

A Great Lakes BIBLE COLLEGE PUBLICATION

WINTER 2024_VOLUME 1

President's Report

MARCH 4, 2024

Making Christian Education Available Across Canada and Beyond

Throughout 2023 and into 2024, we are expanding our national presence, offering a wide array of learning opportunities across Canada. In line with GLBC's commitment to equipping Christians for service right where they are, we aspire to maximize our impact within local churches and further God's Kingdom. Rather than pondering how to draw students to our Waterloo campus, we have shifted our focus to 'how can we bring the school to the students?' By providing a range of learning options tailored to our varied student body, we aim to make a significant difference in local churches and God's Kingdom."

In recent years, we've made significant strides in raising awareness of our online, hybrid, and face-to-face offerings. For instance, a Northwest Regina group is participating in our "Acts" class on Monday evenings. They are utilizing innovative 360-degree cameras to enhance group discussions, seamlessly integrating them with other students throughout Canada. This technology is accessible at all our Hybrid Locations, including Waterloo, Toronto, Vineland (ON), and Regina in Saskatchewan. If your congregation is interested in experiencing this hybrid setup, please contact us to access our equipment loan program.

GLBC's Christian Educational Ministry Makes Sense Today

Within the broader realm of post-secondary education, numerous institutions grapple with challenges as they vie for a diminishing pool of students in conventional secular programs, such as Bachelor of Arts, Business, Science, or Professional Certificates. Consequently, you might be aware that prominent, publicly-funded Post-Secondary Institutes, including Queens University and Mohawk College, have implemented cuts amidst escalating tuition fees. In the United States, several institutions have shuttered in recent years.

Conversely, GLBC's Educational Ministry, which is entirely privately funded, remains viable due to its distinct mission from these other institutions—to prepare the church for spiritual ministry, leadership, and service. Our goal is to motivate all Christians to become lifelong learners who actively participate in God's ministry of reconciliation and to eliminate as many obstacles as possible.



regular prayers for and support of our educational glorified through your generosity and care.



Recent developments underscore our dedication to our goals. Our Foundational Certificate Program now facilitates part-time studies, allowing completion within 6 months to 2 years. The GLBC Sponsorship **Fund** has broadened financial opportunities. Last year, four students could enroll in classes at GLBC thanks to supporters like you. Moreover, our investment in **Hybrid Learning** technology and collaborations with local congregations have expanded our physical reach, enabling students to engage with peers both in-person and online simultaneously.

"Any fool can count the number of seeds in an apple, but only the Lord knows how many apples are in a seed."

GLBC, as an educational institution, is not exempt from the challenges that other post-secondary institutions face. Nevertheless, we have prayerfully embarked on a path forward that, with God's blessing, will serve His Kingdom well. With the Lord's will and the support of His saints, we aim to continue this ministry.

Similar to every Christian working in God's kingdom, the impact of GLBC cannot be fully quantified; our learning community sows and waters seeds, but it is God who provides the growth (1 Cor. 3:6). We may not know all the lives directly or indirectly affected by GLBC (in past years or in those to come). Although our school may be considered small by worldly standards, we are confident that true success is only achievable through our Heavenly Father and is measured by Him

Financial Outlook

This year, our financial outlook holds promise for optimism. The preceding fiscal years have been characterized by budgeted deficits due to investments in personnel and equipment. However, this fiscal year, initially projected for a planned deficit, has yielded better-than-expected results. General donations have improved by approximately 12% compared to last year, and the inclusion of two bequests this fiscal year has put us \$100,000 ahead of our budget.

Extra Funds Invested for the Future: The surplus funds beyond operating costs are being reinvested into the GLBC Sponsorship Fund to create opportunities for prospective students and into investment instruments that will secure GLBC's financial longevity.

