

October to December 2023  
APF Prayer and Newsletter



African  
Pastors  
Fellowship

# Impetus.

## Raising Christian Leaders in Malawi

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Around Africa and  
in the UK

Helping Farmers  
in Malawi through  
Environmental Crises

Meeting Jesus in  
all the Scriptures  
through eVitabu

# From the CEO

Welcome to the final edition of *Impetus* for 2023.



Doesn't time fly! In fact, this is the twentieth edition of *Impetus* since 'APF News and Prayer' was rebranded back in 2019.

As always, thank you for reading and for your continued support.

I hope you find the news in the 'Around Africa' and 'In the UK' pages encouraging. I also hope you find the articles a helpful focus for prayer, alongside the specific prayer needs shared by some of our friends and partners in Africa.

A handwritten signature in white ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a cursive 'S'.

Revd Dave Stedman



# Around Africa

## Digital Tools

### eVitabu uploads

New material is constantly being added to the eVitabu library by our IT partner in Kenya. Recently added resources include resources from contributors such as Food Plant Solutions, Oasis International and Shell Books, as well as Bible study notes and sermon outlines in Kinyarwanda written by APF partner Victor Imanaturikumwe and a ministry called Ashes to Angels.



Victor Imanaturikumwe



Campus at St Paul's Theological College

### St Paul's Theological College IT Suite

Thanks to regular restricted donations for St Paul's Theological College in Kapsabet, Kenya, funds have continued to be sent to further develop the college IT suite and high-speed internet access for students. Across Africa students enrolling for university courses are required to have a smartphone so developing access and capacity is crucial for institutions such as St Paul's.

### Gadgets to Rwanda

Despite having the church building closed due to government legislation in Rwanda, Revd Emmanuel Gatera has utilised digital platforms to continue to train pastors in theology. APF was recently able to supply a refurbished laptop and projector for Emmanuel to enhance the training being provided.



Emmanuel Gatera



# Around Africa (continued)

## Digital Training

In Zambia, Lawson Limau is planning an eVitabu introduction and induction workshop with village pastors. The pastors have previously benefitted from the agricultural training Lawson delivered last year where he adapted material from Foundations for Farming from eVitabu. This will be the first time Lawson has facilitated an eVitabu event so please pray for him and that the training will be a great success.

In November, Kesiah Luoga will travel from Tanzania to Burundi to train pastors wives' – the conference will focus on practical issues around marriage, income generation and pastoral care of women in the church.

## Digital Theology

### Digital Theology Taster Days

Dave Stedman will be visiting Uganda and South Sudan in November to introduce eVitabu and Digital Theology Taster Days for students and faculty staff at Uganda Christian University and for regional overseers of the Uganda Assemblies of God at Bishop Behan University College. In South Sudan, Digital Theology Taster Days are planned for an ecumenical gathering of pastors in Juba, hosted by Pastor Alex Sokiri of New Nation Church.



Daniel Odour Gwara

In western Kenya, Daniel Odour Gwara continues to train groups of local leaders using resources from eVitabu. Meanwhile, with the help of a training grant from APF, Simon Laboso recently hosted the annual Central Rift Baptist Convention leaders conference at Kericho Baptist Church.

### Spurgeon's College Partnership

An exciting partnership is developing with Spurgeon's College in London to offer their Equipped for Digital Ministry course to APF partners based in Africa at an affordable rate. It is hoped that applications will be open soon with a view to enrolment starting this autumn. At present, APF has nearly 50 strong expressions of interest and we will report on uptake and progress in future editions of *Impetus*.



## Children's Ministry Grants



In Uganda, grants have been sent to help improve the infrastructure and procure resources for the new nursery and pre-school facility at Love and Care for the

Child Ministry in Entebbe and to make a substantial grant to Faith Babies Home (pictured) in Iganga for food, clothes, shoes and medical costs to support the children at the orphanage.

## Bikes to South Sudan

Rt Rev Data Amosa Elinama, Bishop of Morobo Diocese in Central Equatoria Internal Province, South Sudan writes: 'We are thankful to your great support to the rural pastors with bicycles to facilitate their movements in the ministry. We pray for God's blessings upon your lives.'



