



# ACORN

## Seeds For Growth

### *Love God Through Worship*

Oakwood’s Mission is *to transform ordinary people into fully devoted-followers of Jesus Christ*. Our mission process to accomplish this is a 3-step progression of commitment and growth. We call this simply, *Love ~ Grow ~ Serve*. Each step builds upon the previous step. As we do so, we seek to grow deeper within each step as well. As each one of us faithfully pursues this process, we will come into a living and growing relationship with Jesus Christ who transforms us in character and conduct. We urge everyone at Oakwood to enter into this process and to progress. For a simple overview, please view our diagram and brief description on page 6.

The first step is to **Love God**. To love God means we enter into a relationship of love with God by trusting and following Jesus. We then engage in a life-long and expanding love relationship with Him. A significant dimension of loving God involves public worship of God with His people. Public, weekly worship of God is to be a priority for every one of us. That means we don’t just worship when we have nothing else going on in our lives such as work or recreation.

Jesus tells reveals to us that “... true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is *looking* for those who will worship him that way” (John 4:23, NLT).

From Psalm 95 we learn that to love God through public worship also means we come to Him with three attitudes of heart:

- ❶, We come to worship God with a heart attitude of **celebration**. *Come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him* (Psalm 95:1-2).
- ❷, We come to worship God with a heart attitude of **reverence**. *Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker* (Psalm 95:6)!
- ❸, We come with a heart attitude that we are **eager to obey**. *Don’t harden your hearts as Israel did ...* (Psalm 95:8).

This fall, and on into the New Year, will you intentionally make Sunday worship at Oakwood a weekly priority for your life and that of your family? Will you seek to celebrate through joyful singing with others how marvelous God is? Will you come with an attitude of humble reverence? Will you be eager listen to God’s Word with a receptive heart that is eager to obey? That’s what God the Father is looking from each one of us. As we do, we delight God, our hearts are filled with love, and our lives progress in transformation.



~ Pastor Paul

Oakwood Community Church  
 11209 Casey Rd  
 Tampa FL 33618-5306  
 813.969.2303  
[www.oakwoodfl.org](http://www.oakwoodfl.org)

The mission of Oakwood is to...

Transform ordinary people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Oakwood is a member of the Evangelical Free Church of America.



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## Financial Peace University



How would you feel if you had no debt and a solid plan for what to do with your money each month? Would you make different choices? Have different priorities? Many people find themselves slaves to debt, struggling to make ends meet each month. Poor financial decisions steal peace of mind and destroy relationships.

"The borrower is servant to the lender."

There is a solution ...

## Financial Peace University

Oakwood Community Church is offering a program through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University that could be your most important step to changing your financial future. Personal finance is 20% head knowledge and 80% behavior. You probably already know what you "should" be doing with your finances...DOING it is another matter entirely! FPU takes that head knowledge and turns it into real action. FPU is a 9-week life-changing program that will be held on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30PM starting September 13th and ending November 8th. The cost to take the class is \$85 for class materials. You can come and sit in on a free preview class with no obligation to see if you think it will work for you. **The free preview is on Thursday, August 30th at 6:30PM** at the Carrollwood Cultural Center (4537 Lowell Road, Tampa, FL). For more information, call (813) 969-2303 or visit [oakwoodfl.org](http://oakwoodfl.org).

## Fall Schedule



### Beginning September 9

**9:15 AM**—Education Classes—Children's Ministry,  
Middle & High School, Oakwood Mill

**10:30 AM**—Worship Service & Full TreeHouse Ministry  
A wrong Worship Service time was previously communicated

See the *Oakwood Mill* article on page 3 for the Adult Education class options

## Adopt A Student

The Oakwood family has the opportunity to bless some college students from USF this school year. We are asking for some families to "adopt" a student for the year. This would mean inviting them over for a meal at least once a month. Maybe even letting them do a load of laundry when they come over! That would bless their families back home!



