



COSTON **MISSION**

Autumn Refresh in Driggs Idaho



Fall 2016

EDITION 1

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## COSTONMISSION

### Autumn Refresh in Driggs Idaho

About three years ago, Melissa and I began seriously praying for God to use our family for his purposes no matter what the cost. At the time, I was very convicted about cross cultural mission work, and most of my prayers revolved around whether or not God wanted us to enter lifetime service to a particular people group in another part of the world.

During this season of our lives, we were fortunate enough to be discipled by a faithful minister who gave us valuable resources in understanding what our role would be on the mission field. These resources opened my eyes to the various ways that we can impact the global spread of the Gospel, some of the cultural hinderances that affect Americans' work overseas, and the reality of the state of the sending churches.

During this time I was trying to research which people groups needed the gospel most and how to decide which one was the one God wanted us to go to. Being a little naive, and really at a loss of how to determine between several entire groups of people that have never heard of Jesus, have less than one known believer, zero known churches and zero known activities to engage them, I decided that we should write them all down on pieces of paper and draw them out of a hat. First pick, Pakistan, but it didn't feel like I imagined the Lord's calling would feel. So I prayed that if Pakistan was really where he

wanted us to go, that we would draw it again, but this time we drew Russia. And the third time we drew something different, but I don't remember what.

Naturally then, I started a website called CostonMission.com to raise support for our first trip to our chosen destination, India, and to prepare ourselves for communication with our sending team providing them updates through an online blog.

Clearly this didn't pan out. Over time I recognized what I had learned during that discipleship with our minister, God has given Melissa and me gifts and skills to prepare the hearts of people who go, prepare teams to support those who go, and to ensure fruitful labor of those who go. America has more than enough resources to complete the mission of the Gospel, but the American church needs men who are willing to sacrifice everything for the souls of others. The American church needs members who understand the need in the world and the purpose of the gospel. This is the mission God has called our family to.

But this is hard, and life gets in the way, and we get tired. So, we planned a long weekend in Driggs Idaho on a whim to relax, refresh, and recharge. This first edition of the COSTONMISSION newsletter is the story of our Autumn Refresh in Driggs Idaho.



CostonMission.com is our online home where we post all sorts of content to help you know how to live like Jesus today. Sign up and get it all in your inbox.