CONTACT US

Need help? Call or send us a text or email. 226-507-5452 | info@glbc.ca





www.glbc.ca

What Our Students Look Like

Over the years, the 'typical student' profile at GLBC has evolved. Two decades ago, the majority of our students were attending classes in person, embarking on full-time studies immediately after secondary school. Today, while we still welcome 'fresh-faced' students, the majority are engaging with our programs online or through one of our Hybrid Sites, often balancing their studies with professional commitments or even during semi-retirement.

Considering GLBC's commitment to equipping Christians for service in their communities and within the local church, let's illustrate the diverse backgrounds of our current students:

Post-Secondary School Students:

These students dedicate at least a year to part-time or full-time studies during a period in life often filled with more questions than answers. Studying at GLBC offers young individuals a valuable opportunity to establish a firm foundation in the Word of God. Part-time studies provide the flexibility to work while learning, which for some ignites a passion leading to further pursuit in this field, while for others, it lays a foundational bedrock that supports them as they venture into different careers or fields of study.

Mature Students:

Many start with just one or two classes, embracing the belief that it's never too late to become more equipped for service in God's Kingdom. GLBC enables lifelong learners to access educational resources that may not be readily available through their local congregation. It also allows current and aspiring leaders within the congregation to enhance their ability to serve, teach, and lead effectively. Crucially, it helps every member gain a deeper understanding of God's body and their role within it.

Congregation Group Audits:

Small groups and entire congregations have reaped the benefits of collective study and equipping. Utilizing recorded video makes group study convenient and adaptable, fostering growth and empowerment within these groups. Additionally, groups can participate in synchronous classes online using our state-of-the-art Hybrid Classroom Equipment—comprehensive all-in-one camera and speakerphone systems provided at our Partner Hybrid Learning Centres.





GLBC CONNECTS 2024

PRESENTED BY GREAT LAKES BIBLE COLLEGE

GRADUATION CEREMONY

April 27, 2024 In-person and online









Save the Date

APRIL 27, 2024

For more information, call, text or email us at:

226-507-5452 | info@glbc.ca



Michaela Easton (Cambridge, ON)

Started her studies with GLBC in September 2020.

"What sets GLBC apart from other institutions is that, as much as they provide 'head knowledge', they also provide 'heart understanding'.

The teachers and students vibrantly portray the love of God through their words and actions."

INTERESTING NUMBERS FALL 2023



Where our students come from:

Ontario, sixteen (16) Saskatchewan, ten (10)

Total Number of Students for Audit vs. Credit:

Credit students, four (4)
Audit students, twenty-two (22)

Students funded by the GLBC Sponsorship Fund:

There were four (4) recipients of the GLBC bursary.

FUNDRAISING

Number of donors recovering since COVID years:

2023-24- 74 Donors (as of Dec 1, 2023)

2022-23- 135 Donors

2021-22- 133 Donors

2020-21- 106 Donors

2019-20-122 Donors



Estate Gifts in 2023-2024 Fiscal Year:

2 Gifts from Estates



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GLBC



April 27, 2024: GLBC Connects and Graduation

We hope to hold this as a Hybrid Event. That means you'll be able to meet with in-person groups at one of our hybrid sites (Waterloo, Strathmore, Tintern, Regina) or join online via Zoom.

June 23, 2024: Generation to Generation Campaign

We hope to encourage Christians, through this educational financial planning campaign, to think about leaving a spiritual impact and physical gifts from one generation of the church to the generations to come. This could be their local church, or a ministry close to their heart. GLBC and other sponsoring ministries will provide connections to expert advisors. Seminars to be held on Zoom and select Hybrid locations.

July 5 - 7, 2024: Young Adults Weekend (18-25 Years Old)

We hope to connect with young people that are serious about developing their faith and biblical knowledge at a time when they continue to meditate on their place in God's Kingdom. GLBC is sponsoring this event to make it affordable to those who wish to attend.

August 26 - 30, 2024: Summer Short Course

We will be offering an in-person summer short course at Omagh Bible Camp, in Milton, Ontario on the Books of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes.