## Kingdom Business in Kenya

TCN pioneers a vocational theology and development course certified by Kenya Highlands University. In September, 72 people attended their 'Kingdom Business' workshop at Ainamoi. TCN founder, Walter Rutto has been invited to teach the course in Papua New Guinea and is awaiting a visa to travel.



## Support for Baptist Conference in Kenya

APF was glad to have been able to sponsor part of the Central Rift Baptist Convention conference held in Kericho, Kenya. Revd Simon Laboso who leads the network says, 'Thank you for being a partner and making this a success.'



## In the UK

**We are delighted to welcome two new trustees to our board, Kingston Ogango and Peter Flew.**

### Kingston Ogango



Kingston Ogango is Africa Regional Director at Alpha International and in-charge of ministry, serving as Alpha's National Ministry Lead for Kenya.

He is the former

Head of Media at Christ Is The Answer Ministries in Nairobi, overseeing Hope FM and Hope TV for over six years. He has also served as a deacon among other church leadership roles. Recently he was one of 80 contributing writers from 27 countries to *Light for the Writers Soul: 100 Devotions by Global Christian Writers* published by Media Associates International.

Kingston holds a masters degree in Organisational Leadership from the International Leadership University in Nairobi in addition to other qualifications in leadership, sound engineering and production, digital media management and broadcasting from institutions in the US, the UK, Italy and South Africa.

Kingston graduated as a designer and practised for over 25 years, winning several awards both locally and internationally. Kingston has a particular interest in mentoring and developing young leaders. Following this passion, he founded The Summit Leadership Trust in 2009. He is married to Tabitha, his wife of 23 years, and has two sons, Andrew (22) and Jeremy (17).

### Peter Flew



Professor Peter Flew also joins the APF board of trustees. Peter is Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean of the School of Education at the University of

Roehampton in south-west London, one of England's largest providers of Initial Teacher Education, training hundreds of teachers for schools across the country each year.

Prior to joining the university in 2013, Peter was a primary headteacher in Godalming, Surrey. He trained to teach in 2002 following a career in banking and finance IT. Peter has a varied portfolio of non-executive roles including as trustee of the Royal Academy of Dance, a director of Wastebuster CIC (a provider of recycling educational resources for schools) and sitting on the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. Peter has worked in Uganda and India with STiR Education, a teacher development charity. He hopes to bring his expertise in education, safeguarding and IT to support the mission of APF.



## **A *peak* performance from our Chair of Trustees**

APF Chair of Trustees Rev Canon Richard Suffern recently completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks, raising well over £1,000 for APF in sponsorship. He writes:

"Many thanks for all the support in prayer, giving and interest I received before, during and after my Yorkshire Three Peaks walk in July. In weather fair and foul I made it to the top of all three and I am grateful for the sponsorship which has raised some funds for APF. I was uncertain whether my aging legs would take me up all three within the 24 hours I had set for myself, but they did. (Thanks also to some training in the Lake District the previous week in between excellent Bible teaching and inspirational worship and talks at the Keswick Convention!) Being out and about in the beauty of God's creation was wonderful. The waterproofing of my walking gear was tested to the limits (and beyond!) but it was well worth it."



