



EDEN
Mennonite
Church
Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

August 2019
Issue Vol. 51 No. 6



This year at MC USA conference, Tom Yoder Neufeld, director of graduate theological studies at Conrad Grebel University in Canada, and author of the “We Believe” commentary on Ephesians, opened several of our delegate sessions with a Bible Study. He spoke primarily about unity, and our mantra became him saying ‘The church is a mess’, and us responding, ‘Thanks be to God.’

In This Issue

Anniversaries	7
Announcements	2
Birthdays	7
Deaths	4
Invitation to Share	4
Just For Kids	6
Thank you notes	5
Up-coming Events	8

Ephesus was a wealthy, busy, thriving seaport. In Ephesus, Paul preached first to the Jews, with little response. A number of Greeks, however, took to heart the message of the Messiah. Paul’s hope for them was that they love God, and also each other. He offered rules and guidelines for their life together. Paul admonished them to “make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph 4:3)

So how do we determine the ‘unity of the Spirit?’ We started first with definitions: The Greek and Hebrew words for Spirit mean ‘wind’ and ‘breath.’ The Spirit is the driving force of all life. The Hebrew word for God, Yahweh, suggests breath. Rabbi Arthur Waskow of the Shalom Center encourages that we try to pronounce YHWH, which is the Hebrew name for God, in this way: “You might pause to try this yourself: try to say "YHWH" with no vowels. Not "Yahweh" or "Yahovah," but with no vowels at all. Over the years I have invited thousands of people at synagogues, retreat centers, Hillels, and conferences to explore what happens if they try to do this, and almost everyone who does this experiences either a breath or the wind. The real Name is BEYOND pronunciation, unless you consider breathing pronunciation. The Hebrew prayer book says ‘The breathing of all life is Your name.’”

Having invited the images of this powerful, moving, life-giving Spirit, the very breath of God, into our midst, Dr. Neufeld spoke a great deal about unity. Basically he said, ‘It may not be the harmony that we think.’ He suggested that ‘much of the practice of being a Jew was the task of defining how different you were from everyone else.’ That sounded incredibly familiar. I think it would be reasonable to say that much of the history of the Mennonites has involved insistence on purity, on being the ‘spotless bride,’ on the task of defining how different we are from everyone else. But ‘unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace’ turns that on its head. In Ephesians 1:9-10, Paul writes, “ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.” “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near.” (Eph 2:13a). In the Old Testament, the biblical story suggests that Jews will gather from far and near. In the New Testament, Jews AND Gentiles, even ‘all things’, will be gathered – whistled in - to the Kingdom (see Zech 10:8, where ‘signal’ can be translated as ‘whistle’). And if all things far and near are gathered, it’s not going to be clean and neat and orderly. The church is a messy gathering. Folks who look and think and act differently from us will be invited in. And we are bound to them in peace through Jesus Christ. We must examine our expectations in order to discern what is of the Spirit, and what is merely cultural and traditional. Unity is that we are all being drawn into the messy womb of God, wherein we will, in the fullness of time, be transformed and rebirthed.

Unity doesn’t mean that we abandon our identity. Our peace distinctive, our focus on following Jesus, not believing only, set us apart. But we must acknowledge that without being arrogant, or seeing ourselves as better than others. I know - it’s hard to be humble when you’re as right as we are! I am awed and honored to have been born into this faith distinctive. And I am charged with loving everyone, with embracing, in that great breath of God, whomever is sent my way, because within the space of God’s creative womb, we are being formed into God’s likeness. And we’re all in there together, committed as brothers and sisters to learn and to grow, to worship and to serve. That is unity.

There’s more →→→

You may or may not know that half of MCUSA has left since the merger in 1998, primarily because of one conflictual issue. Those who remain are walking in the world in amazing ways, as are those who left. We continue to watch, we keep looking down the road like the Father of the Prodigal son, finding ways to draw each other into warm embrace.

When people ask where Eden stands on certain issues, the response is typically that our continuum is long, and we have folks on each end and all along the line. Yet we are bound together by the Spirit in unity and love. I hope you know that love, and that you feel God's love for you, in a deeply drawn breath, clear down to your bones.

