



*Building Hope for Tomorrow*  
**BOOKLET**

*"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

# A LETTER FROM PASTOR SCOTT



## ***What happened yesterday is important.***

In order for you to exist, a great many unlikely events needed to unfold in exactly the way that they did. If even one of those details of yesterday changed, there's a

significant chance you would not have been born.

What happened yesterday is important for us as human beings. It's also important for us as a church.

In 2 Kings Chapter 3 there's a story about the Kings of Israel, Judah and Edom joining forces to do battle against the King of Moab. The three kings are trying to outflank the Moabites, but in order to do that they march for 7 days through the desert and run out of water for the soldiers and horses.

When they call on the Prophet Elisha to pray to God for help, here's how God responds: ***Dig ditches all over this dry stream bed. 2 Kings 3:16 (Good News Translation)***

Think about that. They're in the desert. They're weak from dehydration, and God says dig ditches in the desert.

There's no logic to it. One could argue it's foolish. At the same time, however, it is the word of the Lord.

*Dig ditches all over this dry stream bed. Even though you will not see any rain or wind, this stream bed will be filled with water, and you, your livestock, and your pack animals will have plenty to drink. 2 Kings 3:16-17 (Good News Translation)*

## **DIG DITCHES, AND THEN GOD WILL PROVIDE.**

Dig ditches, obey the word of the Lord, and you'll witness the life-giving power of God!

And that's exactly what happened. The next day (tomorrow) water appeared, all of a sudden!

As they were drinking their fill of God's life-giving water, I wonder if anyone thought, what happened yesterday (digging ditches) was really about building hope for tomorrow!

Hope Ankeny, I'm convinced God is asking us to do something today that's really about *Building Hope for Tomorrow!*

***So grab a shovel, Hope! It's ditch digging time!***

*Pastor Scott Rains*

# THE HEART OF HOPE

## Our Mission

**Reach out** to the world around us and share the **everlasting love of Jesus Christ**.

## Our Vision

**Powered by the Spirit** to bring Christ to all cultures, **revive the world with God's love** and **make heaven more crowded!**

## Our Core Values

### 1. JESUS IS LIFE. THE REST IS DETAILS.

Jesus Christ alone is our hope, and the only real and lasting hope for the world (*John 14:6*). We love him. For this reason, we don't apologize for the gospel or for putting our relationship with him first in our lives (*Romans 1:16*). We strive to respond faithfully to the call of Jesus to follow him above all else in this world, which so often competes for our time, energy and attention (*Luke 14:15-24*).

### 2. LOST PEOPLE MATTER TO GOD AND SO THEY MATTER TO US.

Jesus was sent to reconcile a lost world to God (*Luke 15:1-32*), and he calls us to do the same. We like unchurched people, and we know what a difference Jesus can make in their lives. For this reason, we seek to reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ (*Matthew 28:19-20, John 20:21, 1 Corinthians 9:19-27, Lutheran Church of Hope mission statement*).

### 3. WE WORSHIP GOD, NOT TRADITION.

Where tradition helps to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and further the mission of our church, we embrace it. Where tradition becomes a wall between God and his people, we seek to tear it down (*John 2:13-22, Matthew 23:13-36, John 9:1-41*). While the gospel message of Jesus Christ



remains unchanged (*Hebrews 13:8*), the manner in which it is proclaimed must change for it to be communicated effectively in a changing world (*Mark 2:21-22*). In our worship and in our ministry, we intentionally offer a wide variety of options from traditional to contemporary and we remain open to new waves of innovation sent to the church by the Holy Spirit of God – all for the sake of Christian mission (*Psalms 146-150, Acts 2:1-42*).

### 4. FOLLOWING JESUS IS A GROWING EXPERIENCE.

We can't outgrow Christian faith. As modern-day disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to move from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity (*Philippians 3:13-14, Ephesians 4:12-14*). For this reason, we strive to bring people into an ever-growing relationship with Jesus Christ (*Matthew 28:19*). This growth best happens in small groups (*Acts 2:42-47*). As we grow in faith, we turn our hearts to God, giving of ourselves and our resources – freely and cheerfully (*2 Corinthians 9:7*).

### 5. WE ARE ONE BODY, UNITED IN JESUS CHRIST.

We are a church of individuals, different in many ways, yet called together by God to be one in ministry and mission. As members of the same body, we become more effective when we work in harmony as a unified whole (*John 17:20-23*). Among us, love for one another is the norm (*John 13:34, Romans 13:8*), conflicts are resolved according to the teaching of Jesus (*Matthew 18:15-17*), and we seek to build each other up (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*). We rejoice together, and we suffer together (*1 Corinthians 12:25-27*).