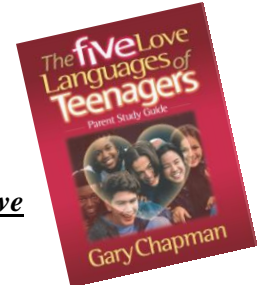
A sign-up sheet is in the Information Center in the lobby or contact the Church Office. As soon as school gets started, we will match up students to families and get you going. This is a great way to encourage a student and connect them to Oakwood.

## Oakwood Mill



The Oakwood Mill is the Adult Education ministry of Oakwood Community Church. This fall one class is being held on Sunday mornings in the Education Center and one is an online class.

### *The Five Love Languages of Teenagers*

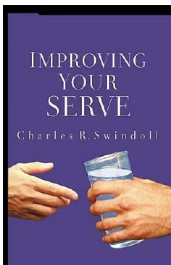


The teen years are tumultuous for many families. Everyone needs encouragement and effective Biblical-based wisdom to successfully navigate the many challenges of the often perplexing teen years. If you are in this season of life, please join us for an Oakwood Mill class on: **The Five Love Languages of Teenagers** by Dr. Gary Chapman

This study is designed to give parents resources to help parents more effectively communicate to their pre-teens and teens they are loved and appreciated. Some of the topics that will be addressed are Discovering Your Teenager's Love Language, Breaking Destructive Patterns of Anger, Managing the Cry for Freedom and Loving During Difficult Times.

The class will meet Sunday mornings from 9:15 – 10:15 AM in the Education Building. We will begin on September 9 and conclude on November 18. The cost of the study guide is \$8.00. **For more information** contact Brian and Terri Johnson at [bcj\\_tjj@verizon.net](mailto:bcj_tjj@verizon.net). Home phone-813-909-7579, Brian's cell-813-679-1684 and Terri's cell-813-675-7608.

### *Improving Your Serve*



Online (Facebook group) book study, 15 weeks: In the day-to-day grind, of our busy, self-seeking world, it's easy to lose track of what's really important. In this classic volume "Improving Your Serve: Art of Unselfish Living," Chuck Swindoll offers a fresh perspective on authentic *servanthood* as a way of life for every believer. In this challenging study we will discover why a straight-from-the-heart generosity brings richer rewards than mere money or position will every buy. "Improving Your Serve" offers a case for unselfishness and shows why serving others can be a much more fulfilling way to live. We will also learn how a radical application of the biblical principles of *servanthood* can transform a life from the inside out—and make a real and lasting difference in today's world.



Facilitated by Arnie Mejías; email [nblm2000@msn.com](mailto:nblm2000@msn.com) if interested.

## Women's Bible Studies

There are two women's Bible studies beginning soon:

### **Tuesday evenings—7:15—9:00 PM**

*Women of the Word (WOW)*

**Begins** September 11. **Meets** in the Oakwood library in the Education Center.

The first week will be a social and the new study on the Life of Christ will begin on September 18. For more information contact Sharon Pruden at [Sharon@biblebasics.org](mailto:Sharon@biblebasics.org) or (813) 960-2522.

### **Wednesday afternoons—4:45—6:00 PM**

*Just For Joy*

**Begins** September 5. **Meets** in the Oakwood library in the Education Center.

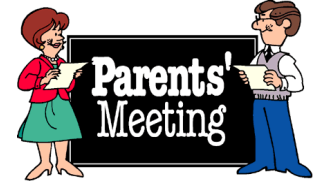
Join us as we study *SEED* by Priscilla Shirer. For more details contact Sissy Saunders at [Sissy.saunders@gmail.com](mailto:Sissy.saunders@gmail.com) or 813-926-9506.



## PowerHouse Parents Meeting

Parents of Middle and High School students are invited to a meeting on Sunday, September 9, 6:00—7:00 PM in TreeHouse. A few of our volunteer staff leaders of PowerHouse ministry to teens, along with Pastor Paul, will communicate with you about Oakwood's ministry to your teens. The following is a partial list of what the topics we will relate to you:

- An overview of our Sunday morning and evening teaching series,
- The role of our small group ministry,
- Who our remarkable staff are and the roles they serve,
- The schedule of upcoming events such as our summer missions project, retreats, spring break work project,.
- An overview of our Compassion Food Distribution Ministry and how it contributes to participants costs for missions and service projects.
- How parents can strengthen the impact of their student's development
- Open Q & A along with suggestions or concerns
- Group prayer for PH ministry and our teens.