## **Parenting in the Digital Age**

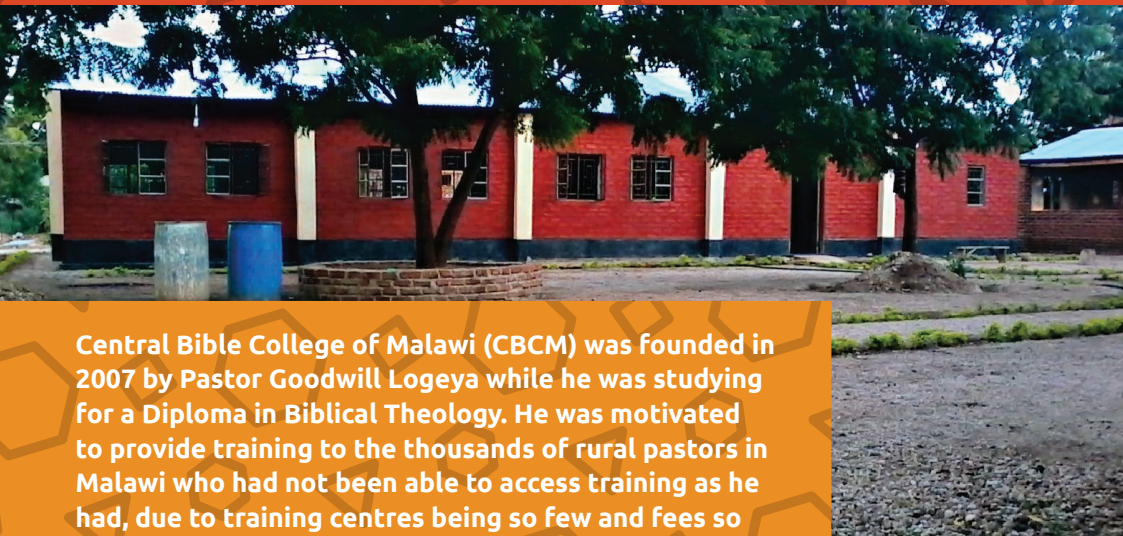
New APF trustee Kingston Ogango will be leading 'Parenting in the Digital Age', an innovative and important workshop at Canterbury Baptist Church on Saturday 4th November. It is aimed at parents, carers, aunts, uncles, grandparents – in fact anyone with a concern for children, especially with regard to their exposure to the internet.

Topics covered include 'What Must Parents do to Remain Relevant?' and 'Parenting Digital Natives'. If you would like to attend please email [dave@africanpastors.org](mailto:dave@africanpastors.org) for more information.

If the workshop is of interest but you are in another part of the country, please also make contact to book Kingston when he is next in the UK.



# Raising Christian Leaders in Malawi



**Central Bible College of Malawi (CBCM) was founded in 2007 by Pastor Goodwill Logeya while he was studying for a Diploma in Biblical Theology. He was motivated to provide training to the thousands of rural pastors in Malawi who had not been able to access training as he had, due to training centres being so few and fees so unaffordable. Pastor Goodwill writes:**

**I experienced a difficult life in college. I was expelled from class, thrown out of dorms, chased out of the kitchen and denied access to an exam. All because I missed school fee deadlines. At one point, I found employment at the school as a computer administrator and my wage was credited to my school fee account. This, in addition to buying and selling various goods at school and typing projects for my fellow students, just about kept me going.**

Once I was stranded in town after being chased out from Bible school owing school fees. I went to some leaders of a Pentecostal church to ask for help but they refused. Then I went to Capital City Baptist Church in Lilongwe and explained my ordeal. The pastor gave me a cheque of 10,000 kwacha (about £8). A concerned Muslim also gave me K10,000 which meant I could return to study.

Eventually, I completed the diploma and was able to study for a master's degree in theology at the University of Malawi. During this time, I joined forces with leaders from Baptist, Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, Adventist and other denominations to offer basic training in the Bible and in ministry to rural church leaders. We would hire a venue and invite the pastors to come and stay with us in cities like Blantyre. We used our own money to pay for the training.

Finding this approach cost too much, we decided to move from the city to rural areas, basing our work in Chikwawa and bringing the training to the people. Chikwawa is a rural district in southern Malawi and its accessible location meant it was easier for us to meet with Christian leaders from village churches in both Malawi and Mozambique.



This is how Central Bible College started, offering affordable training to rural church leaders from Malawi and Mozambique. Things were going really well with a growing number of pastors graduating. Then, in 2020 we were interrupted by Covid and Cyclone Anna. In 2022, Cyclone Gombe hit. Then, in February this year, Cyclone Freddy came. The storm swept through the whole building leaving us completely stranded. We agreed that we could no longer continue in Chikwawa because the area is so vulnerable to flooding. So recently we reestablished our training programme in Blantyre.