Blessings,
Pastor Jenny



The Eden Leadership Team met June 10, 2019 at the Eden Church Office.

Members present: Pastor Dianne Schmidt, Pastor Jenny Schrag, Jay Goering, Becky Koller, Mark Stucky,

Barbara Stucky, Marcia Goering, Berni Kaufman, Jerry Lankford, Keith Albrecht, Austin Goering, Josh Regier, and Candy Unrau.

Jay lit a candle to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit. The group read Eden Mennonite Church's Mission and Vision Statements in unison.

1. **Lectio Divina devotions were read by Jay from James 1:19-27**

2. **Minutes of the May 13, 2019 ELT meeting were approved as submitted.**

3. **Budget report—Austin Goering:** Income \$155,000, expenses \$192,000—which puts us \$37,000 behind compared to last year when we were \$17,000 behind. We budgeted to have \$244,000 for expenses by the end of June.

Commission and Pastor reports

A. Peace Commission—Mark Stucky: He reports that the commission has not met since Peace Sunday. They will plan to meet soon. They are planning to help support the two young women from our congregation who are entering voluntary service.

B. Deacon Commission—Barbara Stucky: The deacons met 6/3/19. They worked on visitation assignments and the on-call schedule. They decided that Jenny Schrag will be designated as Summer Pastor at the top of the bulletin and will be referred to as Pastor Jenny. Pastor Jenny will be on-call on Thursdays, which is Pastor Dianne's day off. The deacons continue to work on a "Safe Church Policy." They are reviewing policies that other Mennonite churches have adopted.

C. Education Commission—Marcia Goering: The recent Sunday School Picnic service, meal, and recreation were a success. The commission plans to meet 6/12/19.

D. Worship Commission—Berni Kaufman: The nursery closet will be emptied and contents will be offered to congregation members who are interested.

What is not picked up will be discarded. Plans are being made for the Eden Retreat weekend at Camp Mennoscah. Persons planning to attend are encouraged to sign up.

E. Trustee Commission—Keith Albrecht: The floors of three bathrooms and the choir loft are scheduled to be replaced on June 24.

F. Pastor Dianne: She shared an idea of creating a "While you were away" book from the congregation to give to the Kings when they return. This could contain photos of vacations, art work created, or other creative entries submitted by any member that would like to report on what happened during the summer. Pastor Dianne has had the first session of her Sunday school class offering on the Doctrine of Discovery. The choir room was completely full and plans will be made to move the next session to a larger space in the fellowship hall.

G. Pastor Jenny: She reports a good first week working with Pastor Dianne and serving the congregation.

5. Western District Conference will be meeting July 26 and 27 at Bethel College. Eden can have up to 13 or 14 delegates and we need to submit the names of those delegates by July 7, 2019. The ELT agreed to offer to cover the \$95 registration fee for members willing to serve as delegates. So far, we know that Pastor Dianne, Dennis Schmidt, and Berni Kaufman are willing to serve as delegates. One of the optional events of the conference will be a tour lead by local historian, Brian Stucky from Goessel, called the "Imperfect Peace Witness Caravan." This tour includes scheduled stops at Hopefield, the Alta Mill, and the Burrton jail. The cost of this adventure is \$10 and transportation is on your own.

6. The custodian has expressed a concern about liquid spills in the sanctuary. The ELT discussed options such as making a reminder to clean up or at least report your messes in a timely manner and using drink receptacles with lids. Marcia will talk to Jolene Kaufman about having lids available to cover cups that will be taken in to the sanctuary. It was mentioned that there is a donation can at the window during fellowship time to help defray expenses.

7. Old Business: Update on pictures of congregation members on the bulletin board: Jay will talk to Jean Regier to see if she is willing to coordinate updating, gathering and organizing pictures of current attendees.

There's more →→→



ELT minutes continued

The suggestion was made that it would be nice to have these in alphabetical order with uniform labeling.

Kathy Waltner has been contacted to be in charge of displaying the historical quilt purchased at the Kansas Relief Sale and donated to the church by an Eden member.

