



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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## REPENTANCE

If you are one of the millions of licensed drivers in the United States or Canada, you have certainly seen signs with the warning, "NO U-TURN" . . . a signal that it is illegal to turn around in the middle of the street or intersection and return back the other way.



The beginning of a New Year is much like that. We are reminded that we cannot make a U-turn and go back and re-live the past year.

The past year is a little like water over the dam. Once gone, it is gone for good. What you've done, what you may have said, or even thought is past. You cannot change things by going back and living it over again.

But thanks be unto God, there is another way we can make a U-turn and to change things. Jesus called it **REPENTANCE** which is much better than so-called "New Year's resolutions" that so many people make and are quickly forgotten a short time later. Repentance is a U-turn in your thoughts, words and actions. It is a change . . . going back again to lead the kind of life that is pleasing to Jesus and of which He is our perfect example. Repentance begins when we ask for His forgiveness for all those wrong words, thoughts or actions that we have had in the past. It continues as we ask for our Lord's help to improve our lives and to do better in the future, as we begin a whole new year.

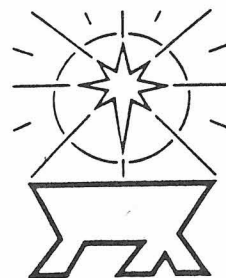
Perhaps you are one of those people who do not want to change or repent. You like things the way they are. We all have a little voice inside of us that says "I'm not really so bad. I don't have to ask God for forgiveness." To those people the Bible gives us this answer, "God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance" (see Romans 2:4). God's

kindness in sending Jesus, whose birth we have just celebrated, moves us to turn our lives around because He has rescued us from all evil; that is why He died and rose again for us.

If events of the past year remind us that we have traveled the wrong way, we have our Lord's promise that we can make a "U-turn" and repent of our past mistakes and come back to Him as His dear children secure in the knowledge of His love and forgiveness. A blessed New Year to all!

## EPIPHANY

Epiphany begins on Jan. 6, and it ushers in a new 'session' of the Christian year lasting nine weeks, continuing until Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Epiphany Day is the day of the adoration of the magi (wise men). Tradition has it that they actually came to visit the Christ-child at a later time than the night of His birth, even though we are quite used to seeing them portrayed in creches as being present at the stable on Christmas eve.



**The Greatest Gift**

Epiphany was, in fact, the first accepted date for celebrating Christmas. During the 4th century, most of the Christian church observed the nativity during this time, and even after Dec. 25 was settled upon as the date to celebrate Christmas, Epiphany played an important role. The Christmas celebrations which began on Dec. 25 culminated in the 'Twelfth night' celebration of Epiphany. That is the tradition behind the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

## JOE GETS THE RIGHT HAND AWARD

Mr. Joseph L Kindred of Indianapolis, who for the first time in memory failed to make it to an ILDA convention last summer due to family considerations, graciously accepted his Uriel C. Jones Right Hand Award belatedly

in a special service at Peace Lutheran Church in Indianapolis, of which he has been a member for many years. Excerpts from the ceremony by Pastor Jerold Munz are reprinted herewith:

". . . It is really costs a lot to be a follower of Christ. A German Lutheran pastor was willing to die, and he did to protest the Hilter regime during WWII. Many others were not willings to do so. We need to look at the cost of discipleship to determine what it really means to you and me.

Many deaf people are willing to pay the cost to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Many are willing to say, "no" to staying in bed on Sunday mornings. Others simply say, "forget it--not important." And still to others, it is important and they want to find out more about Jesus Christ. For some of us, it has meant enduring ridicule and mockery for the faith. It is easier to join the crowd who want to ignore God and say there is nothing to this idea of life after death or heaven or anything else like that.

For one man in particular it has meant a lot to be a follower of Jesus Christ. He has served the Lord for many years. He joined Peace Lutheran Church in the early '60's, about 30 years ago. He has held many offices at Peace, in the Central Region and in the ILDA, where he was president.