October 18 - 19, 2024: Great Lakes Workshop/GLBC & GLCC AGM

We hope to have a Friday/Saturday workshop that includes a time for singing and breakout discussions and the Annual General Meeting on Saturday afternoon.





For details on these upcoming events, please call, text, email or visit at: (226) 507-5452 I info@glbc.ca I www.glbc.ca or scan this QR code to register.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:











GENERATION TO GENERATION June 23, 2024

on Zoom (Hybrid for select locations only)

An educational campaign to create, build, and nurture awareness in the value of Planned Giving to benefit Great Lakes Bible College, Great Lakes Christian High School, Camp Omagh, Camp Manitou and local churches of Christ to allow them to continue with the Great Commission for generations to come.



For more information or to register, call, text, email, or visit at: (226) 507-5452 | info@glbc.ca | www.glbc.ca or scan the QR code

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." (Malachi 3:10)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

TRIBUTES

IN MEMORY OF...

Max Craddock

June Heuston

David Hotchkiss

Verna Hotchkiss

Peter Longden

Roy and Nelle Merritt

Harvey and Olive Parker

Harry and Edith Stevens

Guy Stopard

June White

Call, text, email or visit at: 226-507-5452 | info@glbc.ca | www.glbc.ca

Your Support Matters - Ways to Give

What story does your giving tell? Whether you give during a lifetime, or plan a charitable donation through your estate, big or small, your gift will shape our school community and the congregations that she serves.

If you would like to talk about any of these, or other giving options, please get in touch with us at: info@glbc.ca



Planned Giving and Bequests

Planned giving is not just for the wealthy, it is for the thoughtful. Gifts can range from the hundreds of dollars to a legacy gift that will last generations. A planned gift can happen during your lifetime or through your estate



Pledged Monthly or Annual Donations

Pledged monthly or annual donations allow the Bible College to cover budgeted costs such as salaries and other operational costs.

Your Gifts in Action: Stewarding God's Blessing

By donating to our General Fund, you help to support all of these efforts and more.



Online and Library Resources - \$10,000 per year

We are able to reach students across Canada and beyond through online services. Our online learning platform (which even has an App) is the backbone of our students online experience. And, just as books continue to be written, our students have a need to access them.



CVC

Investments - \$200,000 - long-term endowment

Our hope is to create a sustainable model for the College. We have a multi-year plan to invest gifts from wills and estates to provide for students needing financial aid to attend the College. This ensures that your gift will provide ongoing benefit for many years to come.



Card # Expiry Date

Signature

Name

GREAT LAKES BIBLE COLLEGE

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WHY STUDY AT A BIBLE COLLEGE

when information is everywhere?

More Information, Less Answers

In our digital world, algorithms search vast oceans of data on my behalf, and the results are not always focused on finding the right answer. When I research a question, I find the answer that the technology thinks that I want. That is, the 'answer' is based on my previous searches, the content I've clicked on, and even what my housemates have been doing. I'm likely to be presented with the content that is most likely to make me use that technology again. Social media algorithms are designed this way to a greater extent, i.e. prioritizing engagement over truth.

For example, if I search 'bible', my search engine will use all of my previous interactions as a guide to present me with the content it thinks that I will find most useful. As I often have done research for sermons, it might direct me to some online bibles. However, if I had recently clicked on content about reasons to doubt my faith, I can be certain that my search engine will take that into account and direct me to content that it deems more suitable.

So, how can I get to the truth? Am I at the mercy of algorithms, or schools and teachers that might have their own agenda?

Rethinking Learning and the Power of a Learning Community

Guided biblical education is not just about getting exposure to information, it's about foundation through exposure to the best information, and equipping for future success.

Through guided study, you can be efficient, without having to rely on only algorithms to provide content. A guided biblical education also provides the opportunity to invest our time into serious study.