Josh Regier is planning to begin to work on contacting Eden members who serve on various community boards to see if they need assistance from the ELT.

Pastor Dianne's evaluation forms will be picked up this week by Marvin Zehr for review and tabulation. He will present a summary of results to the review committee, Pastor Dianne and the congregation.

8. Next meeting of the ELT will be July 8, 2019 at pm at the Eden Church Office.

Candy Unrau, Secretary

July 8, 2019 Eden Leadership Team Meeting Eden Mennonite Church Office 7 p.m.

Members present: Jay Goering, Ken Stucky, Barbara Stucky, Pastor Dianne Schmidt, Keith Albrecht, Becky Koller, Jerry Lankford, Marcia Goering, Austin Goering, Pastor Jenny Schrag, and Candy Unrau. Marvin Zehr joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Jay Goering lit a candle to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit and read Eden's Mission and Vision Statements.

Devotions: Scripture was read by Jay from I Peter 2:4-10 in Lectio Divina format. Jay led in prayer.

Approval of Minutes. The ELT members did not have copies of the June 10 ELT minutes, as there was a problem with their electronic transmission. The June and July ELT meeting minutes will be reviewed at the August ELT meeting.

Budget report—Austin Goering: As of June 30, 2019, Income \$166,000 Expenses \$233,000 leaving a deficit of -\$65,000. Income last year at this time was \$176,000, which left a deficit of -\$37,000

Commission and Pastoral Reports

Pastor Dianne: There have been two recent deaths in our church family—Norman Wedel and Walter Neufeld. She reports feeling enriched by the variety of worship experiences this summer at Eden. The MC USA conference in Kansas City was inspiring, challenging, and exhausting. Highlights included the emphasis on the Holy Spirit, the study of Ephesians, learning more about the Palestine-Israel conflict, re-connecting with friends from around the country, and the spirit of hopefulness for the future.

Pastor Jenny: She has enjoyed visiting residents at Pine Village. She will be helping at the Camp Menoscah gathering with the campfire service and leading music. As a delegate to the KC conference, she attended the seven delegate sessions. A resolution was passed that concerned migrant children at the US border. Jay Goering added that diversity in the conference was more visible at this gathering, and songs were sung in at least four different languages.

Christian Education and Discipleship Commission: Marcia reports that they are looking to fill teaching slots.

Stewardship Commission: Ken reported they will be meeting July 16.

Trustee Commission: The floor in the men's bathroom was replaced this past week. The toilets and partitions had to be removed. New toilets were installed. Batteries were replaced in the automatic soap dispensers.

Deacon Commission: Barbara reported that they are continuing to work on the safe church policy. They also worked on the on-call schedule. They have provided seven scholarships to campers.

Worship Commission: Their commission will be meeting tomorrow (7/9/19).

Peace and Witness Commission: No report.

Pastor Dianne's review: Pastor Dianne left the meeting and Marvin Zehr gave his summary report of the review process and tabulation of the questionnaires. Of the 210 forms distributed, 122 were returned. Results have been shared with Pastor Dianne and Dennis Schmidt and were favorable and positive. Marvin Zehr will give a summary report to the Eden Congregation after the worship service on July 28, 2019. There will be a copy of his report available for review in the church library and at the church office for two or three weeks.

WDC delegates: There are still openings for Eden delegates to the WDC conference at Bethel College July 26-27. The Friday night worship service is open to the public. MC USA executive director, Glen Guyton, will be the speaker.

The next ELT meeting will be August 12, 2019 at 7 pm at the Eden Church office.

Candace Unrau, Secretary

"You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together, we can do great things."

—Mother Teresa

"Try not to become a [person] of success, but rather try to become a [person] of value."

—Albert Einstein



Invitation to Share

- The project for the month of **August is School Kits.**
- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in. and 70 sheets)
 - 8 new unsharpened pencils
 - 1 ruler, (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
 - 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
 - 1 large pencil eraser
 - 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
 - 1 small metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)
- Place contents in a 11 2/4" x 16 3/4" fabric double draw-string bag.

