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The STANDARD BEARER

Volume 47, No. 1

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"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).

DECISION DAYS 2016 March 24-27 Theme: It's YOUR Time

... "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

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**Jerry Pascarella
Special Speaker**



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"A place where God can help Himself to young lives." Founder D. C. Branham



By President Daniel E. Taylor

VARIOUS “MEANS” OF DECEPTION

*“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. **Let no man deceive you by any means:** for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3).*

What is meant by the word **“means?”** Possible definitions for **“mean”** can be: “ordinary, humble, contemptible,” as in Acts 21:39, But Paul said, *“I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no **mean** city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people,”* “to show or indicate” as in Acts 10:17, *“Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should **mean**, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon’s house, and stood before the gate.”* “Mean” can also be defined as “malicious, or nasty.”

In Second Thessalonians 2:3, the word **“means”** describes a “tool, agency, agent, or instrument!” The point that Paul is making in verse three is, **“Don’t let anyone deceive you with any tool, agency, agent, or instrument!”** Basically, it is telling us not to let anyone use anything to deceive us! You may wonder why the Holy Ghost even put the phrase **“any means”** in the verse. Why not just say, *“Let no man deceive you,”* and leave the **“any means”** out of it? The reason the Bible puts emphasis on **“any means”** is because it is a human tendency to get careless. If a warning

doesn’t blaze up in our eyes or burst our eardrums we tend to ignore it! Drive around your community and look at all the ways that authorities try to warn us! There are caution lights, speed bumps, brake lights, turn signals, speed limit signs, school crossing signs, no U-turn signs; all of these and a hundred more are **means** of shouting warnings at us!

Paul is telling the Thessalonians and us that spiritual dangers come in a variety of ways, and we need to be careful! The devil will use any **“means”** that work! He still uses the love of money, lust, pride, addictions, anger, hate, dishonesty, lying, and any thing else that your flesh is susceptible to! He even uses such things as peer pressure, desire for acceptance, fear of failure or love of praise.

“Any means” implies that the devil has a lot of tools or agents that he can use. If you are careful to stay in church, then the devil will try to deceive you concerning some area of your spiritual life. If Satan can’t trick you into being liberal and worldly, then he will deceive you into being harsh, hard, and mean-spirited!

We have a ruthless enemy that is determined to destroy us any way he can. The devil is energetic and determined. He will risk sending one of his captives to church where they might get saved if he thinks there is a good chance that the person he sends will deceive someone in the church and lead them into sin. The devil is vile, and he has no scruples, nothing is off limits to him. There is nothing he won’t stoop to do. But our biggest problem is not the strength of our opponent or the awfulness of his wickedness. Our biggest problem is our spiritual weakness!

One problem with grown men and women in church is that they act like children. They feed on fluff and candy-coated spiritual baby food.

They ignore a real warning from the pulpit like it was spiritual spinach! People today don’t like to be warned about spiritual deception. They don’t mind signs that caution them on a stairway to “watch your step,” but if a preacher warns them about their worldly ways and where they will lead, they get mad and say, “Preacher you’re too negative!”

Isaiah 30:10 describes this generation pretty well. *“Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits.”* Anyone that believes the Bible and desires to live by it is under fire in today’s world! The devil hates a Bible-believing Christian because they are **“the salt of the earth.”** When the church is raptured out of the world, Satan will have a free hand to work his wickedness and deception in the world. Paul describes how the power of the anti-Christ works in Second Thessalonians 2:10, *“And with **all deceivableness of unrighteousness** in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”*

The devil will use **“any means”** he can to deceive you. He will use things you don’t suspect to be dangerous to deceive you. *“All deceivableness of unrighteousness”* means evil’s undiluted power to deceive. No one is so spiritual that Satan will not try to deceive you. And sadly, few people are aware that Satan is trying to deceive them.

If you want to escape being deceived **“BY ANY MEANS”** here is what you must do. First, you have to read your Bible through and then read it regularly! *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then ye are my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).* (Cont. on page 3)

Second, you need to receive the baptism in the Holy Ghost and keep your heart open to the Spirit's leading! *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you"* (John 14:26).

Third, you need to make a total commitment to always desire the truth no matter how much it contradicts what your carnal nature wants to do! *"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged"* (Romans 3:4).

Please take a prayerful look at current events in your life. Ask the Lord to give you insight and discernment. Be especially careful in regard to things that are familiar or things that seem harmless. The words **"any means"** are intended to warn us to look for the danger to come in a form that does not look dangerous at first glance!

Alumnus Speaks Out



By Kenneth Crews
OBI Graduate
2010

"THOU CROWNEST THE YEAR WITH THY GOODNESS..."