*Melissa*



4 humans - 1 dog - 76 hours -

980 miles - 3 states - 2 national parks



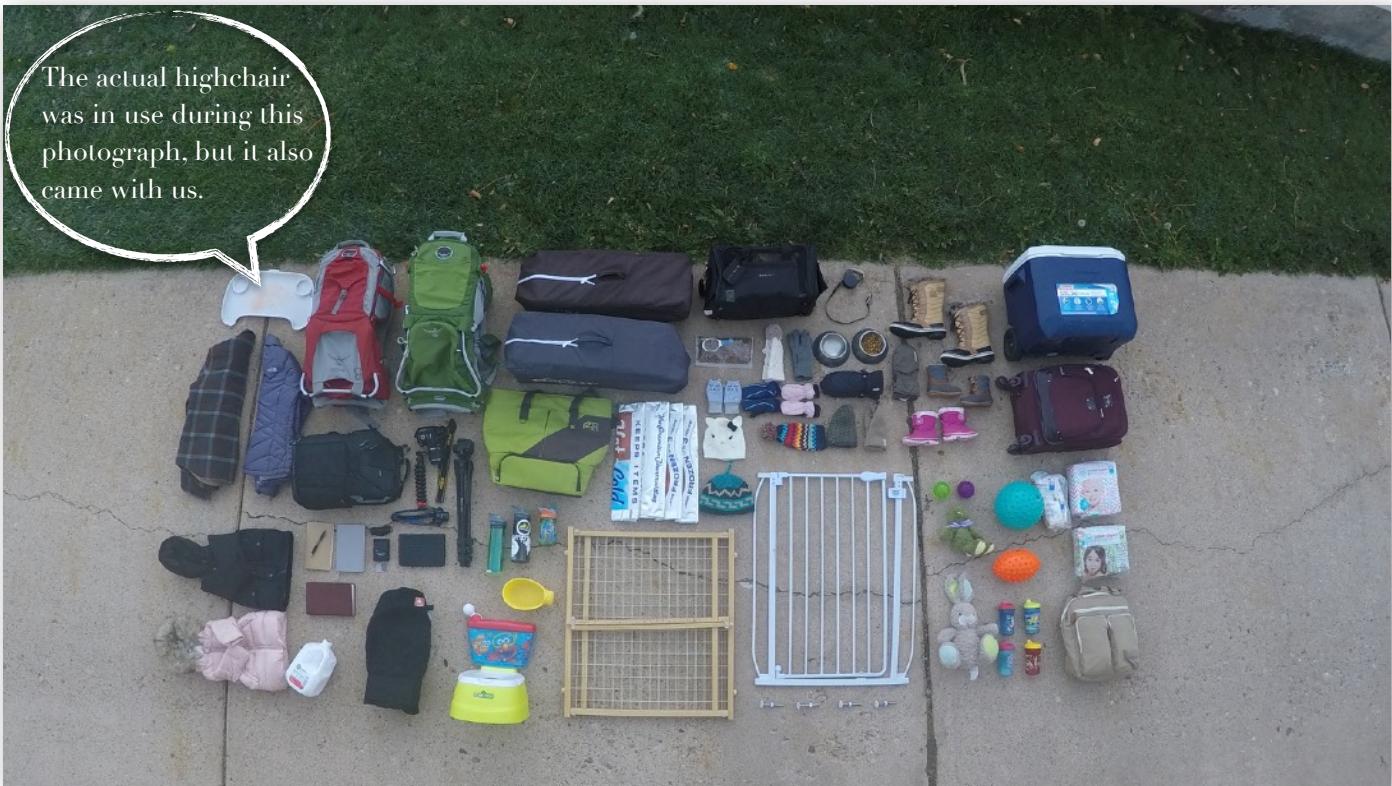
*Stu*



*Adah*



*Jeremiah & Princess*



- |                     |                   |                   |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 highchair         | 2 extra batteries | 1 potty           | 4 sets of gloves  |
| 4 coats             | 1 flashlight      | 2 pack-n-plays    | 3 pairs boots     |
| 2 big kid carriers  | 1 headlamp        | 4 freezer packs   | 4 beanies         |
| 1 small kid carrier | 1 iPad            | 1 freezer carrier | 6 toys            |
| 1 camera bag        | 1 tripod          | 2 child gates     | 4 sippy cups      |
| 1 Nikon D5200       | 1 gorilla pod     | 1 pet carrier     | 1 ice chest       |
| 1 GoPro Hero 4      | 1 gallon milk     | 1 leash           | 2 bags of clothes |
| 1 bible             | 2 phone chargers  | 2 pet bowls       | 2.5 bags diapers  |
| 2 notebooks         | 3 water bottles   | 1 bag dog food    | 1 diaper bag      |

# *Currently Listening*

Rend Collective just came out with their latest album, Campfire II. That's what I would have preferred; instead, Curious George was the tune of the trip



## *The Grand Tetons*

Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to  
the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to  
everlasting, You are God. *Psalm 90:2*