## Becoming A Contagious Christian



Saturday September 29  
At Oakwood Community Church  
8:00 AM—3:00 PM

The *Becoming A Contagious Christian* course helps ordinary Christians develop confidence and skills that enable them to effectively share the Gospel with people they know. Designed especially for those who think evangelism is not for them, this curriculum is a powerful tool for equipping those in our entire church to communicate our faith in a way that's contagious. Taking into consideration an individual's natural way of communicating, six common styles of evangelism will be explored to allow an individual to use his/her natural gifting.

The cost is \$8 for the participants guide. There will be a lunch option—you can bring your own lunch or purchase a lunch (details to come on the purchased lunch option).

We will meet in TreeHouse (Children's Ministry building).

Register at the Information Center or by contacting the Church Office ([office@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:office@oakwoodfl.org) or 813-969-2303).

## Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, September 16 we will be having an OCC Family Meeting right after the Worship Service. The meeting will begin a few minutes after the end of the Worship Service and will last no longer than 45 minutes. The Elders want to allow sufficient time for questions and comments from our church family.

Childcare will be available for children **birth—3rd Grade**. If you need childcare please register your children on the sign-up sheet in the Information Center in the Worship Center lobby or at the TreeHouse Welcome Station.



## Bridges Small Group



### Bridges Small Group

Pastor Paul & Bev lead and host a small group in their home for those who are newer to Oakwood. This is one great means by which you can bridge into connecting more personally with Oakwood, and eventually into one of Oakwood's future Community Groups.

Our Bridges small group has no commitments. You may come once, or many times. Most weeks we will have a relaxed, simple discussion based on one of the Psalms or an event or teaching from Jesus' ministry as recorded in the gospels. No preparation or "home-work" is involved, nor will I expect you to

be familiar with the Bible or to pray aloud. Do come however, with the expectation to bridge into new connections with Oakwood and with God Himself.

~ Pastor Paul

**When:** Most Tuesdays, 7:00—8:30 PM—check the Oakwood website to verify meeting dates. Currently set for September 4, 11, 18, 25—<http://www.oakwoodfl.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Bridges-Group-info.pdf>

**Where:** Phair's home—15109 Lynx Dr, Tampa FL 33624 (Carrollwood Springs, near Dale Mabry & Ehrlich)  
813-961-7258

## Opportunities to *Serve The Church & World*

### Cookies for Prisoners



Ray Ross will be going to Polk Correctional Institution with Kairos Prison Ministry International Sept.20—23.

Supplying meals and cookies during this event are part of the program. Donations of store bought non-fruit filled packaged cookies are requested; Fig Newtons are okay. No home made or fresh bakery made cookies are allowed into the prison.



If you are interested in making a donation, there will be a bin located in the lobby area for the next three Sundays.

### Naomi's Daughters

*Naomi's Daughters* is a ministry for single moms that provides clothing to the moms as well as the children. The Oakwood family, along with others in the community, provides donations of clothing, food and money to keep this ministry moving forward.

Currently, this ministry opens once a month, typically on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, for any single mom in need.



Your continued donations of **new or gently worn clothes\* and non-perishable foods** are greatly appreciated. Donations can be left on the screened area in the back of the gray house on our property. There are bins provided along with tax deductible forms.

If you are aware of a single mom that could benefit from this ministry, please have them contact the church office.



Please pray that we can continue to reach people in this ministry and show the hands and feet of the Lord to those who come through the door of the gray house.

**\*Especially needed:** clothing for boys and girls, middle to high school ages.

Love ~ Grow ~ Serve

# Mission Process

## Love God

**1** According to Jesus, loving God is our first priority. At Oakwood, we also consider this the first step in living as a follower of Jesus. Our weekly worship service is the primary place for this, whether we come searching for God and investigating the claims of Christ, or as followers of Jesus seeking to express our love and devotion along with other believers.