Several years ago, the ILDA decided to set up a special award to honor such people. It is called the "Uriel C. Jones Right Hand Award." Based on Matthew 6:3, "Don't let your right hand know what your left hand is doing." Such a man was honored at the ILDA this year. That man is Mr. Church Man, Mr. Joseph Kindred.



**BELATED RIGHT HAND AWARD**—Joe Kindred displays the Right Hand Award presented to him following his return home from a trip to California for a family reunion.

### UNCLE SAM EXPECTS A LETTER FROM YOU

That's right, a letter, a tax form and probably a check, too! However, if you are like me, sometimes you may have a problem and are wondering where you can get some help. Please read the enclosed flyer from the Internal Revenue Service. It tells you where you can call for assistance with any problem you may have. I have found the people at the IRS who render help over the TTY's to be very cordial and helpful and they take their time to be sure you understand.

So if you need help with any problem, or if you need some answers to some questions, try the IRS service. Best of all, the call is toll free.

## EPIPHANY

The word, 'Epiphany' means 'appearing' or 'manifestation.' The season celebrates the appearing of the Truth, or the revelation of God in Jesus Christ as the Saviour and Redeemer.--copied

Glory to God in highest heaven,  
Who unto all His Son hath given,  
While angels sing with tender mirth,  
A glad New Year to all on earth.

--Martin Luther

# AN APPEAL TO SYNOD

The following account, written by Rev. Augustus H. Reinke, to the Lutheran Church of Missouri, Ohio and Other States (as the LCMS was then known) at its meeting in Fort Wayne, Ind. in 1896 is reprinted in its entirety in commemoration of the synod-wide centennial of deaf ministry which starts on March of this year:

"The undersigned (Pastor A. Reinke) permits himself with all respect to direct the honorable Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States, through its delegates assembled at Fort Wayne, Ind. in the year 1896 to a missionary enterprise, which the honorable Synod hitherto has not conducted, but which is of such importance that it ought rightly to be a part of its work. This is the mission to the poor deaf-mutes.

The number of deaf-mutes in our land is estimated at more than 40,000. In St. Louis there are 300 adult deaf-mutes, in Chicago, 1,000, in Milwaukee, 240. One may easily expect to find one deaf-mute for every 2,000 inhabitants of almost any sized city, large or small.

These poor, spiritually neglected people have in some of the larger cities only the services of sectarian preachers available to them for the preaching of the Word. A minimal number belong to them. The majority of these poor people are without spiritual care.

Approximately two years ago the undersigned was requested to take care of the Lutheran deaf in Chicago, who had prayed for the preaching of the Gospel. The wish was fulfilled. Soon it became pronounced that a vast mission should be carried out among these neglected poor people. During the last two years we preached one or more times in the following cities: Cincinnati, Louisville, Fort Wayne, Monroe, Elkhart, Peoria, Lincoln, Galesburg, Sheyboygan; while we preached regularly for a longer period of time in Chicago, St. Louis and Milwaukee. Repeatedly these people have given evidence of great joy that the Word of Life should be declared to them also. Often they pleaded that the pastor return quickly and often. A single announcement in the newspaper in the larger cities is always sufficient to ensure an attendance at a divine services of 30 to 50 deaf-mutes.

In view of this, the honorable Synod is petitioned to begin this important. God-willed task in His name, because of Christ's command that the Gospel be preached to all

creatures, because of the spiritual neglect of the poor deaf-mutes, and because of their desire for the Word. God grant it!"

## THE RESOLUTION

The undersigned committee recommends that the general Synod utilize this compelling opportunity and carry on this task in its name and under its supervision since there can be no doubt that it is God-pleasing and will benefit the poor, lamentable fellow humans to their temporal and eternal blessing. Since God Himself has opened the door for good, we ought to utilize this given opportunity. Most assuredly, God will give His blessing and increase on this work.

## RESOLVED. . . .

That the Synod assume and pursue the Deaf Mission begun by Pastor A. Reinke;

That, for the conduct of this mission, a standing commission of five persons (see elections), of whom Pastor A. Reinke shall be one, and whose base of operations is Chicago, formulate a plan for the conduct of this mission and thereafter place it into operation.