# TIMELINE

“At first I was wondering if it (Hope Ankeny) would make it. I mean, we’ve gone from 50 people to a couple thousand and it is just a dynamic church. It has to be a God thing.” – *Rich Sydnes*

In the early 2000s not very many people were thinking about multi-site churches. Thankfully, a bunch of Spirit-filled, mission-minded folks at Lutheran Church of Hope’s West Des Moines campus thought, “what if we launched a campus in Ankeny?”

Because of decisions made yesterday, Hope Ankeny started worshiping in the spring of 2006. First in rented space at Resurrection Lutheran church, and then in the spring of 2007, all 150 of us moved to Prairie Ridge Middle School for worship.

God grew our church, so we added services, then leased and renovated a warehouse to make room for more people.

Eventually in 2013, the congregation of Hope Ankeny determined that the best way to continue to carry out the mission and vision God had given us was to build a permanent home for Hope in Ankeny.

The average weekend attendance was 790 people and yearly giving was over \$500,000. Through the **Building Hope Together** campaign, the congregation faithfully and generously gave \$2,000,000 and we began construction of Phase 1 – a \$9 million project that gave us a 700 seat worship center with a nursery, classrooms, kitchen and a Prayer Tower. This also left our congregation with a debt of \$7 million.



“Hope is like a wildfire. There’s no stopping it! I feel closer and more connected to God because of Hope.” – *Brian Rumelhart*

The **Building 2 a Hope Beyond** campaign saw radical generosity from the congregation as \$4.2 million was pledged over the next three years. In 2021, the **Bringing Hope to Life** giving campaign asked the congregation to prayerfully considered giving again to finish Phase 2 AND purchase the Johnson Farm on the corner of Ash Street and 36th Street.

Altogether the cost for Phase 2 and the Johnson farm was \$6,400,000 and the congregation gave \$5,900,000.

Through it all we now have over 50,000 square feet of invaluable ministry space on 25 acres in the middle of one of the fastest growing communities in the country.

Yesterday is important. We wouldn’t be where we are or who we are without the important decisions of yesterday.

When I reflect on the past, I can’t help but find myself considering how the decisions we make today will shape what comes next.

“Hope is a place that that our grandchildren can grow their faith. A place that they can feel safe and learn about Jesus.” – *Dan Varnum*

“When we walked in everyone was so friendly. All four of us, both of our daughters, Chris and myself, everybody took something away from it. I can’t describe it, but it just felt like home.” – *Lauren Tigges*

“It’s through God’s grace that we are saved. But I had a really hard time understanding that it was an unconditional love. That finally resonated with me, especially over the past couple of years, where I’ve really let myself accept God’s love.” – *Erin Curnyn*

Three years later, after ministering from Hope’s hub in Ankeny for just over a year, worship attendance had more than doubled (1407) and giving had grown to over \$1,200,000 annually.

(The Bible has) just become part of who I am. It fills me up. It’s the same thing with church or worship. It’s a get to. I’m excited to get out the door and come here and get filled up.” – *Justin Lima*

“If each grade keeps helping the younger grades, then our church will grow more. I feel like we’re going to need a bigger church!” – *Caitilin Horner, HS senior*

By 2018, attendance had grown to 1606 per weekend and the number of students coming to PowerLife and Ignition meant we didn’t have enough space for student small groups to meet. We had run out of room and began the process of a Phase 2 expansion. We knew we didn’t want to increase our debt, so we were committed to waiting to build the addition when we had the money for it.



## This gets me very excited about **Building Hope for Tomorrow!**

- As we continue to grow, when will it be time for a Phase 3 expansion that includes a worship center with permanent seating for over 1200 people?
- As we dream about what God is calling us to do with the incredible resources of this church, might God ask us to build a Care Center, where we can house Matthew 25 kinds of ministry (food, clothing, health care, prison ministry and more).
- What about a Hope Counseling Center to meet the growing mental health challenges of our time?
- Or a Youth Center with a massive gym and sports fields for youth outreach.

## ***It’s impossible to outdream God!***

As we continue to prayerfully discern God’s direction, we want to be free to go where God asks us to go, and do what God asks us to do tomorrow.

In order to start *Building Hope for Tomorrow*, we want to reduce our debt today. At the same time our current building is almost a decade old and some improvements to the current facility could help us reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ.