**Action Point:** *Worship God at our weekly worship services.*

## Grow in Community

**2** At Oakwood, community groups are prime opportunities within our church family to grow in our faith through the study of God's Word. In addition, these groups provide an intimate and safe setting for us to build authentic relationships, reflecting our love for God as we love and care for one another.

**Action Point:** *Connect with other Christ-followers in a community group.*

## Serve the Church & World

**3** As we take our devotion to God a step farther, we demonstrate our love by serving others. Our families, neighborhoods, and workplaces are our 24/7 mission field. At the same time, our gifts are needed within the Oakwood family to reach out to the community and the world.

**Action Point:** *Discover your God-given gifts and use them to serve others.*



## Continue the Cycle

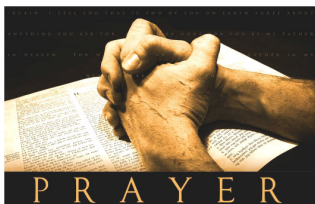
Our mission process repeats again and again. Through our lives of service, God uses us to reach out to others as we invite them into our fellowship of faith at Oakwood. Just as it did for us, so it starts for them with loving God, the One who first loved us!

**Action Point:** *Invite others to join you in loving and worshipping God at our weekly worship services.*

## Sunday Morning Prayer

**Another opportunity to pray**—Every Sunday morning from 10:00 - 10:20 in the Church Library you will find a pair of Oakwoodians leading prayer. Everyone is invited, as you feel led, to join in this guided prayer time.

**Please Note:** Beginning September 9 prayer time will be 10:30—10:50.



## Prayer Guide

Oakwood Community Church is *fueling* the new vision of **Expanding Our Territory, Together** united with **Love ~ Grow ~ Serve**. In May, we will be focusing on how we can Love God, the Holy Spirit and how that will affect our service for the church in the world both for those who are near and like us or far and unlike us.



Your September Prayer Guide is available at the Information Center or view it on our website.



## PowerHouse Schedule

Sept 2—Extended Sunday Evening—5:00—8:00—Labor Day Youth Picnic and Games.

Sept 9—Fall Schedule begins—classes at 9:15 AM for Middle & High School

Regular Sunday Evening—5:00—7:30

Parent's Meeting—6:00—7:00 PM in TreeHouse

Sept 16—Regular Sunday Evening—5:00—7:30

Sept 23—Party—Watch for details

## Labor Day Youth Picnic & Games

Sunday—September 2

5:00—8:00 PM



Be sure to join us for a fun evening together. Come dressed to play with paint, if you are so inclined!



## Food Bag Delivery Drivers Needed

Our PowerHouse students have a monthly ministry assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and now we had added Winter Haven.



We are in need of people who can help with delivery of these food bags, especially to Lakeland, Haines City, and Winter Haven. The food bags are usually assembled on the third Sunday of each month, and need to be delivered on the Monday or Tuesday following assembly.

If you can help with delivery or would like more information, please contact Sandy Clarke at 813-931-0668.

## Food Bag Ministry

Did you know that our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven? These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Fundraisers typically on the third Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag Prep fundraiser is **Sunday, September 23**, right after the Worship Service.



Teens can raise extra funds by helping shop for the food and/or helping with delivery of the food bags to the medical clinics. Shopping for the next fundraiser will be Friday, September 21. Meet at the Save-A-Lot at 2271 E. Bearss Ave at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple) if you want to help. For more details contact Sandy Clarke at 931-0668.



*My wife and I wondered what our life would be like when our full-time parenting jobs were over.*

Jim Killam lives in northern Illinois. He and his wife, Lauren, have been married more than 25 years

Article used with permission from today-christianwoman.com.

## When The Kids Move Out

Jim Killam

My wife and I were sitting at dinner the other night and I noticed an annoying sound coming from the next room. Click ... click ... click. Like water dripping or maybe something sparking. So I went to investigate.