\* \* \*

Within two months of its election, the new board met for the first time. Serving on this panel were two other pastors in addition to Reinke. They were Ludwig Lochner and W. Bartling. The others were H. C. Zuttermeister and Sigismund W. Sievers. Salaries for missionaries was set at \$50 per month and remained fairly constant until 1920 when it was raised to \$100.



SINGING AROUND THE CAMPFIRE—Members and visitors join in singing, "Praise the Lord" at Lutheran Deaf Camp at Fulton, Ohio. That's Pastor Leber in white hat facing the photographer. Photo courtesy, Larry Ginter.

## SWINGING OVER THE REGIONS . . .

**Rev. Bob Case** of Pilgrim, Los Angeles, will be retiring from the ministry on Feb. 1. Family and personal health problems are compelling Pastor Case to take early retirement.

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**John R. Krueger** of Manteca, Calif., passed away on Sunday, Oct. 17 following a cerebral hemorrhage. He and his wife, Mary Lee, were on their way to church in Stockton when Russ became ill. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Rowland in Manteca the following Saturday.

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With the retirement of **Rev. Clark Bailey** of Detroit, Our Savior Lutheran Church has had a pulpit vacancy. However, a letter from Mr. G. Bachman says they are fortunate to have services with a vacancy pastor, **Rev. Brant A. Engel** who is currently principal at Lutheran High School West in Detroit. Pastor Engel has knowledge of ASL and deaf culture. He is attending Wayne State University as a graduate student, majoring in school administration.

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**Jesus Lutheran Church**, Austin, Texas has had its offer to purchase the property next door on the corner of Newton and James Streets accepted by the seller. Following an inspection, the deal should be completed by the end of 1993 and thus provide more parking space for people coming to worship. More than \$15,000 was pledged during the first week of a drive to buy the property. A loan from the Texas District Church Extension Fund is expected to help complete the purchase.

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**Pastor Paul Dorr** is considering a call to the North Wisconsin District following the departure of **Rev. Steve Schumacher** to a hearing church in Missouri.

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June, 1953 marked the beginning of **LCMS World Relief** and the organization has now been officially in existence for 40 years. The church body itself, has however, been involved in human care for 125 years.

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**The Second National Deaf Senior Citizens Conference** will be held at the Hyatt Regency at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio on the dates of Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 1994.

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**LARRY Ginter** of Parma, Ohio reports that

the Lutheran Deaf Camp at Fulton, Ohio drew 53 deaf children, 100 hearing and the staff comprised of 38 . . . coming from Cleveland, Toledo and Columbus in Ohio; Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and one from Florida for five days from July 25-30, 1993. After 15 years of hard work directing the activities at the camp, **Rev. Don Leber** will be greatly missed as he has accepted a call to southern California. He will be succeeded by **Rev. Ed Bergstresser** of Pittsburgh.

## A CENTURY OF BLESSING

Acts 19:9 is the story of St. Paul having a dream. In the dream a man asks Paul to come to Macedonia and bring the Good News. The next day Paul made plans and went and preached the Good News to the people of Macedonia.

A hundred years ago, in Michigan City, Ind., a deaf man had almost the same request. That deaf man was **Edward Pahl**. Mr. Pahl wrote a letter to **Dr. Uhlig** who was the headmaster at the Detroit Lutheran Deaf School. Mr. Pahl wrote asking for worship services in American Sign Language (ASL). Acts 16:9 came true again in 1894.

On March 4, 1894, almost 100 years ago, a handful of deaf people (16) gathered in Chicago at First Bethlehem Lutheran Church to worship not in German or English, but in the American Sign Language. The preacher was **Rev. Augustus Reinke**. A photograph taken in late 1894 shows about 25 deaf. In that photo were Mr. and Mrs. **Edward Pahl** of Michigan City, Ind.