(Psalm 65:11).

Undoubtedly over the past several weeks and over the next few weeks many of us will reflect on the events of 2015. We will reminisce about the good things and the bad things that took place. We will remember the emotional highs and lows of the year. We will experience certain events over and over again in our minds, feeling the same feelings, crying the same tears, laughing the same laughter. We will take inventory of the goals that we set at the beginning of the year: did we make it or fall short? After all is said and done we will draw a conclusion as to whether the year of 2015 was one we will cherish or one we would rather forget about. **Whichever category the year will fall into hinges largely on our perspective of things in light of eternity.**

Odds are high that we all had some of these experiences this past year:

- Loss of a loved one
- Failure to make some things happen on our to do lists
- Pain
- Tears of sorrow
- Tears of joy
- Some sort of sickness
- Healing

- Wounded hearts
- Restored relationships
- Overcoming the things that overwhelmed us
- Victories won
- Goals met

Notice, there are some good things and some bad things on that list. Common practice would be to see which category outnumbered the other and allow that to determine the status of 2015: good or bad. But with an eternal perspective, no matter the outcome, 2015 must be categorized as a good year. It may not have been your best year; it may not be far from being considered your worst year, but 2015 was still a good year. I imagine that about this time someone is saying in their mind, "He has no idea what I've been through this year!" Those of you who are thinking that are so right! I do not know what you have been through. We've all had our share of ups and downs this year. But allow me to explain why this past year (and years to come) must be considered a good year.

WE SERVE A GOOD GOD.

One of my favorite church marquee quotes is this, "Changing calendar, unchanging God!" We are told in the book of James that God is the Giver of every good and perfect thing, and that in Him is neither variableness nor the shadow of turning. Think about that for a moment! Within God there isn't even a capacity to change! (James 1:17). His holiness, righteousness,

justness, mercy, and love do not move along with current situations and emotions in our lives; rather, He is constantly good! His goodness results in our blessings! *"O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in Him"* (Psalms 34:8).

We serve a good God Who knows what the future events of 2016 will lead to.

The struggles and trials of 2015 may have left their marks on your heart. You may still yet be crying over events that transpired over the past twelve months. Be encouraged though, God knows the future. His ways are higher than all of humanity. He knows what will come out of those battles you faced. To borrow the cliché: God will turn your test into a testimony, your mess into a message, your trial into a triumph. Remember, even though 2015 may have been a little difficult (or very difficult), in the future you will look back and realize that God used those things to make you a vessel that He can use for His glory!

FINALLY, WE SERVE A GOOD GOD WHO IS WORKING EVERYTHING OUT FOR OUR GOOD.

I don't know how many times I have had to remind myself of this promise from the book of Romans. God will bring good out of bad situations. He has done it ever since the fall in the Garden of Eden! While you may not be able to say it today, in a few months or even a few years you will look back and say, **"2015 was a good year because of the Lord!"**



“TIME IS FILLED WITH SWIFT TRANSITION”

*By Gene Canter
OCM
Director of
Development*

Time is quickly passing by and we are already in OBI's spring semester. One is reminded of the old song; "Time is filled with swift transition, naught of earth unmoved can stand, build your hope on things eternal, Hold to God's unchanging hand." Thankfully, though many things around us seem to be changing quickly, God remains the same.

We have over 20 young people who have expressed their desire to minister on the mission field in the summer of 2016. Part of the young people's mission experience is raising

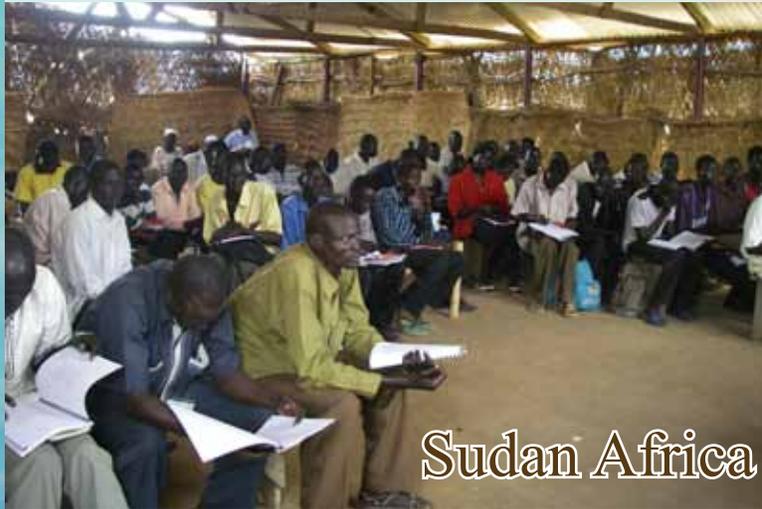
money for their personal expense among family, church, and friends. However, OCM must raise funds to cover additional costs: food, hotel, and travel for supervisory personnel, as well as the resident missionary's expenses. For instance, resident missionaries in India often travel 12 to 14 hours by train from their mission work to receive our groups at an international airport. We are responsible to cover their expenses which generally includes cost of travel, food and housing; a minimum of 2 nights in hotels in Mumbai. Supervisory personnel who accompany the students donate their time and no one receives a salary.