It was the clock ticking.

This is a sound we haven't heard in our house for almost 24 years. Oh, it's been there all along, ticking away, lurking behind louder sounds: babies crying, Barney singing, little boys fighting, basketballs bouncing, little girls giggling, Power Rangers morphing, school buses honking, music shaking the walls, teens playing video games, hairdryers blowing, cell phones beeping and buzzing.

Far more suddenly than we were ready for, all of that noise has stopped. We always approached parenting teens with the idea that we were trying to work ourselves out of a job. To our surprise, that's exactly what happened.

I'll quickly acknowledge we haven't been world-champion parents, though I suppose the jury's still out. We've done the best we knew how. The past several years have presented their share of heartaches as well as joys, as we've tried to help guide our teens into young adulthood. Despite what book publishers may tell you, there's no failsafe instruction manual. Even for those parents who do everything right, sometimes kids still make bad choices. Just ask God.

Our kids may not always have seen the world's greatest parents, but they saw a healthy, happy, God-honoring marriage. They saw Mom and Dad go out on date nights so often that we didn't even need to call them that. They saw a house filled with laughter, dinners filled with conversation, mornings punctuated by the two of us praying together.

So here we are, still in our 40s, and the nest is empty. Tick ... tick ... tick. Now what? Among our group of friends whom we've known all of our married life, we are the pioneers in this empty nest phase. They all want to know what it's like, as if we've reached the shore of some undiscovered country. Certainly there's a sadness that accompanies this transition, but it's alternately exciting, surprising, and revealing.

Here's some of what we've observed so far.

- We have way more space than we really need. We live in a modest, three-bedroom ranch house, and there are a couple of rooms

completely unused. After years of not being able to see the floors in the kids' rooms, everything looks *too* orderly now.

- There is no more help for mowing the lawn, shoveling snow, carrying softener salt to the basement, loading the dishwasher, and cleaning up dog messes in the back yard. All that free time we envisioned having? We're spending some of it doing things we used to pay the kids an allowance to do.

- We can go to bed at 7 p.m. if we want, and still not go to sleep until 11. Though, this would have been easier to accomplish when we were 25 and had a lot more energy. Life can be unfair that way.

- The house is colder in winter. We're setting the thermostat higher. We used to make fun of our parents for this.

- I can walk naked through the living room late at night if I've forgotten to turn a lamp off. This really, really scares the dog, so I've stopped doing it.

- Speaking of the dog, I spend a lot more time talking to him now. And all those times the kids blamed the dog for nuclear-strength flatulation? Well, it turns out they weren't lying after all.

- The pizza oven has time to cool off between uses. Cookies and chips can last for weeks in the cupboard. We've had to adjust our grocery shopping after discarding food that's gone past its expiration date.

- Christmas takes a lot more planning and coordination of schedules. You start to understand why family get-togethers are so important to your mom.

Most important: All of that investment in our marriage over 24 years of parenting is paying big dividends now. This new season has been a time of finding new things to do together. We joined a gym, and we've become part of a small group planting a church. These are things we would not have had time for before.

We're free agents. We're talking and dreaming together about what direction life may go, and it's exciting.

And then about the time we settled into this new life and started to think, *You know, this is pretty nice*, our youngest moved back home.

That's pretty nice too. An unexpected gift. We've enjoyed a taste of life after kids, and now we get to stand for a while with one foot in both worlds.

Tick ... tick ... tick.

# Kids Corner

## Fun with the Sun!

Before we had clocks and watches, people told time with sundials. Make a sundial to tell the time.