Today, almost 100 years later, we can trace our Lutheran Deaf Ministry to one deaf man. That man wrote a letter. That letter was in the spirit of Acts 16:9.

On March 6, we will have a great celebration. On that day, we will kick-off a two-year centennial celebration called, "A Century of Blessing." All the Lutheran churches in the United States will be involved and all of our hearing Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod congregations (6,000) will celebrate with us. All because a **DEAF HOOSIER** wrote a letter.

--Peace Lutheran Church  
Indianapolis, Ind.

## AND SPEAKING OF HIGHER EDUCATION . . .

If you are one of those people who thinks that education is expensive. . . . just try it **without** education!

## LILLIAN LONG, FORMER ILDA SECRETARY, DIES

Lillian H. Long, 79, a resident of Columbus Colony in Westerville, Ohio, passed away following a long illness on Oct. 14. Death was attributed to cancer following symptoms which had surfaced two years earlier. Lil, as she

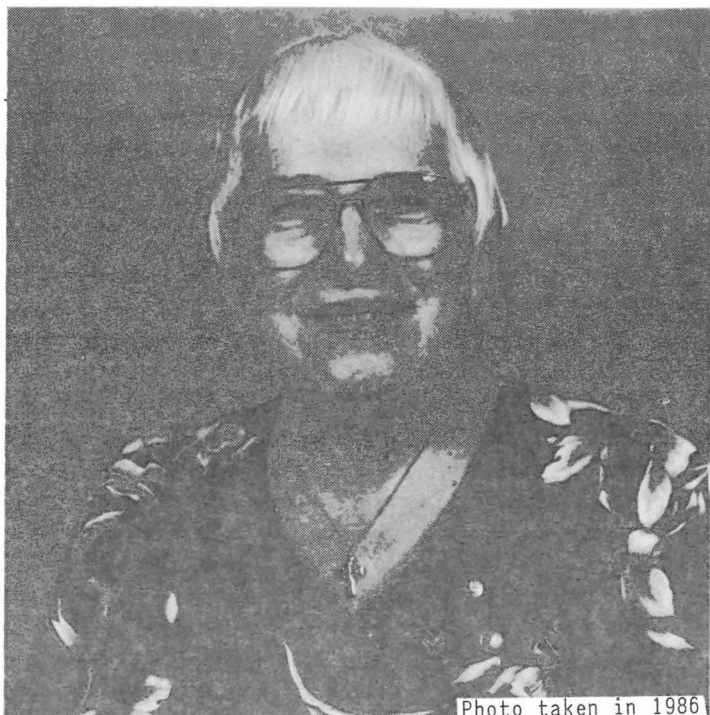


Photo taken in 1986

LILLIAN H. LONG  
1914-1993

### THIRTY-THREE YEARS

How young He was! How short His time on earth! In the years, a pulse-beat, in the centuries, a breath. Yet, had not the years gone their swift, sure way, had their significance been lost to men, there would be darkness on the earth today.

No faith could lift, no heart could hope again. Thank God! Thank God! For those precious years. Thank God! Thank God! For sparing Him for you, for me!

Out of the glory that was theirs before the world was, and the glory yet to be. The darkened years for Him that brought us light, the weary years for Him that gave us rest; the clamorous years for Him that we might know the white, high silences of peace within the breast.

For thirty-three brief years His feet trod the earthly roads for us, we thank Thee, God!

--Author Unknown

was affectionately known by all who knew her, was confined to bed as the result of a fall and suffered from failing eyesight in the last months of her life.

A 1933 graduate of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. She married Calvin Long in November, 1945 at Cleveland, Ohio. He died in 1979. An accomplished Linotype operator, she worked for several years at MPH. the couple resided in Florida and were active in Rogate Lutheran Church in Clearwater, as well as in Pittsburgh at Trinity where she directed the choir. Interment was at Scottsdale, Pa. on Oct. 19 with members of Trinity Lutheran Church of Pittsburgh as members of the choir, led by Pastor Ed Bergstresser.

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WE DIE?