## ***Can you dig it?***



## 10 FOR 10

### 1. Evangelists

**BROADCAST** the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ to 10 million people through inspired weekly gatherings (worship and creative arts), digital outreach (social media, podcasts, blogs, books, recorded music, apps, websites and teaching tools), open house events (Christmas, Easter, Vacation Bible School, Taste of Hope, revivals, community gatherings and calls to prayer), national and global partnerships (Alpha, Denmark Indre Mission, GlobeServe, etc.), and intentional outreach into the world of youth sports.

### 2. Unity Agents

**BUILD** bridges of harmony for cultures divided by race, ethnicity, creed, gender, sexual orientation, politics and worldview. Illuminate in our public teaching and private conversations a biblically faithful application of God's word to the issues of our day, avoiding ditches of legalism and relativism, rising above dismissive debates, calling instead for a "third way" of civility, compassion, respect, love and acknowledgment that the Christ who unites us is greater than the issues that could divide us.

### 3. Spirit-Filled

**SURF** new waves of revival sent to the church by the Holy Spirit. Pursue the Christian faith not

only as an intellectual pursuit (mind), but also an experiential relationship with a living God (heart and soul). Realize the inspiring presence in our daily lives of a miraculous God who loves, guides, inspires, heals and saves. Develop relationships (prayer and outreach) with like-minded missional churches to serve as a renewing movement within our denomination and as a prophetic witness to mainline and evangelical Christians.

### 4. City-Changers

**SERVE** our neighbors in need as the hands and feet of Jesus by bringing good news to the poor, sharing God's love for all, breaking strongholds of systemic corruption, amplifying our voice for racial harmony, rebuilding a deeper sense of connectedness, upgrading our support for local mission partners to serve together as a united force for good in our communities, and developing new initiatives that bring light to the darkest places around us, in the cities and towns where we reside.

### 5. World-Changers

**CONSTRUCT** new church buildings, clean water wells and provide malaria nets in developing countries that God can use as holy ground to draw into his kingdom more than 1 million neighbors who currently live in communities without a church. Respond effectively, actively and

generously in response to global issues as the Spirit leads. Send hundreds of volunteers on short-term mission trips all over the world, all for the sake of the gospel and letting our light shine.

## 6. Inter-Generational

**COMPETE** for the hearts of new generations of believers by developing highly creative, fully functional, grace-based, disciple-making ministries that will proclaim the gospel to 1 million youth and young adults over the next decade via HopeKids, PowerLife, Ignition, Kairos, REVIVE, Vacation Bible School, One Body, The Landing, social media, recorded music and digital teaching tools. Encourage and teach new generations to participate fully in the life of the whole church as a vitally important part of our present (not just future).

## 7. Faith Builders

**MOVE** people around the Hope Circle — seeker to believer to follower to servant leader and around again and again — by preaching Christ and him crucified, and creating a discipleship pathway that includes introductory steps (Alpha, New Member Classes, etc.), intermediate steps (After Alpha,



Core, Page 2, Bible studies, classes, serving, etc.) and graduate-level steps (Pneuma, advanced classes, leadership development, schools of worship, prayer and youth ministry, internships, mission trips, leading groups, etc.).

## 8. Kingdom Expanders

**LAUNCH** 10 new Local Sites or campuses and 10 new partnerships with existing churches over the next 10 years (10 for 10 in 10!). Further develop existing Hope locations, providing a Christ-centered church home that brings the gospel of Jesus Christ to 25,000+ people who worship the Lord weekly at Hope. Gather for all-Hope unity events (Christmas, Easter, etc.) each year. Establish a mobile unit that allows live broadcasts from any location to foster even greater unity as one church in multiple locations.

## 9. Legacy Makers

**DEVELOP** Hope's ability to revive the world with God's love without financial constraint. Pay off debt on current church buildings at all locations. Minimize new debt on new church buildings. Grow the Hope Foundation to \$25 million to invest in expanding God's kingdom through new ministries and generous financial support for our mission partners. Build a retreat and sports recreation center that includes a massive gym and sports fields for youth outreach. Build a senior living center with a chapel for outreach to our elders.

## 10. Care Providers

**LOVE** and support the hearts of those who are broken, broke, tired, scared, sick, imprisoned, lost or wandering. Create a Christian counseling center at Hope that will care for those who are struggling with a relationship, family matter, anxiety, depression, addiction, habit, hang-up, hurt, suicidal thoughts, mental health issues or spiritual concern. Widen the reach of our recovery ministries to multiple campuses and double the number of support groups currently offered at all Hope campuses.

