



Hurstville 1905
New Church



The New Church Newsletter

Hurstville Society May 2026

Simple Evangelization

The Rt. Rev. David H. Lindrooth

Taken from New Church Life March/April 2026

Simple Evangelization

The Rt. Rev. David H. Lindrooth

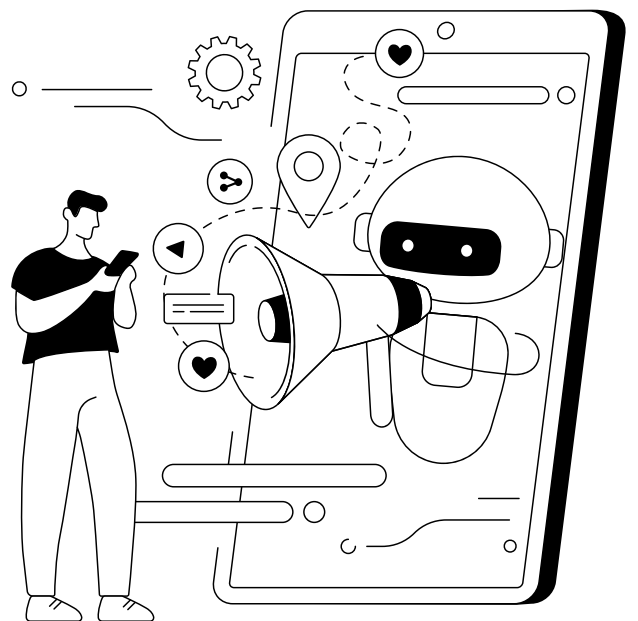
Social media have been a productive forum for cultivating interest in the New Church. By publishing videos on YouTube and promoting content on Facebook, the church has successfully shared its theology with tens of millions of people all over the globe. OffTheLeftEye has been even more successful in getting the uniquely valuable message from the Lord in His Second Coming out there. Because of social media content, we know that large numbers of people accept and are comfortable with our unique teachings.

That said, social media have been declining in their effectiveness as a platform for conveying our message. With the addition of artificial intelligence, social media platforms have been bloated with poorly created, inaccurate content that increasingly gets published simply to gain attention. With an exponential increase in online misinformation, it is becoming more difficult to find our content amid the noise.

That is frustrating. Online advertising campaigns for congregations don't draw people to us as well as they did before. A pastor can have tens of thousands of followers on his social media accounts, and yet it doesn't translate into new people attending church.

It is not surprising that these forms of “anonymous outreach tactics” are weak solutions for a growing church. Churches are communities of human beings who care for and love each other and look to sharing a presence of the Lord in our worship.

This raises the question of what works in evangelization. The answer is that many of the methods that have worked in the past are still just as important as they were before. Churches grow when people



invite their friends to worship with them. Churches grow when members of the church are willing to welcome newcomers into their homes and church circles of friends. Churches grow when people are willing to care about the newcomers and serve them as they would their friends who are already members. Social media can provide general information on who we are, but that is just a context to allow the traditional one-on-one human interaction that is so important to support people discovering the Lord in their lives.

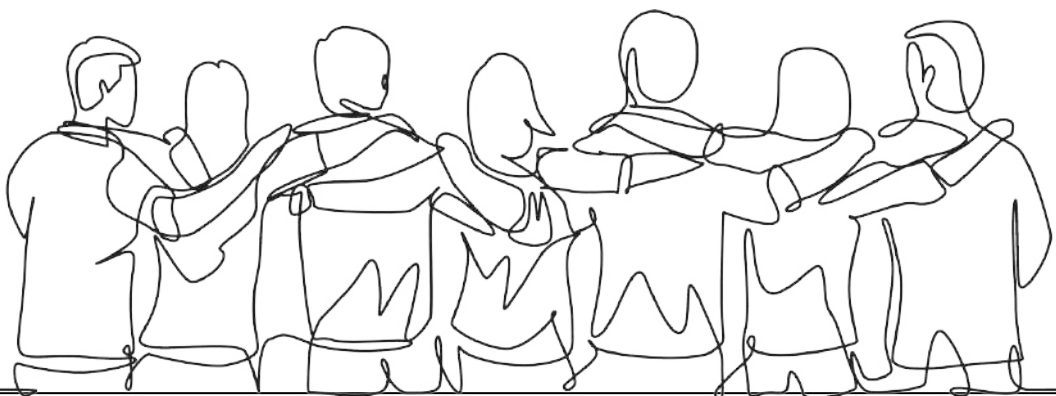
Frequently, people hesitate to invite someone new to church because of aspects of the church they criticize. All organizations have human aspects and points of difference of opinion about practices. Since all churches are made up of people, there is no such thing as a perfect congregation. But consider this: your friends could actually be really helped by the relationships (both with the Lord and with the other members of the church) because you invited them to church and gave them the opportunity to become familiar with its people and its teachings. There may be situations in the future in which those relationships and the Lord's guidance could be lifesaving.