How much time do we spend doing low-value activities, like commuting? If I believe that it's important to explore my relationship with God, I need to also ask if I'm devoting the appropriate amount of time to it?

Guided biblical education also provide the opportunity to ask relevant questions, and get relevant answers. We can spend hours listening to content that simply supports whatever we already believe

Bible, Ministru, Worldvieu

Great Lakes Bible College's integrated learning model strives to be a holistic approach to learning. If we are to love the Lord with our whole being (Deuteronomy 6:5), then we need an approach to learning that seeks to shape our thoughts and actions toward service.

The Bible is Our Foundation of Learning (Psalm 119:97

We are all ministers (Ephesians 4:12; | Peter 2:9) and we want to help equip our students for their ministries by walking, shaping and releasing them as servant leaders in the church and in the world Developing a Christian worldview is essential to Christian service (Romans I2:1-2).

We have been given the mission to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus' final command is our first priority and we need to be a people focused on the Word and engaged in ministry. In addition, a Christian worldview is shaped by and shapes both our understanding of God's word and our work of ministry.

- Immanuel Velasco, Waterloo, Ontario

SINCE 1952 SINCE 1952 SINCE 1952

THE SEED

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GREAT LAKES BIBLE COLLEGE

CAMPUS

470 Glenelm Crescent Waterloo, Ontario N2L 5C8 Canada Call/text: 226-507-5452 Email: info@glbc.ca Website: www.glbc.ca

BUSINESS OFFICE

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BUSINESS HOURS

Mondays to Fridays 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST

REGISTERED CHARITY

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THE DEAN'S CORNER

Introduction to Hebrews

The Sermon on Jesus Our Merciful and Faithful High Priest with Exposition, Exhortations and Warnings

By Geoffrey Ellis and Paul Birston
Written on October 1, 2022.
Originally published in the Gospel Herald.

Of the sixty-six books of the Bible, one on its own, Hebrews, is a sermon! We acknowledge of course that many Bible books contain powerful sermons, notably Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, a formidable opening to His ministry and the New Testament, and Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost opening the door of God's kingdom to all who obey His gospel.

Lacking an identification of the intended recipient(s), thus removing it from the category of a letter, Hebrews' careful structure of announcement, instruction, and exhortation qualify it as a homily.

It is noted that the author identifies his lesson as "my word of exhortation," i.e. a sermon, "...written to you briefly" (Hebrews 13:22). (This reminds us of the invitation extended to Paul and Barnabas by synagogue officials in Antioch of Pisidia, after the reading from the Law and Prophets, "Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation, deliver it now" (Acts 13:15). And the author of Hebrews refers to "speaking" in his lesson, Hebrews 2:5, 5:11, 6:9, 8:1, 9:5, and 11:32.

However, given our penchant for studying the Bible in bits and pieces, e. g. by chapters and verses (the Bible was divided into chapters in 1227, and verses in 1551), we are at risk of missing the logical thrust, the interwoven majesty, and the compelling demand of its teaching, as a complete sermon.

(I [Geoff] once preached through Hebrews during quarterly visits to the Bayview congregation. It took three years!)

The majesty of Hebrews is supported by its exquisite structure. Hebrews is the longest exposition of a major theme in the New Testament illuminating Old Testament Scriptures on the High Priesthood of Jesus according to the order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110).

specifically as High Priest though His high priestly work is seen throughout the New Testament. Hebrews weaves together several cycles of exposition, exhortation and warning, exalting Jesus through whom God made the world and upon whose sacrifice of His own blood God makes His final offer of "so great a salvation" (Hebrews 2:3) with clear warnings throughout on the consequences of refusing Him.



Hebrews illuminates 1) Jesus' High Priesthood and His superiority to angels, 2) His High Priesthood's superiority to the First Covenant's sacrificial system and 3) how we must live since we have such a great High Priest. (For an expanded overview of the exquisite structure of Hebrews' exposition, exhortations and warnings see: https://app.box.com/s/or3xql9cq4ikg1jfy9hc2blutaatr18 v).