**You will need:**

- \* a stick about a foot long
- \* a permanent marker
- \* a watch
- \* 10 or 12 small wooden stakes  
*(Popsicle sticks or tongue depressors work well.)*
- \* a bright, sunny day

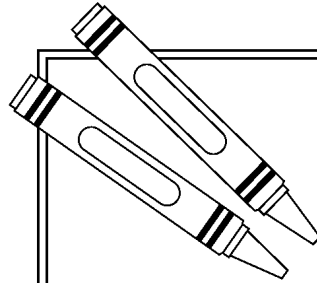
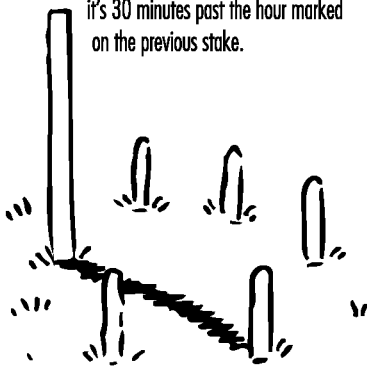
**How to make it:**

1. Choose a sunny area outside.
2. Place the stick in the ground.
3. When your watch is on the hour (ex. 1:00, 2:00, etc.), place a small stake at the end of the shadow made by the stick. Write the time on the stick with the marker.
4. After an hour has passed, put another stake in the ground where the shadow is now. Write the new time.
5. Continue this way throughout the day.

*You now have a sundial!*

**How to read the time:**

See where the shadow of the stick points. If it points to a stake the time is the time written on the stake. If the shadow is halfway between two stakes, it's 30 minutes past the hour marked on the previous stake.



## Just for KIDS

### Changes

*There are many changes in the season of Autumn. The leaves may change color, the air may become cooler and we may go to a new classroom or school.*

Find the Bible verse below. First fit the words from the list into the crossword puzzle squares. Then transfer the words in the boxes to the matching blank lines below. To learn more, read Ecclesiastes 3:1.

| Word List |            |
|-----------|------------|
| is        | under      |
| for       | season     |
| and       | heaven     |
| time      | activity   |
| every     | everything |
| There     |            |

\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 1 down    6 down    1 across    10 across    3 across

\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_  
 9 across    2 down    10 across    8 down    5 across

\_\_\_\_\_ ."  
 7 across    4 down

Answer: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."



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 813.969.2303  
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**Our Staff**

Lead Pastor - Dr. Paul B. Phair  
 Director of Ministries - Dave Dorsey  
 Director of Worship Arts - Andrew Reilly  
 Coordinator of Youth Ministry - Dr. Paul B. Phair  
 Coordinator of Children’s Ministry - Dave Dorsey  
 Office Manager - Martha Dorsey  
 Secretary—Melanie Hoglievina

**Office hours:**

Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Worship:**

Sept 2 - 10:00 AM

**Beginning Sept 9—10:30 AM**

**Our Elder Team**

Jose Cariaga—Chair  
 Pete Kluck  
 Paul Phair  
 Eric Pratt

**Our Deacon Team**

Nan Duncan  
 Arnie Mejias  
 Bob Mendenhall  
 Ray Ross  
 Ben Smith  
 Dave Young—Chair

**Calendar at a Glance**



Sept 2—Blood Pressure checks  
 Sept 3—Labor Day—Church Office closed  
 Sept 5—Just For Joy Women’s Bible Study begins  
 Sept 9—**Fall Schedule Begins**  
     **Education Classes @ 9:15 AM**  
     **Worship Service @ 10:30 AM**  
     Board Meeting  
     PowerHouse Parents Meeting

Sept 11—Women of the Word—Bible Study begins  
 Sept 13—Financial Peace University begins  
 Sept 15—Community Group Leader Training  
 Sept 16—Dave Cox Speaking  
     Compassion Offering  
     Congregational Meeting

The Oakwood *ACORN* is a bi-weekly E-newsletter from Oakwood Community Church, published to keep our church family and friends informed about events and people at Oakwood. Articles may be submitted via e-mail to [Office@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:Office@oakwoodfl.org). Article deadlines and publication schedule is:

| Deadline | Publication date | News for dates including... |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sept 7   | Sept 12          | Sept 15—Sept 28             |
| Sept 21  | Sept 26          | Sept 29—Oct 12              |

Do you know someone at Oakwood with a noteworthy achievement? Send the information to [Office@OakwoodFL.org](mailto:Office@OakwoodFL.org) and we’ll include it in a future article.

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