Consider the Lord's voice in "the Great Commission" in Matthew 28. "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."

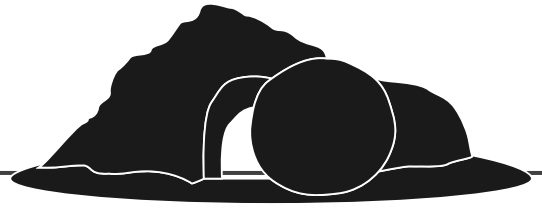
If you have an opportunity to invite a friend, please consider doing so as a way to serve your friend. If you see people you do not recognize at church, greet them and introduce yourself. Your presence in church as an ambassador matters.

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Pastor's Review: the Easter Season



Good Friday Vesper Service (April 3)

We had a vesper service with Holy Supper on Good Friday, followed by refreshments and hot-cross buns at the manse. The readings for the service were taken from the Gospel of Matthew, ranging from the Lord's Last Supper with the disciples on Thursday to the Good Friday readings of His crucifixion.

Alongside these New Testament accounts, we also reflected on the meaning of the Lord's crucifixion in Jerusalem. In brief, it represents the perverted state of the church, in which the Lord's Divine good and Divine truth no longer remain, and evils and falsities from hellish love succeed in their place. We are told that "these are what crucify the Lord" (Apocalypse Explained 655.3) in the present tense. This implies that the same thing may still happen today where the Lord's Divine teachings and His love are, so to speak, slain, and in their place, something of human evils and false doctrines succeed, which appear to be 'the church'.

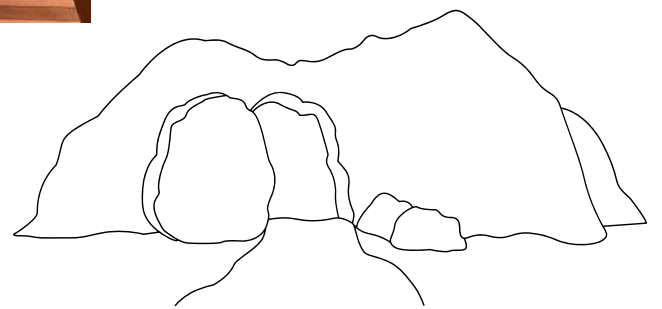


The vesper service has its own special place—the quietness, almost a stillness, that holds us in thought and invites a moment of devotion. After the service, we met just next door at the manse for hot-cross buns and refreshments. It was when we had two Chinese Uni students join us.

Long story short, ShanShan, Eric's mother, was our guest staying at Baringa for two months. Knowing that we were meeting at the manse after the service, she came over with his son and his son's friend—Eric and Justin. Eric brought his electric guitar with him, hoping that he and Justin could sing a song for us. And they did!

For many and different reasons, the Good Friday service was quite something and a heart-warming one.





■ **Easter Sunday (April 5)**

If we were to choose one Sunday and one church holiday to celebrate the most, many of us would choose Easter. The Lord's resurrection stands at the very heart of the Christian faith, holding within it the promise of our own resurrection. The Lord's resurrection from death also becomes an image and a hope of our rebirth—a renewal into a new, spiritual life. For these and many other reasons, Easter is, arguably, the most important church holiday we celebrate.



Though, one challenge as a preacher, is that there is simply so much to cover within the limited time we have in a Sunday service like the one we had. We had four children with us, and for many, it was their first time attending a church service in months. So, leading a family Easter service with both a short children's reading and a simple, concise message for adults was the best we could aim for.