We also have several requests for pastor schools during the summer of 2016. All costs for pastor schools come from OCM contributions. These costs include air and ground travel, hotel and food for Bible school instructors, and

for resident missionaries. In countries like India, because the pastors are so extremely poor, we send funds in advance to pay for the pastors' travel to and from the school and provide food and housing while they attend the pastor school. Often, we receive tearful testimony from these poor pastors expressing their gratitude for the "life changing Bible lessons and the chance to attend Bible School classes." Again, our OBI instructors joyfully volunteer their time; no one receives a salary.

Let me once again thank you for remembering this mission work in prayer and offerings. I also want to thank you pastors who have included, or plan to include, OCM in your monthly missions budget. May the Lord grant His abundant blessing throughout 2016.

Blessings, Brother Gene Canter



Sudan Africa



India



Korea



Massai Land Africa



By Mike Pennington
OBI Guatemala
Field Director

“NEW”

“...I will put a new spirit within you” (Ezekiel 11:19).
“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is new creature” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

“Behold, I make all things new” (Revelation 21:5).

As we head into a new year, there are a lot of challenges and uncertainties that lie in the future. The world is always changing before our eyes. Circumstances can swiftly shift with the actions and reactions of humanity’s instability. Political and social upheaval fluctuate with the restless nature of the sin-cursed race of mankind.

There are also opportunities and sureties ahead of us. The kingdom of Heaven never deviates from the truth of God’s Word and is advancing according to God’s timetable. The changes that come about in our lives from obedience to God’s plan and purpose always prove to be beneficial and helpful to ourselves and others.

A new semester of classes will begin at the School of Evangelism in Guatemala on January 11, 2016. There are 14 returning students and 10+ new students pre-registered at present. Our national faculty and staff are eagerly anticipating the start of this semester. We will be there with them for most of this Spring, working with the school and our churches, as well as traveling on outreach services promoting the Bible school and various projects that we have planned.

The following are some special needs that we would like to address this year as God provides:

1. **Purchase property for the Prados Church-\$30,000**
2. **Pickup truck replacement-\$10,000**
3. **Landscaping Project-\$1,140**
4. **Weekday radio broadcast (Monthly cost) \$275**

If you would like to help out financially with any of these special needs at this time, please specify your contribution and it will be designated accordingly. We are very grateful for everyone who faithfully prays for and supports this mission work. Our God knows what we do for His kingdom and His record books are always in order. God bless and keep you as you labor for Him this year is our prayer.

For souls, The Penningtons



OBI Guatemala National Staff



Students On Personal Evangelism



Students On Personal Evangelism



Students Seeking God



Sister Pennington Holding Newest Prados Church Member



Brother Pennington Preaching Outreach Service

OBI Guatemala Donation Coupon

- Add to the fund to purchase property for Prados Church \$ _____
- Add to the fund for the purchase of a replacement pickup truck \$ _____
- Add to the fund for the landscaping project \$ _____
- Add to the fund for the weekday radio broadcast \$ _____

Thanks and God Bless you is our prayer!



By Janine Niswonger
OBI Graduate
2015

“LET GO OF THE SPOON!”

This is not a weight loss tip! It is a practical reminder that your greatest need is the Holy Spirit working in your life. At the end of John 15:5, Jesus says, “*for without me ye can do nothing.*” Jesus left this earth, and His promise—the Holy Spirit came, filling the lives of yielded believers. Although Jesus is no longer with us in a human form, our complete dependence on Him has never changed. This is why He sent that “*other Comforter!*” This is why our need for the Holy Spirit is far greater than we even begin to realize.