We have tailored the curriculum to the needs of the local church, responding to the trends in society and with a practical emphasis on mission. More precisely, the formational and ministerial training we provide combines with mission and evangelism outreach during weekends where students demonstrate and practice what they learn.



Pastor Goodwill Logeya

The curriculum is rich in content, enough to impact the head with knowledge, touch the heart with passion and give ministerial skills to the hands. Towards the end of their studies, each student presents a research topic which they put into action in their church after graduation.

As we continue to provide affordable training that really helps untrained rural pastors, we have learnt that there is huge spiritual hunger in Malawi. There are many unreached areas especially in remote village communities, but churches are clustered in towns. We must take a risk and equip leaders for ministry in rural areas.

Then, we know that untrained Christian leaders are spreading errant messages. Sadly, Bible verses can be used to damage and hurt if they are not well understood.

We have also found that churches in Malawi struggle to work outside of their denominations. For example, it is hard to go to a Presbyterian church with an advert while you worship in a Baptist church. We work hard to break down these divisions.

There is a very big misconception among many people. When you give personal funds to support ministry, some assume that you are sponsored by Western donors. This misconception has led to many Christian leaders envying each other for no reason. Funding is desperately needed for ministry but without openness and transparency, relationships can be damaged.

From everyone at CBCM, thank you!



# Helping Farmers in Malawi through Environmental Crises

**Rev Lloyd Chizenga leads New Life Christian Church and has been an APF partner for nearly 40 years. With funding from Operation Agri and support from APF, he teaches conservation agriculture with a gospel message in villages across southern Malawi. Here's Lloyd's latest update.**

**I am Pastor Lloyd Chizenga, General Director of New Life Christian Church, a network of about two hundred churches across southern and central Malawi. We also have some congregations in Mozambique. With my small team from Blantyre, we continue to use New Life's strong reputation in rural communities to provide training on conservation agriculture to village groups.**

## **Changing weather**

The last few years have been very tough in Malawi. Erratic weather conditions driven by climate change are becoming a problem all over the world, but especially here in Malawi we are seeing huge impacts. In 2022, Tropical Storm Ana destroyed many crops, left thousands homeless and damaged infrastructure.

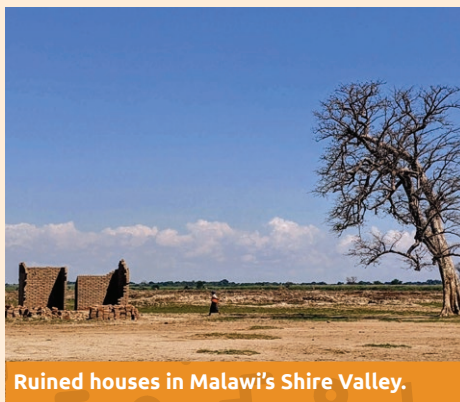
Then early this year, Cyclone Freddy hit. This affected the Shire Valley area very badly as flooding and landslides washed away many homes. Six months' worth of rain fell in just six days, ripping up roads and drowning farms. The government estimated that over one thousand people lost their lives in southern Malawi during the storm.

When you look at the annual statistics, you might see normal amounts of rain for the year and think everything is fine, but this is not the case at all. The rain used to be predictable and reliable. Now we are finding that we get all of it in torrential storms and then nothing in longer and hotter dry periods. We blame climate change for these shifts which have contributed to a serious decline in food availability.

This year's maize harvest saw a fifty percent decline in some areas and a corresponding price spike. Prices in Nsanje, in the far south of the country, for example, shot up 400 percent during March. This might sound profitable for a farmer looking to sell surplus crops, but most smallholders cannot do this. They rely on high interest loans to buy food for their families until they harvest, but without crops to sell and with debts to pay, life becomes very precarious.