If you would like to support this project financially you may write a check to Eden with "invitation to share" in the memo line and mail it to P.O. Box 406, or take it to the Eden Church Office at 109 E. Hirschler, Moundridge,



Norman Wedel (89) passed away on Saturday, June 15 at Mercy Hospital. A celebration of life service was held at Eden on July 21. We extend our sympathy to Nadine, Monty (Suzanne), Kerry (Terrie), Jeff (Julie), Emory (Naomi) and Vicky (Ty) Stucky and all of Norm's extended family.



Walter Neufeld (91) passed away on Sunday, July 7 at Kidron Bethel in Newton. Services were held at Eden on Friday, July 12. We extend our sympathy to Gary and Jean Regier, Al and Kathy Neufeld, James and Terri Neufeld, Janet Neufeld, Jerry and Kathy Neufeld and all of Walt's extended family.

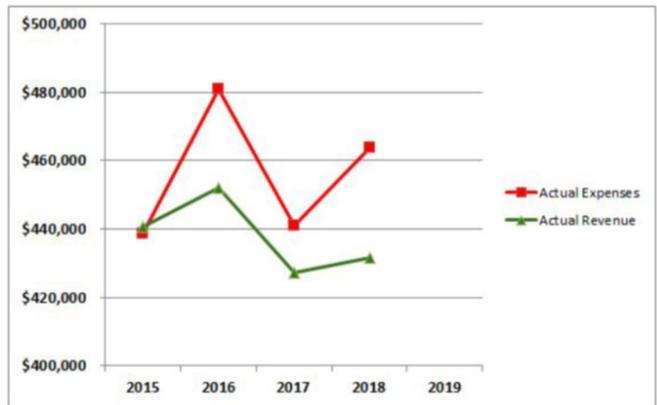


Eden Financial Update

The Stewardship Commission consisting of Bruce Stucky, Ken Stucky, Robin Schrag, Teresa Graber and H. Keith Goering, met at the Eden Office July 16, 2019. We feel it is necessary to inform the congregation of the current financial state of the church. As you can see from the figures below, we have not been meeting our budget. This has required us to dip into our general reserves over the past 4 and a half years. The first six months of this fiscal year have resulted in \$65,000 more in expenses than income. At this rate, the general reserves will likely be depleted by the end of this year. The Stewardship Commission feels we should all be aware of our financial situation. We ask that everyone prayerfully considers this situation.

Budgets vs Income/Expense

Items	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Budget	\$ 444,811.42	\$ 448,712.00	\$ 452,185.00	\$ 481,684.00	\$ 487,854.00
Actual Revenue	\$ 440,625.87	\$ 452,194.61	\$ 427,398.60	\$ 431,564.47	
Actual Expenses	\$ 438,803.66	\$ 481,056.63	\$ 441,018.33	\$ 463,888.46	
Budget Short/Long	\$ (4,185.55)	\$ 3,482.61	\$ (24,786.40)	\$ (50,119.53)	
Revenue Short/Long	\$ 1,822.21	\$ (28,862.02)	\$ (13,619.73)	\$ (32,323.99)	





Thank you to all of our church family for the many kindnesses shown to us after the death of Gail's father, Clarence Niles. Your cards, words, memorials and other gestures of caring are much appreciated. Mark and Gail Stucky

It is with very grateful hearts that we thank the church family for all of the love and support shown us at the time of Norm's passing. We feel blessed to be a part of such a wonderful caring church community. Nadine Wedel and family

Thank you very much for your generous contribution to Mobility Worldwide Kansas (formerly PET KS). Your gift helps us give the *Gift of Mobility* to the millions in the world in need of our special wheelchair. Every dollar raised gives the **Gift of Hope** for those who cannot walk. With help from Health and Mobility Charities, Mobility Carts have been sent to 104 Countries around the world. Again, **Thank you** so much for your support to this ministry of caring. Christine Goering

Thank you for your generous gift. Your donation helps us give students a life shaping experience. Your support does not go unnoticed. Ashleigh Hollis
Bethel College Director of Annual Giving

Thank you for your contribution to Mennonite Disaster Service. Your gift is an encouragement to families impacted by disaster. It enables volunteers to help these families recover and remind them that they have not been forgotten.