We would do well to settle in for a one-hour hearing of this majestic sermon, of the exalted Christ in his saving role, in Hebrews! For through this sermon God speaks and the hearers are constrained to listen: "... God spoke to the fathers...and has spoken to us by his Son..." God is said to speak six more times in Chapter One: "Therefore, we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift from it" (Hebrews 2:1).

Our curiosity remains unrequited as to the author and the intended original recipients of Hebrews. The apostle Paul was identified as its author later in the early church through to the time of the King James Version. Yet Paul identified himself as author in each of his thirteen writings in the New Testament, while the polished style of Hebrews is not found in the writings known to be his. Some suggest Apollos or Barnabas. One who wrote in the literary caliber of the Greek of Hebrews was Luke who was intimately acquainted with Paul and his thought. Some suggest Paul may have preached the sermon in Hebrew and dictated it to Luke for translation and publication.

The final word on the authorship of Hebrews presently remains a mystery in the scholarly world that God may reveal to us when we join "the festal gathering and assembly of the Firstborn who are enrolled in heaven" in His presence (Hebrews 12:23a).

We do know where the sermon was written and where its intended audience was not. Hebrews 13:24: "They in Italy salute you." Thus, it is believed, Hebrews was written in Italy and forwarded to an audience somewhere outside of Italy. (There are some scholars who give a reverse twist to this reading.)



When Hebrews was written intrigues us. Two dates have the greatest following: the early '60s and the late AD 80's. The earlier date fits with the absence of any hint of the temple's destruction (AD 70) in the text. The later date fits with the persecution of the church of that time, and persecution is featured in chapters eleven and twelve of Hebrews. However, Chapter 13 again supplies a clue: "...our brother Timothy has been set at liberty, with whom, if he comes shortly, I will see you" (vs. 23). Tradition places Timothy in prison in the early 60's.

all. Or does it? The long-standing consensus that Hebrews was addressed to Jewish Christians is inaccurate and pejorative. The title, "Hebrews," was not part of the writing of the sermon—it was not added until the third century. The person, priesthood, and sacrifice of Jesus come into full focus in this work, capping the teachings of the Old Testament. This is the genius of Hebrews. The interlocking of the past, the present, and the future is found in this one sermon of the Bible (as it is in Peter's sufferings and glories theme in 1 Peter). It was preached to Christians in its day, and is the treasure-trove for all Christians in our time. (It is remembered that Abram was promised that through his descendants, "all the families of the earth would be blessed..." (Genesis 12:3b). And the high priesthood of Melchizedek which provides the model for the high priesthood of Jesus, predated the Jews per se, though we note that Abaram was Semitic and known as "Abram the Hebrew" (Genesis 14:13) before he met Melchizedek. That Hebrews, the one sermon of the Bible, has as its subject the majestic Saviour and his sacrifice for the entire world, qualifies it as a premier writing of the Scriptures, to be treasured by all believers. Hebrews is addressed to all believers everywhere, in every age.

Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Saviour, is the focus of this preaching that was intended to be read to a congregation within an hour. The preacher gathered his hearers' attention with the opening words: "In the past, God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways" (Hebrews 1:1a). He then launches into his sermon which has the elevation of Jesus Christ as its theme: "...in these last days he has spoken unto us by his Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory, and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven" (Hebrews 1:3).



The superiority of Jesus Christ is the dominant message of this sermon. As the sermon unfolds, Christ is superior to: the angels, chapters one and two; superior to Moses, chapters three and four; superior to the priests, chapters five through seven; whose sacrifice is superior, chapters eight through ten; faithful action, is the appropriate response, as illustrated by God's heroes of faith, followed by a call to acceptable service, chapter twelve; chapter thirteen follows with twelve miscellaneous admonitions to Christian conduct.