Please note: Every one of the statements given here is wrong. Compare your own answers with the Bible verse to get the correct answers. We are discussing the resurrection on the Last Day.

1. "Everybody will go to heaven. God is love. He will save everybody--even those who hate Him. (See John 5:28-29 and John 3:36).

2. when I die, my body will decay and be gone forever. Only my soul will face Jesus on the Last Day. (See Job 19:26-27.)

3. When I die, both my body and my soul will lie in the ground until Judgment Day. Then Jesus will take me to heaven. (See Luke 23-43 and Eccl. 12:7.)

4. I could believe in my own resurrection from the dead if I know of someone who had done it before. (See 1 Cor. 15:20, 23.)

5. I love Jesus, but I don't think I'm going to like heaven. (See Psalm 16:11.)

6. Why talk about the resurrection? That reminds me of death, and that's depressing. (See 1 Thess. 4:13-18, with emphasis on verse 18.)

### ILDA BOARD TO MEET

The International Lutheran Deaf Association executive committee and board of directors will hold their first meeting since the convention in Austin, Texas on the dates of April 15, 16 and 17, 1994 in Schaumburg, Ill. The exact location will be announced shortly.

On the agenda will be planning for the upcoming Centennial Celebration of deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and the 25th anniversary of the ILDA in 1995.

## REV. DONALD LEBER BEGINS DEVELOPMENT WORK IN CALIFORNIA SEPT. 12

With an estimated 250,000 deaf people in the Greater Los Angeles area of whom probably over 95% are unchurched, Rev. Donald Leber began a formidable task following his installation last Sept. 12 as developer for a greatly enhanced ministry in the Southwest District among the deaf over the next five years. Pastor Leber brings with him wide experience in deaf ministry following 17 years as pastor of Holy Cross in Columbus, Ohio.

The goal will be the start up of 50 new cell groups over the next five years in homes of deaf persons who have been trained in Bible study techniques by the pastor. Such groups will be encouraged to split into new groups and looking ahead it is perceived that 100 groups may be able to get started by 1998. Leber had this to say about the project: "The possibility is there," and "the numbers of people are there."

The first six months will be devoted largely to 'PR' (Public Relations) and getting him-

self among the churches and the deaf community.



RECEPTION FOLLOWING INSTALLATION—Pastor Don Leber and wife cut cake during the reception for the couple at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Los Angeles Sept. 12. Photo courtesy, Charles Kotal.

## HOW ARE WE TO PRAY?

**Rev. Daryl D. Gehlbach**  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Prayer is an important part of the Christian life. The problem that most people have is knowing how to pray. I want to share with you some words by Martin Luther about how we should pray. The following comes from his Large Catechism.

It is our duty to pray because God commands us to pray. In the second commandment God invites us to pray to Him. He wants us to share with Him our sorrow and problems and to ask Him for grace and help. We should not worry if our faith is not strong like St. Peter or St. Paul. The prayers that a believer offers are precious and holy. It is His command that makes our prayers pleasing to Him.

We should feel encouraged to pray because God has promised to answer our prayers. He says, "Call to Me in the day of trouble, and I will save you." Our Lord says, "Ask, and you shall receive." His Word teaches us that we never need to pray with doubt, because He will listen and answer our prayers.

God promises to help us pray. He will give us the words to speak and sign. He will guide

us to say the right words in prayer.

Our Lord Jesus gives us this help in the prayer He teaches us--the Lord's Prayer. This prayer helps us think about our needs and guides us to ask God for the right things.

Everyone should make prayer become a habit. Our safety is found in the words of prayer alone. Prayer is our best weapon against the devil and his power. Yet, we must pay attention that prayer not become weak because we do not practice. For this it is important that we learn from the Lord's Prayer the things which keep us praying to God.