Speaking of the service, one of the greatest blessings was the presence of the four children, who were the best company we could have hoped for.

I also appreciated a contemporary Christian song that we sang at the end of the service—10,000 Reasons. I thought the song landed and came alive wonderfully, as though it was a part of the service that simply could not be missed.

What we aim is that we first place the Lord's Word first and seek a sound Christian–New Church–message in it. When this is established in our

worship service as a lamp to our minds, then songs or hymns we sing organically fall in harmony with it.

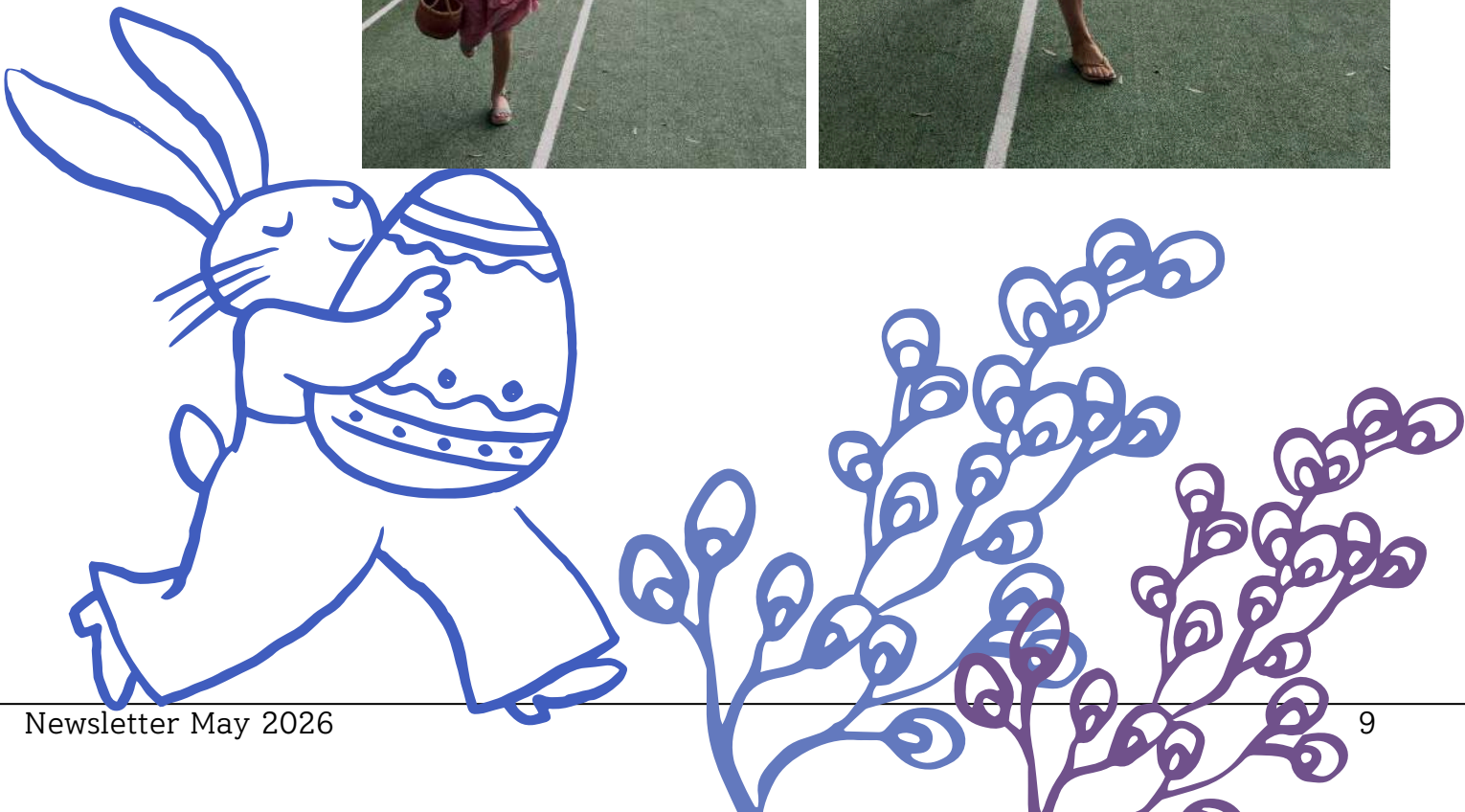
A bad example to avoid would be where a church service centres around songs for a congregation to sing, its live music, and performance, and that musical elements—performance of their sound, rhythm, and instruments—are mistaken for worship itself. In other words, it is when we mistake the music as experiencing worship itself.