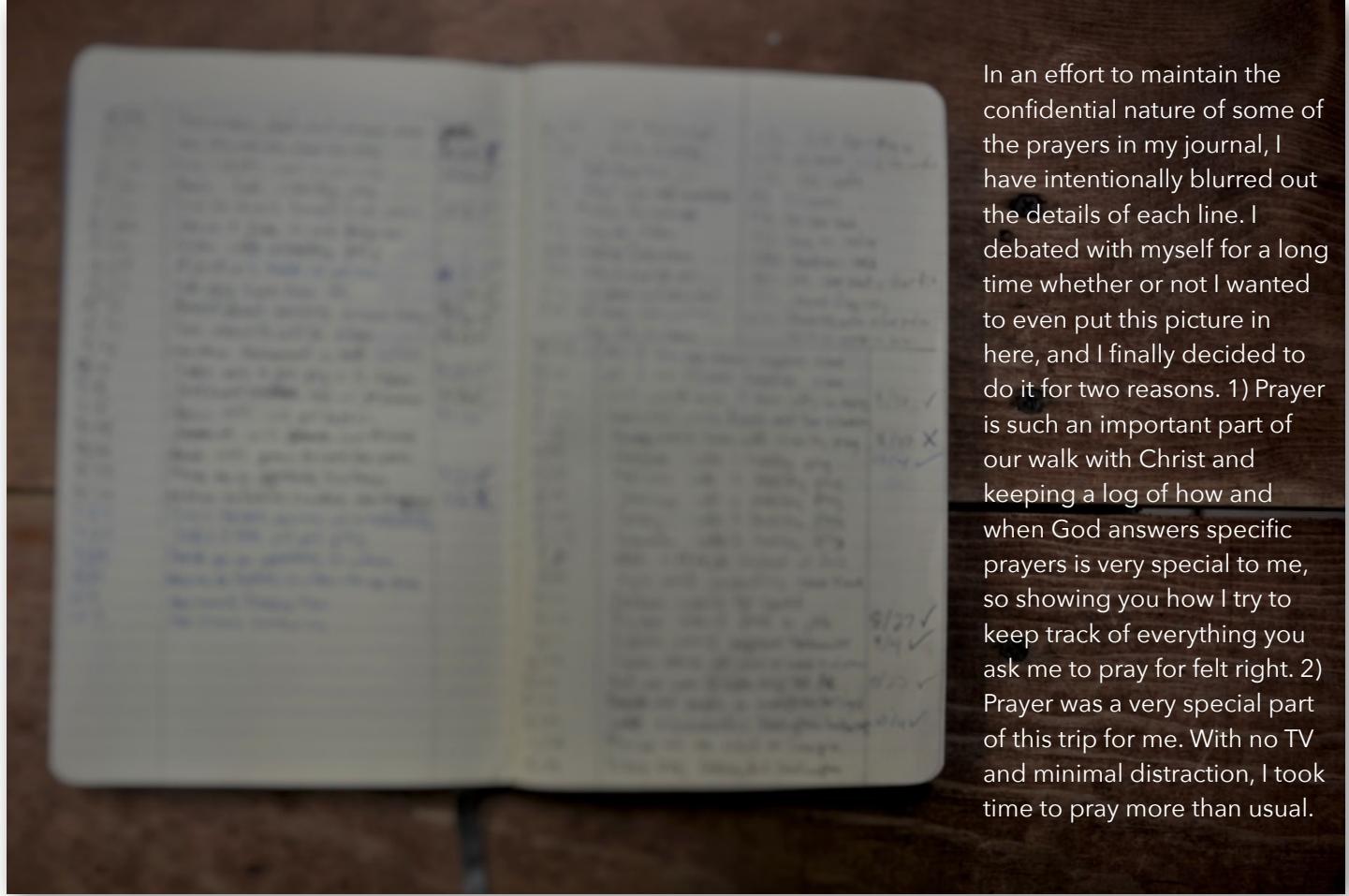
# *Ogden* *to* *Driggs*

16,000 ft peaks, live bear feedings, amusement rides, the worlds largest concentration of geysers, and no TV for four days. We had dreamed of making our way to this area since we first found out we were moving to Utah. Finally our trip had become a reality. What a refreshing reality it was.









In an effort to maintain the confidential nature of some of the prayers in my journal, I have intentionally blurred out the details of each line. I debated with myself for a long time whether or not I wanted to even put this picture in here, and I finally decided to do it for two reasons. 1) Prayer is such an important part of our walk with Christ and keeping a log of how and when God answers specific prayers is very special to me, so showing you how I try to keep track of everything you ask me to pray for felt right. 2) Prayer was a very special part of this trip for me. With no TV and minimal distraction, I took time to pray more than usual.