Chapter twelve ends the formal sermon with one of the Bible's grandest visions of God's rescue of his people, given in contrast to His earthly blessing granted on Mount Sinai: "...But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable host of angels in joyful assembly, and the church of the first born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better than that of Abel." Linked to this blessed vision is the sober warning: "See to it that you refuse not him who speaks... Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire" (12:25a, 28, 29).

This is one sermon that we as believers should hear, not once but repeatedly, with gratitude, great attention and reverence.

Grimsby and Waterloo, Ontario





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Great Lakes Bible College presents...

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@ Camp Omagh

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INCOMING FALL OFFERINGS

Here are the incoming "live" courses for Fall 2024 –2025:

Job, Proverbs & Ecclesiastes (credit students from camp)

Psalms & Song of Solomon

Corinthians & Thessalonians

Intro to Greek I

Church History II: Pre-Reformation to Now

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Students, including Group from Regina, SK auditing the Book of Acts.



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HIGHLIGHTS

The Book of Acts

A group from from Regina, Saskatchewan is currently auditing the Book of Acts. You can see a picture of the group on the left with our Dean, Paul Birston.

Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ

This short course, which is currently in session, began on March 7, and will continue until April 25. This eight (8) week course is offered online and at hybrid sites, for two (2) hours per week. In this class, we are examining the Gospels, and the historical content into which Jesus came to learn what Jesus has revealed about what we should believe, what we should do, and who we should be.

BLESSINGS AMID ADVERSITY

By Dave Knutson, Board of Trustee Member Written July 7, 2021. Originally published in the Gospel Herald.

In the 3 years leading up to the pandemic, household savings rates in Canada bounced between 1.3% and 3.6%. As the Canadian economy began to close and families had to stay at home, those rates surged to a high of 28.2% in July of 2020 before settling more recently in the 13% range. Canadian households 'normally' have a collective savings reserve of around 40 Billion, but that amount has risen to around 200 billion over the past 18 months. During that time the debt to income ratio for Canadian households has fallen with most managing to reduce indebtedness while living within their means.

What remains to be seen is to what degree these new savings habits will persist. To the degree that they have not been self-imposed, the reopening of our economy may see a return to former spending habits. Economists are counting on it as are many investors.

But what would happen if Christians take a different approach? What if our pandemic 'time-out' has taught us to distinguish between those things that we simply want and those which we actually need. Living beneath one's means is a Biblical principle. It allows us to give more generously to those in need. It creates a surplus which contributes to peace of mind and in many cases marital harmony. It frees up money that we didn't know we had, to be put to work in evangelism and benevolence.

There is a pent up demand all around us for more and more of this world's goods. The felt needs of our world rarely turn in the direction of heaven. But the real needs of a world lost in sin have never been anything else. Let us determine to use our new found resources for the advance of the gospel and the saving of lost souls.

Barrie, ON





PLANNED GIVING

Through generosity, and shared blessings from God, planned giving (such as sales of securities, major gifts, wills and bequests) continue to be a major lifeline in the continued service of GLBC.

Want to learn more? Visit the Updated Pages

- 1. Visit glbc.ca
- On the top ribbon, click 'Donate' to access the updated pages



- Our Funds provides an overview of the three primary funds that our partners make donations to- General Fund, Bible Teacher Fund, Sponsorship Fund- and the purpose of each.
- Planned and Legacy Giving provides general information for anyone who may be considering a planned gift to the school.

There are numerous options for legacy gifts. We encourage you to consult with your legal and financial advisors to consider all the relevant issues and income tax provisions.





THE SEED

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WINTER 2024_VOLUME 1

SAVE THE DATE!

October 18-19, 2024

GLBC WORKSHOP

& Annual General Meeting

Friday, October 18

Singing & Breakout Discussions

Saturday, October 19

Annual General Meeting

For details, call, text, email or visit at: (226) 507-5452 | info@glbc.ca | www.glbc.ca OR scan the QR code to register.



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