■ Easter Egg Hunt

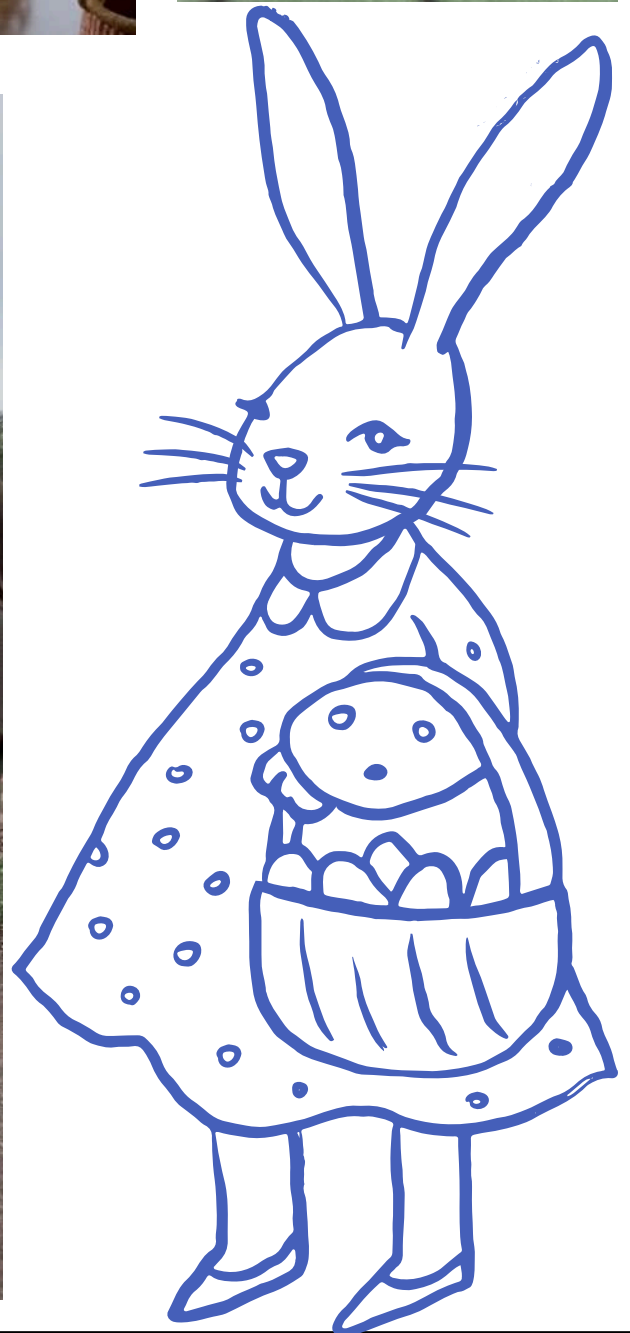
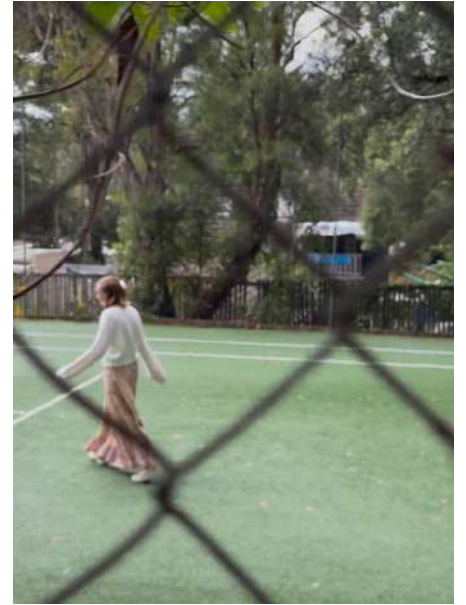
After the service, we had our annual Easter Egg Hunt on the church grounds. Times like this remind us how thankful we are to have a church property that is not only large, but also a joy to use. This year, four children joined in the fun—Lily, Evie, Aneira and Azalea. There were 54 eggs planted by Ellen. And we are not entirely sure if we’ve found all of them.