So often the work of your gifts empower our volunteers to do in response to water damage. Flood waters inundate homes. Or, strong winds damage roofs, exposing the inside to rain. That's what happened to Robbin Wilson of Floral City, FL when hurricane Irma damaged her home in 2017. "Every time the wind would blow, I'd go out and fix the tarp, but still the water ran down in to the ceiling," Robbin told us.

After receiving a new roof from the local recovery committee, the interior of her home was still damaged. In March, MDS volunteers repaired water spots and the crack in her ceiling. The volunteers "did an amazing job," she said. "Before, I'd have to walk in and look at that awful ceiling. Now it's beautiful."

Thank you for helping to make this possible!
It's a wonderful gift!
With gratitude,
Kevin King
Executive Director

Thank you for your gift to AMBS! In the year I've been a student at AMBS, the classes I've taken have helped me wrestle with what it means to be an authentic follower of Jesus. I have found the theological language to continue to make sense of what God is calling me and my community to do. Even though I'm an MDiv Connect (distance) student, I've been surprised by and appreciative of the support and camaraderie of the student community. I enjoy making connections while I'm on campus and grateful for the ways that community extends online when we're all further distances from each other. Ben Parker Sutter
Kansas City, KS
Master of Divinity: Theological Studies: History, Theology and Ethics student



June 22, 2019

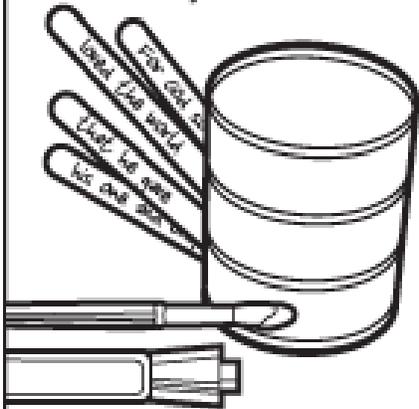
Miranda Snyder and Justin Soriano



We choose not to print addresses of our members online. If you are looking for an address, please call the church office.

WAKE-UP WORDS

Play this memory game to start each day in God's Word.



What you need:

- Paint and paint brushes
- Stickers
- An empty, clean tin can
- Permanent marker
- Bible
- Wooden craft sticks

What you do:

1. Paint and decorate the outside of the can.
2. With marker, write a Bible verse on several sticks (only two or three words per stick).
3. Put the sticks in the can, and set it in a spot you'll see daily. As you eat or brush your teeth, practice unscrambling the verse and placing sticks in the correct order.
4. When you've memorized the verse, repeat with a new one.



GOD'S MORNING ROUTINE

Every new day, we wake up to blessings from God.

Directions: Use the clues to fill in the words. Then write the boxed letters in order below to complete Lamentations 3:22-23, NIV.

- Brush these daily _ _ _ _
- Do this to your shoes _ _
- This rises in the east _ _
- Cold breakfast food _ _ _ _ _
- Hot breakfast food _ _ _ _ _
- Talk to God _ _ _
- Morning meal _ _ _ _ _ _
- Extend your limbs _ _ _ _ _
- Fruit drink _ _ _ _
- Waffle machine _ _
- Eat these scrambled or fried _ _ _



Because of the LORD's great love ...
 never fail. They are
 new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23, NIV

Answers: teeth, tie, sun, cereal, oatmeal, pray, breakfast, stretch, juice, iron, eggs, his, compassion



- 1- Jim Dalke
Ryan Goering
Ryan Stucky
- 2- Susan Goering
Berneil Juhnke
Betty Krehbiel
Esther Schrag
Gayle Stucky
Marcia Pat Stucky
- 3- Lenora Gehring
Angie Stucky
- 4- Tindy Graber
Renetta Stucky
Orville Waltner
- 5- Denise Krehbiel
Rhonda Masonhall
Donnie D. Schrag
Lonnie L. Schrag
Michael Zerger
- 7- Marna Goering
Brian Krehbiel
Audrey Tipton (Andy & Angela)
- 8- Kayla Gowdy
Sarah King (Derek & Becky)
Britney Stos
Marcy Thiesen
- 9- Brenda Wedel
Karen Nice
Kristy Hoffmann
Herb Zook