God often teaches us valuable lessons through the things in life with which we are most familiar. This lesson regarding our need for the Holy Spirit came to me last fall while I was hard at work making pans of fudge for a missions fundraiser. Fudge-making requires much time and patience. On this particular occasion, I had just enough time to finish if all went well. I had the right pans and ingredients, plenty of previous successes to draw from, and

nothing to worry about. Or, so I thought. I turned on the heat and began stirring. *Come on! Let’s get this done!* I gripped the spoon and stirred faster. The clock was ticking. There is one thing you should know about fudge-making: If the sugar crystals never dissolve, the fudge deteriorates into a nasty, grainy mess. There is one thing you should know about sugar-decrystallization: You cannot force sugar to dissolve. The heat alone can accomplish this. As I continued to stir, mentally willing the sugar to dissolve, I looked into the pan in despair. It was failing! It became grainier and grainier by the minute. *But, I know what I’m doing! I put in the right ingredients!* Any hope I had of smooth and delicious fudge was gone. A couple more failures and a few hours later, I finally learned my lesson: I had never let the heat do what only it could do. I should have let go of the spoon until the heat had finished its part! I attempted to replace the power of the heat with my knowledge, experience, ability, efforts, and determination. As truly important as those things were, the result was still a big mess until the heat was given a chance to melt it all down.

Does any of this sound familiar to you yet? You don’t have to be a culinary artist to realize that this happens all the

time in our spiritual lives. The heat is the Holy Spirit. The millions of tiny sugar crystals are the numerous parts and pursuits of your busy life. That special fudge-making pan, the candy thermometer, and the sturdy spoon are the tools—the talents, knowledge, and abilities, which God has put in your hands to accomplish His will in your life. The final product of a beautiful, delicious pan of fudge is the big picture goal, and the intended end analysis of your life. Heat is an essential element in fudge-making just as the Holy Spirit is an essential element in living life. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, success is an absolute impossibility, regardless of your efforts or abilities.

So, go ahead and write your to-do list, make your commitments, prepare your schedule. Plan to stay busy doing God’s work, to be diligent, to do your part, to do the best you can possibly do. In the midst of all of this, remember that the success of your plans and efforts is determined by the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. Keep Him at the center of all you say and do. Give Him time and room to work. Be sensitive to when and how He wants to move. If at some point you find yourself in a frustrating grainy heap of failing plans and efforts, **let go of the spoon and let the Holy Ghost have His way!**

Student Testimony



Allison Dixon
Senior

“A VISION”

A story is told of a man with a vision to construct a great park. Resources were lacking and failure seemed inevitable, but he drafted the blueprints anyway. The man died, but his dream lived on and construction began. A few short years later, the impossible was completed. At the opening ceremonies, a reporter questioned the man’s widow, “Isn’t it a shame that your husband couldn’t

be here to see this?” Shaking her head, she replied, “He did see this, that’s why it’s here.” **A vision, it is simply a determination to invest in potential that only you and God can see.**

I thank God for a school with a burden for what is yet unseen. My life has been forever changed by those at Ozark Bible Institute who saw in me what I never saw in myself. The faculty and staff have selflessly given their time and energy to provide an environment where God could transform my life, and I am so thankful that they did. I

am not the same person I was three years ago. My faith is personal now—it is not something I inherited or that I was simply taught. It is what I have experienced for myself. God has widened my perspective, deepened my burden, and stamped upon my heart the reality of eternity. It is overwhelming to reflect upon how God has changed me through the faculty and staff here. **My prayer as I leave OBI, is for the vision that burns in their hearts to be ignited in me, that I may change lives as they have changed mine.**



THE RICH YOUNG RULER THAT GAVE ALL HIS TREASURES TO JESUS

By Editor
Wallace E. Joice

Those who have any familiarity with the synoptic gospels will find that all three tell of the coming of the rich young ruler to Jesus. Vance Havner says of him that he had **MANNERS**. We find that **he came running**. This speaks of his earnestness. Then, **he came kneeling**. This speaks of his reverence. Again, **he came courteously**. He addressed Jesus as “*Good Master*” (teacher). He had **MORALS**. Note that Jesus rejected the term “*Good Master*.” He said that only God was “*good*.” What He was saying was, do you recognize me as more than a “*Good teacher?*” Do you recognize me as God Incarnate?

Then, He pointed him to the commandments. He then replied, “*Master, all these have I observed from my youth.*” Again, he had **MONEY**. Yet in all his morality, he sensed a lack.

Then we read, “*Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou*

hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me” (Mark 10:21). His reaction to this was, “*And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions*” (Mark 10:22).

He was **LOVED**. He was **LACKING**. And he was **LOST**. The last thing Jesus ever saw of him on earth was his back. He turned his back on the Savior, and went into oblivion and hell.