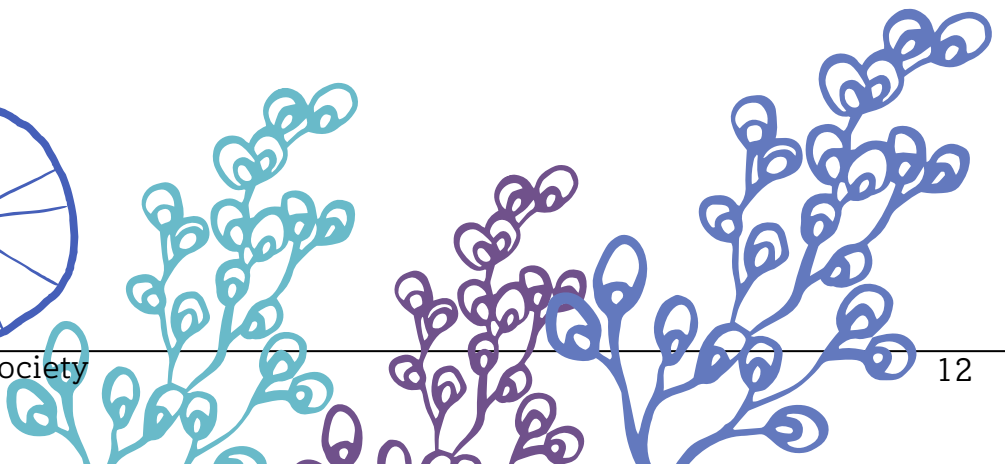
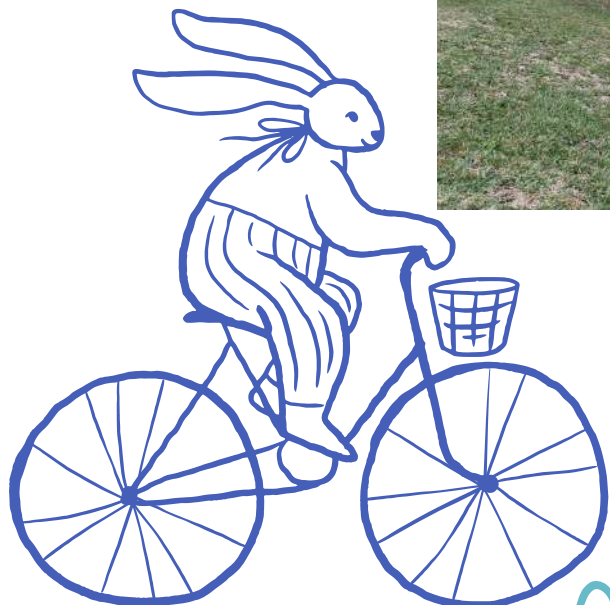
By the way, we suspect there were more than four who joined in the fun. A few seemed to be “just there and sticking around for the kids” but in their hearts, they were rather seriously part of the hunt. We can’t say for sure—but the photo below might tell it better!













What's Coming Up Beyond Our Regular Services?

Work Party (May 3rd)

Join us for the service and stay to help out at the work party afterwards—there's always plenty to do around the church! After an hour work or so, we will have pizza (enough pizza this time around!) and some other refreshments at Richard Morse Room.



Pastor's Absence + A Lay-Led Service (May 17)

First, please note that Pastor will be away from 12th to 28th with regional meetings to attend from 12th to 16th and vacation from 17th to 28th. Due to the absence, we will have our third Sunday service of the month as a lay-led service.