- 10- Christian McGinness (Paul & Claudia)
Greg Zerger
- 11- Alyssa Schrag
Maxine Schrag
- 12- Larry Goering
Richard Goering
Shayna Smith
Chuck Knight
Blaine Stucky
- 13- DeAnna Goering
DaWayne Stos
Marvetta Sperling
Angela Zerger
- 15- Caden Webb (Shannon & Pamela)
- 16- Anne Groves
- 18- Berni Kaufman
- 20- Kyler Dalke (Jerrod Dalke)
Candace Unrau
- 21- Kyle Neufeld
Amanda Stucky
Laurie Thiesen

- 22- Mark Albrecht
Whitney Fiedler (Cathy)
Tyler Gehring
Breanna Graber (Darren)
Anna Stucky
- 23- Donovan Graber
Warren Kaufman
Gary Regier
- 24- Brian Alfaro
Robert John Schrag
- 25- Roy Kaufman
- 26- Piper Doane (Heath and Samantha)
Steve Graber
- 27- Hayden Gehring (Chris & Jessica)
Doug Graber
Krista Graber
- 28- Mark H. Goering
Katharine Perkins (Greg & Kathy)
- 29- Laurie Schrag
Megan Waltner
- 30- Rollin Flickner
Debi Lichti
Duane Stucky
Pat Rupp
- 31- Clarene Stucky
Rena Stucky



- 3- Doug & Barbara Ewy
Stewart Gehring & Nancy Friesen
- 4- Justin & Krystle Dalke
Russ & Jamie Kaufmann
Alan & Kathy Neufeld
- 6- Nathan & Shelby Graber
Frank & Darla Schrag
- 8- Mark H. & Mary Goering
- 9- Joe and Debi Lichti
- 10- Jacob & Tonya Westfall
- 12- Paul & Ginny Crabb
Robert & Marcy Schrag
- 13- Melvin & Janice Graber
Ken & Cheri Krehbiel
- 14- Harlan & Joyce Stucky
- 15- Jim & Brenda Dalke
- 16- Chris & Jessica Gehring

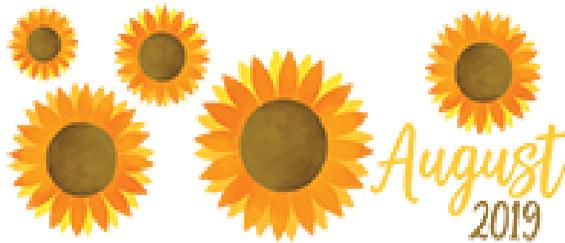
- 17- Lucas & Katie Stucky
- 18- James & Diane Schrag
- 19- H. Keith & Judy Goering
- 20- Greg & Elaine Krehbiel
Maynard & Marlene Krehbiel
- 21- Bret & Marla Gillmore
- 22- Dennis & Teresa Graber
- 23- Jeffery & Brenda Childs
- 26- Steve & Robyn Roberson
- 27- Larry & Cheri Kaufman
- 28- Wes & Ashley Stucky
- 29- Sheldon & Marvetta Sperling
- 30- Glen & Lisa Goering
Clinton & Shelly Krehbiel
Danny & Carol Zerger
- 31- Gordon & Annie Schrag

If there has been an omission or mistaken date please notify the church office.

Up-Coming Events

- August 4:** Send-off for Emily Knight & Michelle Schrag with breakfast at church with the congregation
- August 5:** 7:00 p.m. Deacon Commission mtg.
- August 6:** 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg.
- August 12:** 7:00 p.m. Eden Leadership Team mtg.
- August 14:** 7:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship Commission mtg.
- August 25:** Appreciation brunch for SS teachers following worship
- September 15:** 10:00 a.m. Worship at Pine Village

August 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



September 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



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