## *Some Prayer Requests for us*

- That Melissa would have a safe and healthy pregnancy and delivery
- That God would provide opportunities to witness to the local LDS
- That we would be faithful to follow through when those opportunities arise
- That more church plants would arise in our city where the population is 30K and only 1 known evangelical church exists

## *Some Recently Answered Prayers*

- Jeremiah's asthma kicked in at the beginning of October, but got better
- The doctors said that the baby in Melissa's belly had a 33% chance of having down syndrome, but the tests went safely and results were negative
- Three men from our church recently went on a mission trip to an unreached people in Asia and had a safe and very successful trip



When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. *Psalm 34:17*

## Day One

Exhausted from our drive on the first day, we decided to just walk around Driggs and check out the quaint country town. With a population of 1600, there wasn't much to it, but it felt very familiar for Melissa and me since we both grew up in small town Arkansas. We parked on one end of town and walked all the way down the left side of the street to the other end of town, through some "alleys" by one of the best smelling bar-b-que places I've ever smelled, and then all the way back to our car in about 45 min, and we were walking slow.

Along the walk we stopped to take a few pictures and Jeremiah fell square on his knee. Immediately Melissa ran to console him and make sure he was okay. He only cried for a few seconds because she was there for him so fast. This scene reminded me of how much we need Jesus and how ready he is to help. He loves us even more than Melissa loves Jeremiah and she took no time at all to come to his rescue, just think about how quickly Jesus will come to our rescue when we cry out for help. Similarly, Jeremiah was quickly calmed down because he knew that his mommy had him and he was safe, why then do we like to blame God for making us fall when he just wants to give us a hug and make us feel better.