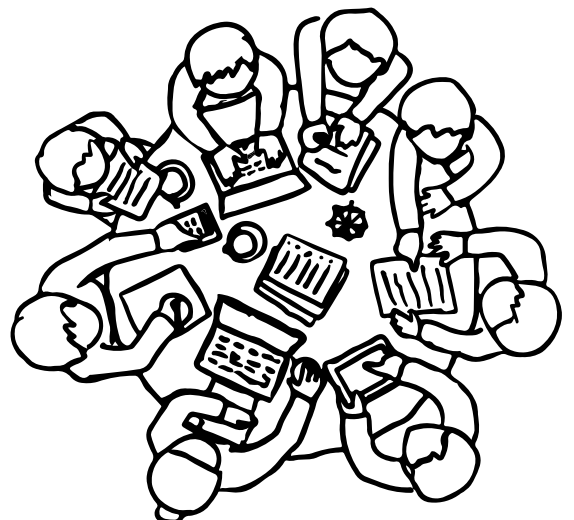
Service Led by Rev. Howard Thompson (May 24)

The service on May 24 will be Howard's farewell service at Hurstville. As many of us know, Howard and Debra will be leaving for the United States for a new ministry posting after 7 years of service at our sister church, Roseville New Church.

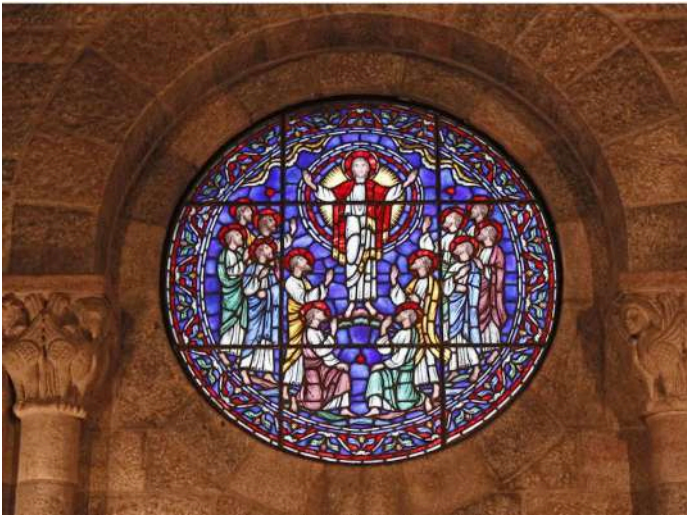
Also, please note that there will be no Sunday service at Hurstville on the 7th of June, as we've decided to join the Roseville congregation to farewell Howard and Debra. If it is difficult for you to attend in Roseville on that Sunday, our service on the 24th will be a great chance to farewell them here at Hurstville.

Society Meeting after Sunday Service (31st)

This is just a friendly reminder that following the service, we will hold our next Society Meeting at Richard More Room.



Looking Ahead to June (New Church Day)

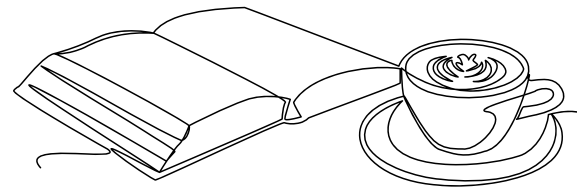


Glencairn Museum's chapel features a stained-glass window depicting the 19th of June, with the Lord sending out His twelve disciples.

(Retrieved from <https://www.newchurchhistory.org/>)

Doctrinal Class + BYO (11:00 a.m. June 11)

A class on the 2nd Thursday of the month + BYO afterwards at Richard Morse Room in Baringa. Topic to be decided, but most likely on a unique view that the New Church offers.



New Church Day Service (June 21)

Our New Church Day Service this year may see some changes as an effort to expand our celebration beyond the service hour. Details will be discussed at our Society Meeting in May 31. We will keep you updated through our weekly updates and social media, including our Facebook page.








Editor's Note

There will be no June issue of the newsletter due to my extended absence from the office in May. However, the Society Calendar will be sent out at the end of May, and the July issue will be a combined issue both for May and June.



Happy Birthday to Naomi Heldon (20th), Matthew Cooper (25th), Daniel Walsh (27th), Brian Walsh (31st) in May.

Angela Caldwell and Michelle Heldon (8th), Izaak Horner (17th), Anna and Erik Heldon (23rd) in June.

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