavers.com/workshops/>

## Highland -



HIGHLAND BAPTIST  
IS  
RE-ENERGIZING THE YOUTH GROUP!

Please join them on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 7- 8 pm

TREATS & FUN \* PROGRAM INFO \* PARENTS WELCOME

KIDS AGES 1ST GRADE—12TH GRADE

**Hilyer** - February 8th, a Valentine soup dinner will be held at 6pm in the Family Life Center. This will include a men's dessert contest for missions. Come and join us. February 11th, the AWANAs will have a Valentine party beginning at 6:30pm in the Family Life Center. They will have pizza, dessert and games. The children in AWANAs have been working extra hard on their Bible verses. Please encourage your child to study their verses and bring them to meetings on Wednesday nights. REVIVAL will be held March 1st - 4th at 7pm nightly. Brother Allen Carr will be bringing the message each night.

# Announcements (continued)

**Lakeview** - is seeking a Youth Minister; send resumes to Richard King at [rsk97@bellsouth.net](mailto:rsk97@bellsouth.net) or call 709-882-0371. Pastor Lamar Truitt has been preaching messages on church revitalization and is asking members to contribute suggestions on how to "GROW LAKEVIEW". Members are asked to continue bringing nonperishable items for the food closet.

**Mountville** - will celebrate Homecoming on Sunday, February 8th. Brother Mike Phillips will bring the message and lunch will be served after the morning service. Everyone is welcome!

**Teaver Road** -

**Harris III**  
Master Illusionist

COME ONE COME ALL  
Experience an unforgettable journey into mystery, wonder, and a reflection of truth.

Tons of interactive, audience participation!

"I was blown away. Absolutely phenomenal!"  
- John Maxwell  
Legendary Leadership Expert

"One of the most talented communicators I've ever had the privilege of hosting."  
- Jason Hayes  
Lifeway

**March 7th 2015 6:00 PM**  
Teaver Road Baptist Church  
215 Teaver Road LaGrange, GA  
Call 706.882.5774 for details  
For more information including reviews and videos, visit [www.harrisiii.com](http://www.harrisiii.com)

**Western Heights** - Steve Vickery invites everyone to join him and his wife Wanda on a trip to Israel with Dr. J. Robert White and the Sons of Jubal on Oct. 5-14, 2015. It will be the opportunity of a lifetime— a journey to the places our Lord lived, traveled, ministered, died, and rose again. You can register now and pay installments each month. It is recommended to register by Sept. 30 (\$300 deposit) and pay \$400 monthly with final payment June 30, 2015. There are several price options for the trip. The trip cost is all inclusive. The sons of Jubal will have opportunities to share the gospel through music at several venues along the way. Please e-mail Steve Vickery at [stevev@westernheights.net](mailto:stevev@westernheights.net) or call 706-333-7838 to receive a brochure/information about registering for the trip.

Ovid Wynn, Music Director at Concord Baptist Church has taken on the project of organizing the association music library. If you would like to help Bro. Ovid, contact the association office at (706) 884-1975 and we'll get you in contact with him. Also, if your church has cantatas or other music worship material you would like to donate to the association, please let us know. Your church is welcome to use whatever we have!



Ovid Wynn, Music Director - Concord Baptist Church

**Wehadkee** - The Valentine's Dinner on February 14th will replace the Monthly Church Social. Ladies' meeting date to be announced. Wehadkee is spearheading Prayer on the Square events in LaGrange, GA. **Plans are to meet on the square every fifth Sunday at 3pm to pray for Troup County and our Country. The next meeting will be March 29, 2015. Brother Aaron encourages all churches to participate.**



## Looking ahead ....**March Birthdays**



1st	Rev. Glenn Perkins, Faith Believers
8th	Bro. Donald Boyd, Northside
8th	Rev. Claude McGavic, Retired
9th	Rev. Benjie Dukes, Concord
11th	Rev. Don Ellison,
13th	Rev. Neil Stich, Second Baptist
16th	Rev. James Yu, New Heaven Korean Baptist Mission
20th	Rev. Randy Warren, Flat Shoals Salem Road
22nd	Dr. Tom Tucker, First Baptist/West Point
31st	Rev. Ron Daniel



## BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

In December of 2011 Bethel Baptist Church in West Point, Georgia was closed. Pastor Steve Sexton was contacted by one of the members about serving as the pastor of the church and doing a church restart. Steve, an evangelist for fifteen years, had no thoughts about pastoring a church. However, when he first saw that empty building, God began to do a work in his life. He realized that God had other plans for him. After many phone calls, visits, and consultations, I was able to enroll them in the Georgia Baptist Convention Church Planting Program as a Church Restart. This program helped fund them for two years and provided much needed training and resources. Last month Bethel completed the two-year program. In that time they have gone from a closed church to a church that consistently has fifty to sixty people attending Sunday morning services. On occasion they have had over a hundred in attendance. Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Bethel is planning a celebration service to honor God for what He has done. Special guests will be Dr. Bobby Boswell, Assistant Executive Director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, and Dr. Jimmy Baughcum, Church Planting Consultant for the Georgia Baptist Convention. You are invited to join us at 11am for a wonderful time of celebration.  
~ Brother Aaron



(L-R) Dalton Sexton, Sable Sexton, Peggy & Pastor Steve Sexton.



## CHURCH REVITALIZATION TRAINING

**Pastor Danny Geter, Teaver Road Baptist Church:** “The Church Revitalization Training is an awesome encouragement to any church leader or member. It will challenge you to get out the manual, (Bible) your mirror, and your microscope to have the church you've been missing!”

**Deacon Dennis Alexander, Dunson Baptist Church:** “The openness and honesty of those present was a drawing card for me. No pretense just Christian brothers sharing their thoughts and ideas.”

**Pastor Steve Sexton, Bethel Baptist Church.** “I really enjoyed sitting down with new friends and seeing we all face the same challenges.”

**Pastor Lamar Truitt, Lakeview Baptist Church:** "The Church Revitalization Class taught by Bro. Aaron would be helpful to any pastor or lay leader regardless of the size of the church. The material is concise and to the point. The roundtable discussion from other pastors/lay leaders is also very encouraging. I enjoyed the class very much."

These are just a few comments made by those who have taken this five session training on church revitalization. This training is designed for the pastor and one key lay leader from each church. The group size is designed for four and no more than five churches. Its purpose is to help you and your church experience revitalization. I will be scheduling another class soon. If you would like to be a part of the next group, please call the association office and let us know! ~ Brother Aaron



(L-R) Pastor Steve Sexton, Pastor Lamar Truitt, Associate Pastor Richard King, Brandon Willoughby, Pastor Paul Botica, Pastor Mike Hornsby, and Pastor David (Bernie) Pasley.



(L-R) Pastor Andy Buchanan, Associate Pastor Kenneth Cole, Minister of Music Bill Gray, Pastor Clay Snyder, Pastor Danny Geter, Deacon John Garcia, and Pastor Doug Bingham. (Not pictured: Dennis Alexander)

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

2	Pastors' Prayer Fellowship	New Macedonia	Jackie Taylor
9	Pastors' Prayer Fellowship	New Macedonia	Aaron McCollough
10	Church Planters' Network	Association Office	9am-12 noon
16	Pastors' Prayer Fellowship	New Macedonia	Danny Geter
23	Pastor's Prayer Fellowship	New Macedonia	Olin McClain
26	Pastors' Prayer Fellowship	New Macedonia	Bernie Pasley

**Note: Prayer Team meets at the association office at 6pm on Mondays.**



*Happy Birthday  
February*



5 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Greg Brown, Western Heights
11 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Jamie Duran
16 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Ronnie Jordan
18 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Lenn Martin
18 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Jeff McCartney, Reeds Chapel
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Rev. Michael J. Jackson, Confidence Missionary Baptist Church
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Rev. Kenneth Whitlock, New Hope Church of Greenville
24 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Jerry Parkerson

Happy Valentine's Day from Your Association Staff

### *On The Lighter Side*

Lady: "Oh, isn't he sweet.... Little boy, if you give me a kiss, I'll give you a bright new penny."  
Little boy: "I get twice as much at home for just taking castor oil."

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Mrs. Jane Gottshall, Clerk

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