## Soil Degradation

Changing weather patterns are just one of the reasons we continue to work so hard on our conservation agriculture training programme. Soil degradation is another challenge. Where fields are not protected with a good mulch cover, heavier rainfall and longer, hotter dry periods mean that soils are being washed or blown away. The Shire River basin is a hotspot for this problem. While soil erosion is a challenge for an individual farmer, it is causing knock on problems across the entire country. Nearly all our power is generated from hydroelectric power stations on the Shire River and Lake Malawi but the sediment running off the fields is reducing their capacity and means power cuts.



**Ruined houses in Malawi's Shire Valley.**

# Helping Farmers in Malawi through Environmental Crises (continued)

## Growing Greener Continues

These are just some of the reasons that the training programme we provide in villages is even more important now than when we started in 2016. This year, with further funding from Operation Agri and support from African Pastors Fellowship, we are working with a new cohort of villages in Nsanje, Chikwawa, Blantyre Rural, Ntcheu, Balaka, Mangochi and Machinga Districts.

The training we give has adapted with our experience and the changing pressures on farmers. We still focus on good soil management, such as creating planting stations rather than following the traditional practice of earthing-up which damages soil structure, and mulching. As the price of fertiliser has doubled, knowledge about making thermal compost is a lifeline.

Now, however, we also promote 'climate smart' agriculture by teaching about trees like the acacia tree *Faidherbia albida* which add fertility to the soil and protect crops. We include more about managing farm finances, helping farmers to think carefully about borrowing, saving and marketing surplus crops. We also think it is important to create opportunities for communities to come together and discuss the traumas they have faced over the last few years and begin to heal.

*\* This article was also included in Operation Agri's magazine, Outreach Abroad.*

One of the most exciting aspects of the training is that we now include teaching about animal care. This is because farmers who follow the training make a profit which they invest. Livestock provide an excellent income stream as not only can the young be sold but they also produce manure for compost. One important aspect of our training is linking our faith and farming practices to our responsibility to care for creation. It is so important that Christian farmers know that caring for the land God has given them is central to their faith.

## Thank you

Over the past seven years, the Growing Greener project has seen so many changes in the lives of people and communities involved. As soil fertility and yields have grown, lives in the villages have changed.

We see food security, livestock purchased, school fees paid, and homes roofed with iron sheets. We are especially grateful for the additional support we received to help farmers in the Lower Shire Valley buy seed to replace the crops lost to flooding after Cyclone Freddy.

Thank you for all your support.

## Lloyd





# Meeting Jesus in all the Scriptures through eVitabu



Rev Dr Paul Blackham is an Anglican vicar, formerly of St Crispin's in Islington and All Souls' Langham Place. He is an author of 'Book by Book' study guides published by Biblical Frameworks which are included in APF's library app, eVitabu. Paul writes, explaining why he feels the partnership with APF through eVitabu is so significant.

**The Bible is the most important book in the world. It takes us through the whole history of the universe from beginning to end, but it also speaks clearly about our lives: Why are we here? How should we live? And most important of all, God's written word points us to His Living Word.**

At Biblical Frameworks we aim to give as many people as possible an opportunity to meet Jesus in all the Scriptures. That's why we developed the Book by Book series of Bible study resources. We are thrilled to be able to share the Book by Book study guides with pastors and churches via the eVitabu platform. What a joy to know that these resources are now reaching so many and helping pastors and churches to get more out of Bible study.

Book by Book is designed for use by individuals, small groups or even whole church congregations. The idea is that we take a whole book of the Bible and unpack the key themes and main messages. We address the author's purpose, context, and most importantly what the LORD is wanting to say to us through His word.

The study guides, which are all available via the eVitabu app, are set out in six or ten sections with a clear commentary and questions for discussion. A complementary series of videos is available free on YouTube at the Biblical Frameworks' channel which you can find at [www.youtube.com/@biblicalframeworks](https://www.youtube.com/@biblicalframeworks). There is a 15 minute video available for each section of the corresponding study guide.

Book by Book makes studying whole books of the Bible accessible to reveal Jesus throughout and enrich our understanding of Who He is. Many pastors find the material really helpful in preparing for preaching and teaching as well using the studies directly with groups of people in their care.