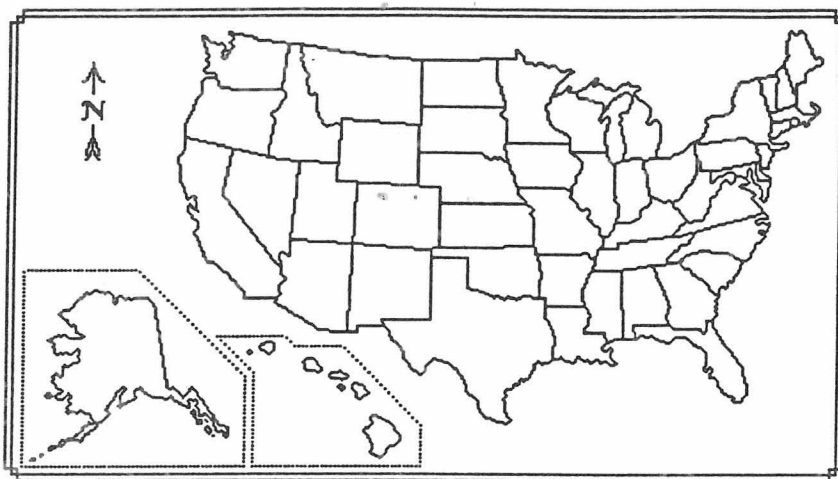
The greatest prayer spoken by our Lord Jesus was, "Father, forgive them." By His death He answered this prayer. With His resurrection Jesus gives us confidence that our gracious Father will hear and answer our prayers. His answers will always show great love for His children. May God give us strength that our prayers may please Him.

### CHURCH? I'LL GO LATER . . .

Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church!! If you do. . . .

People will finally know what you meant when you told the preacher, "I'll be at church as soon as I get straightened out."

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<b>April 16 - Oct. 31</b>	<b>9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. EDT</b>
<b>Nov. 1 - Dec. 31</b>	<b>8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST</b>

**We are happy to answer your tax law questions. If you are calling about letters/notices or tax returns, please have them available.**

# A CHRISTIAN FUNERAL IN CHINA IS NO SIMPLE MATTER

Professing the Christian faith in a society overshadowed by atheistic communism is still a problem on the Chinese mainland, even in death, is still a fact of life, according to a recent letter from Dr. Louis R. Jasper, who is serving in Macau.

Dr. Jasper tells about a young 18-year-old girl attending Concordia School for Special Education who was hit by a bus just across the border from Macau where she lived with her family. She died two days later, and since she maintained a firm faith in her Lord, she had steadfastly refused to participate in any of her family's religious rituals, resulting in their asking for Christian burial for their daughter in belief it would be in keeping with her wishes.

The Chinese government has not yet allowed a Christian church to reopen in the region of Chu Hoi and no public worship is permitted outside such designated and approved church buildings. It was not possible to find a pastor to conduct a Christian funeral on such short notice and another knowledgeable minister concluded that the authorities would take no notice if the service were kept simple and did not attract too much attention.

Dr. Jasper continues that even in death, the Lord allowed Frances one last opportunity to witness to her family and to many others who were present for her funeral, most likely, a rare happening for such a non-Christian family. The family did not totally abandon their traditional religious rituals. Frances was buried with her hearing aid, her text-

books, a small vase which she had completed in school the week before her death, and probably several more of her earthly possessions. Immediately after the funeral, I was driven back to the border and I was able to return to Macau safely. Before the end of the day, we had a memorial service with the Concordia School family.

It is not every day that we are able to see so clearly the hand of the Lord touching the lives of those whom we serve, but days like yesterday are a great assurance that His Word is reaching the hearts of those to whom He has called us to share the message of salvation.

Please continue to pray for Concordia School, its program, and for those whom God has chosen to be the instruments of His love in reaching out to the students, staff, and their families.

Thank you for your continued support. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless our working together in sharing His love and the Good News of salvation with all those whose lives touch ours.

Sincerely,



(Rev.) Louis R. Jasper, D.D., Ed.D.

RECYCLING: A GOOD IDEA

Did you know that if Americans recycled all of our Sunday newspapers, we could save over 500,000 trees each week or 26,000,000 every year? Think about it.

## The DEAF LUTHERAN

January-February, 1994

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