# GIVING GOALS

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Building Improvements and Debt Reduction

*Building Hope for Tomorrow* is a campaign to free us up to go where God wants us to go in the future. That freedom will come as we reduce our debt today. At the same time, our 10-year old building could use some improvements that would enable us to better carry out the mission of Hope.

We are committed to spending no more than \$500,000 on these improvements which include:

- **Enhanced audio/visual capabilities** to more effectively support Hope's mission through a remodel of the Worship Center.
- **Replace our 10-year-old projector** with an LED wall
- **Redesign the acoustics** of the Worship Center after altering its original design to accommodate more seating

- **Remove the North wall plane** and remodel the stage flooring to provide a larger stage without losing seating capacity
- **Acoustic treatment** of the Harbor classrooms
- **Outdoor playground** for the Hope preschool and the larger community
- **Finished gathering area** in the lower level inside the Student Entrance. Built-in arcade, intentional booths and furniture for small groups and community building, built-in check point computers for HopeKids, PowerLife, Ignition and discipleship classes for adults.

**VICTORY GOAL: \$2,500,000**

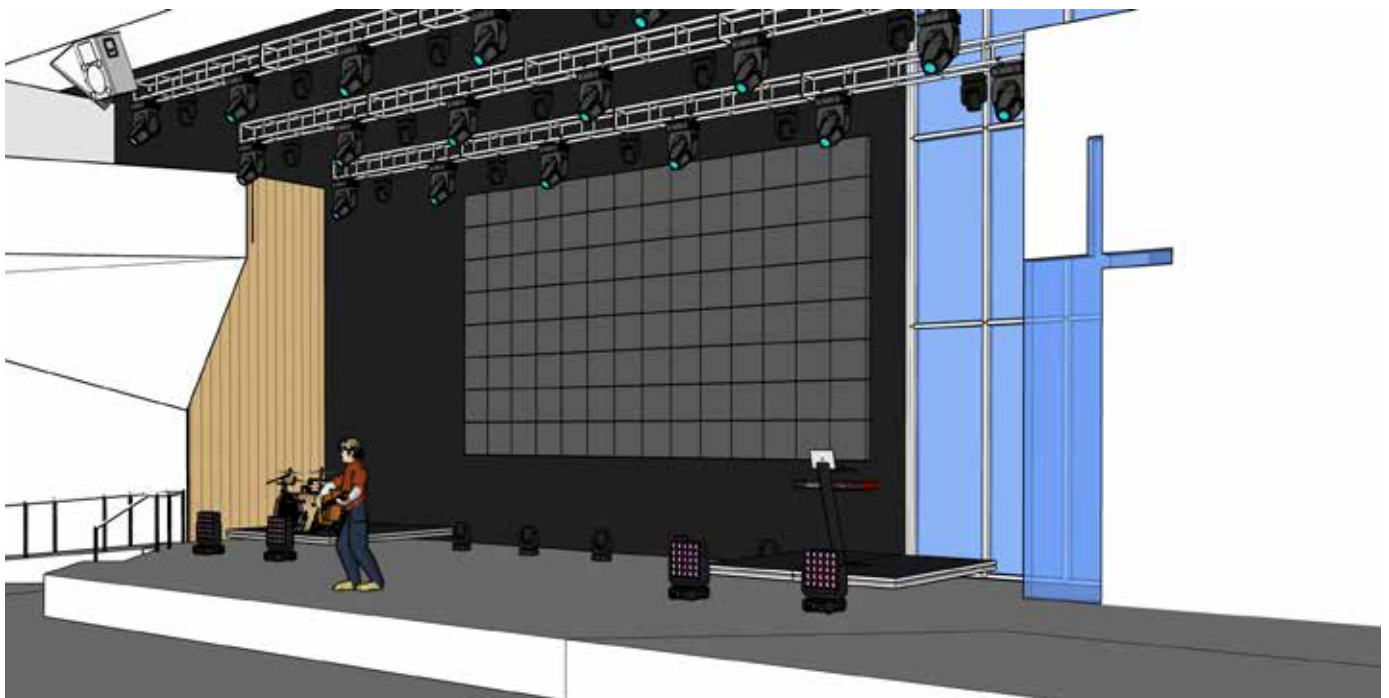
(all the above plus \$2,000,000 of debt reduction)

**DREAM GOAL: \$4,000,000**

(all the above plus \$3,500,000 of debt reduction)

**MIRACLE GOAL: \$8,000,000**

(all the above plus BURN THE MORTGAGE!)