We at Biblical Frameworks feel privileged to share in the work of the African Pastors' Fellowship by supporting the unique mobile app eVitabu. Our prayer is that many people across Africa will meet Jesus in all the Scriptures through the app and especially through the Book by Book resources available on eVitabu.

# APF Dates

**Sun 1st Oct** – Dave speaking at Herne Bay Baptist Church

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**Sun 8th Oct** – Dave speaking at All Saint's Eaglescliff, Preston-On-Tees

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**Sun 15th Oct** – Dave speaking at City Church, Canterbury

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**Tues 17th Oct** – Trustee Meeting, The Vicarage, Long Itchington, Works.

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**Sun 22nd Oct** – Dave speaking at Canterbury Baptist Church

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**Sat 4th Nov** – 'Parenting in the Digital Age' at Canterbury Baptist Church

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**Sun 22nd Oct** – Dave speaking at Swalecliffe Free Church



**Mon 6th Nov** – Dave travels to Uganda

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**13th-15th Nov** – eVitabu workshops at Bishop Behan University College, Kabale

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**Fri 17th Nov** – eVitabu workshop at Uganda Christian University, Mukono

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**21st-22nd Nov** – Digital Theology Taster and eVitabu workshops with Uganda Assemblies of God

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**27th-30th Nov** – Visit to New Nation Church and eVitabu workshop in Juba, South Sudan

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**Tues 5th Dec** – Prayer Breakfast at Cephas Leadership Foundation, Uganda

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**Tues 7th Dec** – Dave returns to the UK

# For Prayer



Lerato Lesoetsa from Lesotho has recently moved to Chad to serve with African Inland Mission. She asks readers to thank God for the financial support that meant she could afford the air tickets and purchase some furniture and a solar panel for her new home. She asks us to pray for her long-term visa application.



Revd Charles Munyamahoro is a Free Methodist minister based in Kigali, Rwanda. He also teaches theology at the Free Methodist University in the south west of the country. Charles gives thanks for recent rains in Rwanda and asks that we pray for his students, especially those who are sick at this time.



Irene Kaziba is founder and director of Faith Babies Home, an outreach of Iganga Baptist Church in Uganda. She asks for prayer for the provision of food and medical supplies for the 42 children and staff under her care.



Esomu Francis, Principal of Atirir Bible School in Teso Region of Uganda gives thanks for funds received from APF for student bursaries but asks that we pray for rains to come as there has been a prolonged dry spell which has impacted yields meaning that food will be scarce in 2024.



Winnie Chemutai is a teacher with Transformation Compassion Network in west Kenya. She has a severe health condition which requires regular medical care, the cost of which is a great challenge. Please pray for Winnie's personal provision and the means to fund her health and home.



Revd Chris Khatela is Senior Pastor of Ngong Restoration Assembly in Uganda and an Associate Lecturer visiting seminaries in East Africa. Chris seeks prayer for provision for the reconstruction of the church sanctuary and travel costs to meet the demand for pastor training.



Sarah Sewagye, a pastor of Living Hope Church in Uganda is concerned for her mother's help. Her mother requires surgery overseas but the cost is prohibitive and despite having sold land to help fund her treatment her condition has deteriorated.



Edward Amwayi is Archbishop of the Worldwide Anglican Church (Kenya). He requests prayer to enable the recruitment, training and resourcing of evangelists.



Rev Joel Agel Awio from NUICA in Lira, northern Uganda says that his region used to receive a very reliable rainfall especially in the second wet season (July to November) but there has been no rain since May. He asks for prayer as hunger has already hit and is expected to worsen towards the end of the year.

**The vision of APF is to enable African Christian leaders, of all denominations, to minister effectively in thriving local churches that serve flourishing communities.**

*giftaid it*

## **Giving to APF**

If you would like to donate to APF, please visit [www.africanpastors.org/donate](http://www.africanpastors.org/donate) where you can make a one-off gift or set up a regular donation. Alternatively, post a cheque to our address or use one of the services below:

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**Please consider donating £2 to cover print and postage costs. Thank you.**

### **African Pastors Fellowship**

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