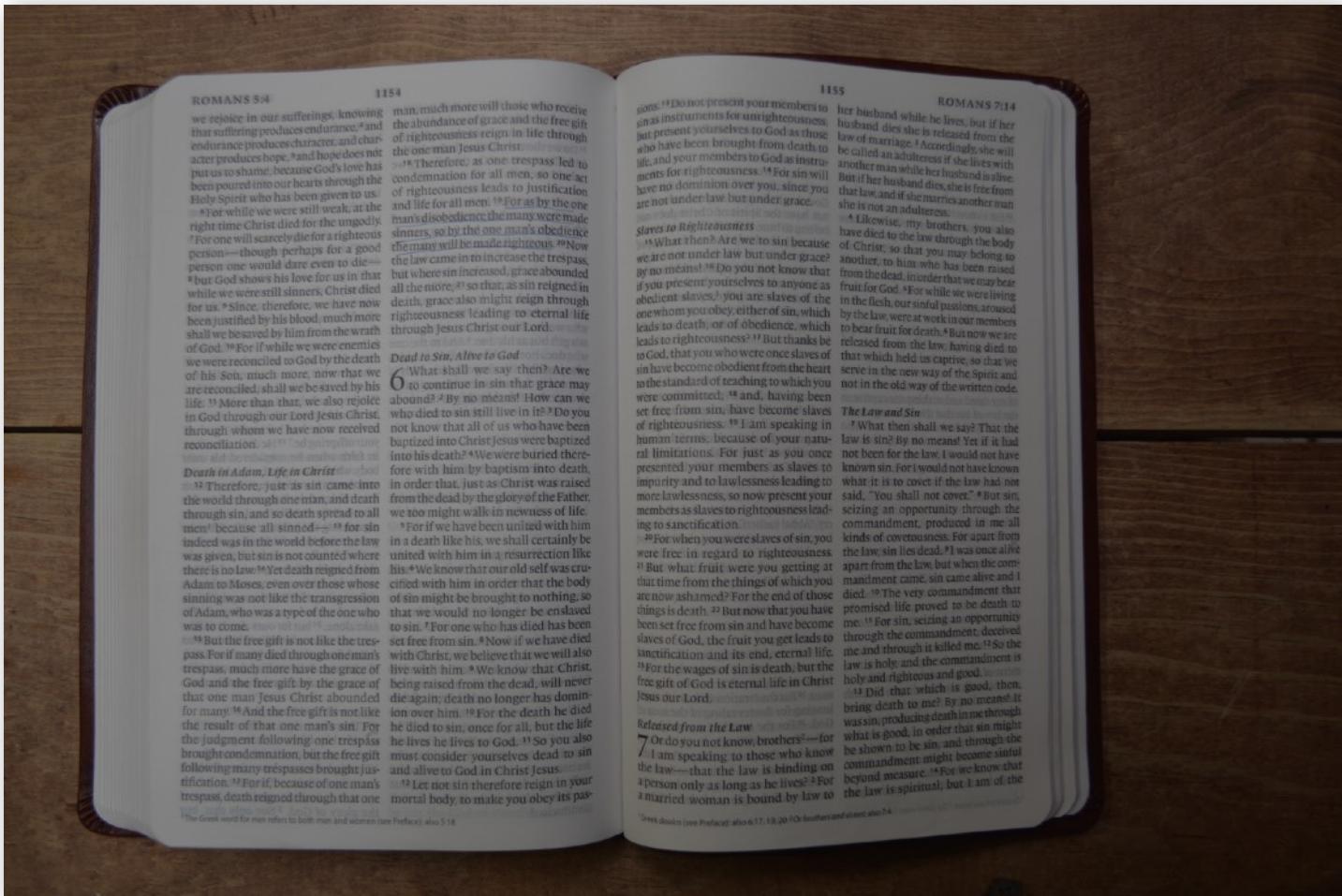


Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb  
a reward. *Psalm 127:3*



She sets about her work vigorously; her arms  
are strong for her tasks. *Proverbs 31:17*





## *What We Are Reading*

Melissa and I both part of gender segregated discipleship groups that are reading through the bible with Robert Murray M'Cheyne's reading plan, you can find a print off for the plan on the internet. Additionally, I am reading through the Read Scripture plan which can be found on the iOS and Android app stores.

## *What We Are Memorizing*

As part of these groups we both have verses that we are supposed to memorize to keep our hearts trained and minds equipped with the word. My group has memorized 2 Tim 2:2, Mat 28:19-20, and Ephesians 4:11-12. Melissa's group is memorizing large portions of scripture beginning with James 1.

# *Day Two*

## *Part 1*

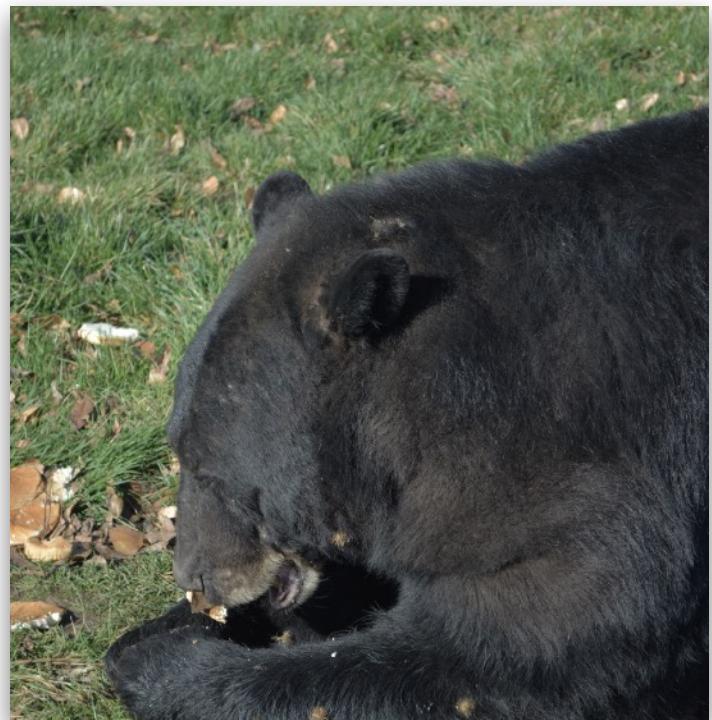
Definitely our most fun day. The only plan was to visit Yellowstone Bear World in Rexburg Idaho, which was really just supposed to be a fun side activity but our expectations were far surpassed and this place was awesome. The first half of the day was spent going through the drive through safari to see the bears, bison, elk, moose, and other animals before heading to the amusement rides that we couldn't pull the kids away from. After a quick bite to eat we decided that we should do it all again...so we did. Around 2:00 PM, which is nap time, we headed out to go back to the cabin.