Twice over, Jesus spoke of the difficulty of those who are rich being saved. In verses 24 and 25, He said, “*Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God!*”

The disciples were greatly astonished at this, but Jesus assured them, “*With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible.*”

I would like to tell you of

another rich young ruler. His name was Count Nikolaus vonZinzendorf. At first, he studied and practiced law, then he bought his grandmother’s estate, and turned it into a refuge for religious exiles. He then turned his attention to religious matters. Later, he was ordained to the Lutheran ministry.

Still later, his estate became the center of religious fervor, and missionary zeal. One reason I am so impressed with the Moravians (for so the people who settled his estate were called), is that they were the first to bring the Christian message to the Cherokee Indians. I am a member of the Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Oklahoma, and have been since 1978. Their work still continues as the Oaks Mission in Western Delaware County. The Moravians were missionaries over 60 years before William Carey.

Yes, it is possible with God for a Count, a rich young ruler, to give his life and wealth to Jesus. Count Nikolaus vonZinzendorf’s motto was: “**I have but one passion; it is He, He only.**”

Chapel Worship



Alumni In Action



New Territory

By Randy Snow
OBI Alumni
President

“And they
commanded the
people, saying,
When ye see the ark

of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. ⁴ Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore. ⁵ And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you” (Joshua 3:3-5).

Wow! Imagine two to three million Hebrews on the east bank of the Jordan river staring at the roaring water. Honestly, we wouldn't try to cross that in a good boat, let alone by foot. On the other side of this river are giants and unmovable cities with fortified walls. Some must have thought, “I wonder what will happen next?” Joshua told them that tomorrow would be “D-day” and that they would have to cross this swelling Jordan. But how would this be possible? After all, “We have not

passed this way heretofore.” I'm sure that few slept that night. But like every day, dawn soon quickly broke bringing in a new day.

Last year is over. It cannot be relived or recalled. And we, like the children of Israel, are entering uncharted territory. How are we going to make it? How are we going to cross over into this new territory that God would have for us to possess? Joshua provides for us a model of how to enter into new territory.

First, Joshua tells us in verse five, “sanctify yourselves.” He is speaking concerning the need for us to wholly dedicate ourselves to God. In navigating through new territory, we must first learn to yield our rights to His rights. To echo with John, “*He must increase, but I must decrease*” (John 3:30). This is hard for many, because we are quick to think that we know what is best. However, we must trust God and turn over the controls of our life unto Him. Take your hands off the steering wheel and let God be the guide into this new territory. In this new territory, we are undoubtedly going to face things that are beyond our understanding; but they won't be beyond Him, for they will not catch

Him by surprise.

Secondly, Joshua was told to follow the ark. The ark was always to be at the center of God's movement. Within the ark we find the law, which speaks of God's direction. We find the pot of manna, which signifies God's provision. And we see the rod of Aaron that budded, which speaks of God's defense. Friends, we are not a bunch of aimless lost sheep wandering around in a circle. We are the children of the Most High God, and He is the one directing you into this new territory. That doesn't mean we can sit around and do nothing. You see, while God parted the Jordan, He didn't carry them across. We must get up in faith and trust Him to lead us into this New Year. Our God is a master at taking yesterday's setbacks and turning them into today's successes. He can turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones.

I know “we've never been this way before,” but don't be afraid. March on into victory in 2016. What seemed like a raging flood to Israel, was actually a testimony of divine providence we are still talking about today. **What new territories will the next generation gain from our victories?**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

Evan and Emily (Woosley) Hensley have a new baby girl, Everly Janel, born November 7, 2015.

Alex and Jessie (Hoover) Cooper have a new baby boy, Landry Jack, born August 28, 2015.

Davey and Candy Rapp have a new baby girl, Elizabeth Bryann, born October 30, 2015.

Kyle and Emily (Gaines) Jordan

have a new baby boy, Ezekiel Case, born October 23, 2015.

MARRIAGES

RoseAnn Holden and Bradley Murphy were married July 18, 2015.

Joshua Holden and Gabriel Bourgault were joined in marriage August 22, 2015.

Trey Lowery and Allison Guthrie were united in marriage November 14, 2015.

Jonathan Hutson and Hannah

Brewer were made one in marriage December 11, 2015.

DEATHS

Heidi J. (Hoffman) Sappington passed suddenly from this life to her eternal reward on August 25, 2015. Our sympathy and condolences to Tim and family.

Dexter O. Lester 1983 OBI graduate, graduated to his heavenly home on November 23, 2015. Our sympathy and condolences to the family.

2015-2016
Officers

Randy Snow, President
dsnows@msn.com

Mark Hutson, Vice-President
lisahutson61@aol.com

Sheila Shelton, Secretary
shelton_0204@yahoo.com

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