# YELLOWSTONE BEAR WORLD

BEARS OF YELLOWSTONE'S PAST





You will laugh at violence and famine, and you will not be afraid of wild beasts. *Job 5:22*



# *Day Two*

## *Part 2*

On our way back to the cabin, we changed our minds and decided that we should go ahead and go see Jenny Lake (a shoe salesmen back in Ogden had told us about how beautiful the lake is) at the Grand Teton National Park. It would give the kids a solid two hour nap before we got there, and then we could spend more time at Yellowstone the next day. Luckily for us, National Park access is free for Active Duty members so that's a plus.





She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.  
*Proverbs 31:26*







## *Family Worship*

I have wanted to start family worship in our house for a long time now, but didn't really know how. I bought a very short and very inexpensive book called "Family Worship" by Donald S. Whitney. I read it in one day, and his biblically based method is easy to implement. Just Read, Pray, and Sing together. We use the Kids Bible App by YouVersion for our reading, and yes, we actually sing out loud.

## *Discipleship Groups*

Melissa and I both part of gender segregated discipleship groups consisting of 3-5 individuals. We meet almost every week with our groups to hold each other accountable for sins we are dealing with, circumstances we are enduring, and evangelistic opportunities we are seeking out and capitalizing on. The groups are based on Robby Gallaty's model in his book "Growing Up".

## *Day Three*

Heavily plagued by 7.5 hours of driving, day three was the hardest day of the trip. I did not realize that our cabin was so far away from Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park. The drive was beautiful, but after being in the car for so long with toddlers, it just can't be fully appreciated. Compounded with the fact that we finished lunch at the Geyser Cafe outside of Old Faithful right when the geyser was erupting so we had to wait another hour and a half for the next gush. But, now we've been there, seen it, and it was pretty cool.



Train up a child in the way he  
should go; even when he is old  
he will not depart from it.

*Proverbs 22:6*





When you gotta go, you gotta go.  
*Dr. Ian Malcom - Jurassic Park*



Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. *Psalm 127:4-5*











## *Church Planting*

From what we have seen in scripture, completing the mission of Jesus to make disciples of all nations is accomplished through groups of local believers, churches, who are going through life together intentionally evangelizing and discipling people to be followers of Jesus. Currently, the city we live in has more than 30,000 people and only one known evangelical church. The church we attend is one city south of us, and is a 3-4 yr old church plant looking to plant another church just north of us. We are looking to start helping with that effort.

## *Gospel for Asia*

Melissa and I, ever since we felt the first need for the lost in other countries, have sought ways to support church growth in some of the most unreached places. Through a ministry called "Gospel for Asia", led by K.P. Yohannan, we support a Christian family of four, native to Southeast Asia, who plant churches and are able to present the gospel message to people who never heard of the name of Jesus in their entire lives. Through Gospel for Asia, 100% of our support goes to this family, and we receive updates about their work regularly.



# *In Summary*

Taking time to get away from the daily grind, get quality time with family, and freedom from electronics to hone in on your walk with Jesus is truly a wonderful thing. We thoroughly enjoyed our 2016 Autumn Refresh, and we encourage everyone to find space in their schedules to get out, get quiet, and get right with those closest to you and with your maker. You won't regret it. Now, its time to get back to it.

SEE YOU OUT THERE



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