# GOALS OF BUILDING HOPE FOR TOMORROW

## 1. Gather

### WEEKLY WORSHIP

**Why? Inspiration:** Worship is a spiritual exercise for the body of Christ and a time for intimacy with God, healing for the hurt, sanctuary from chaos, water for dry bones and spiritual food for the soul; a Holy Spirit hangout, hospital for sinners, a place of renewal and holy ground.

### Celebration Services

Saturdays, 5:00 pm  
Sundays, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

### ATTEND AN INFO MEETING

**Why? Connection:** To learn about the vision and goals of *Building Hope for Tomorrow*, and to give the people of Hope an opportunity to connect with one another.

**How?** You'll be invited to attend a 90-minute Info Meeting hosted by Pastor Scott.

Saturday, November 9 or 16  
following the 5:00 pm service

Sunday, November 10 or 17  
following the 11:00 am service

### At the Info Meeting you will:

- Connect with other Hopesters as you share a meal and stories.
- Watch a short video highlighting the history of Hope and explaining the goals of *Building Hope for Tomorrow* and how you can participate.

- Ask Pastor Scott and volunteers from the *Building Hope for Tomorrow* team to answer any questions you may have.

## 2. Grow

### DEVELOP A DAILY PRAYER ROUTINE

**Why? How? Conversation:** Develop more effective communication patterns and a deeper bond between you and God.

- **40 Days of Prayer** – Begins Sunday, October 13 and continues through Sunday November 24. Watch Hope Ankeny social media or subscribe to receive a daily prayer prompt to help you grow in connection to God through prayer during *Building Hope for Tomorrow*.
- *Building Hope for Tomorrow* small groups A giving campaign is a great time to find a group and grow in faith by being in a community. Group launch happens Sunday, Oct. 13. If you're interested, contact Pastor Nick (nick.brannen@hopewdm.org)
- **24/7 Prayer Chapel – Sunday, Nov. 17, 7:00 am – Sunday Nov. 24, Noon**

The Prayer Chapel will be open for anyone to come and pray in preparation for Commitment Weekend as we close the Giving Campaign. This is a great opportunity to take an hour or more to focus on God and to seek him. Sign up with a friend, your family or small group in one-hour increments.

### 3. Give

#### DISCOVER THE JOY OF CHEERFUL GIVING

**Why? Liberation:** Find freedom in guilt- free, pressure-free giving; not under compulsion, but cheerfully, generously and freely!

**How? Understand that everything we have belongs to God:**

- Pray
- Wait for God to answer
- Give as a matter of God's revelation, not human reason
- Give with a sense of God's timing for the eternal impact of our gifts

Bring an Offering to God through *Building Hope for Tomorrow*

**Why? MISSION:** For the sake of fulfilling Lutheran Church of Hope's mission to "reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ."

**How?** In addition to regular general fund offerings, offer a one-time gift, and/or a 3-year commitment to *Building Hope for Tomorrow* on Commitment Weekend – Nov. 23 & 24.

## CELEBRATE HOPE

**Why? Celebrate:** Join us as we celebrate all God has done through our *Building Hope for Tomorrow* giving campaign as we look toward Commitment Weekend.

**How? Attend the party!**

Wednesday, November 20,

**5:30 – 6:30 pm:** Food and Family friendly activities in an Open House feel

**6:30 – 7:00 pm:** Program in the Worship Center

*Casual attire, no offerings; no sales pitch; no pressure – just a joy-centered party (with food served from 5:30 – 6:30 pm)! Kids welcome, too!*

## DISCOVER THE JOY OF CHEERFUL GIVING!

It's not complicated. In order to discover what it really means to be a "cheerful giver," we need to seek God's revelation, not human reason. Try these steps:

### Step one

**PRAY.** Ask God this question: "Lord, what do you want to do through me to accomplish your will for Hope?"

*"Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened." Matthew 7:7*

### Step two

**LISTEN TO GOD.** Keep asking until you "hear" God's answer. If you don't get anything – in other words, if you don't get a pretty strong indication in your heart, soul or mind as you pray each day throughout this campaign – then quiet your life until you can. Be still. Listen to God, not people. God will write a number on your heart, soul or mind.

*"Be silent, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10*

### Step three

**TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH.** Trust God enough to do whatever he calls you to do, believing that he will provide the means to make it happen (2 Corinthians 9:6-11). Now you're giving as a matter of faith – and thus, experiencing the joy and freedom of Bible- based giving without anyone telling you, other than God, what to give! Enjoy the feeling!



# A LETTER FROM THE CAMPAIGN DIRECTORS

## **To Our Hope Family,**

Understanding where we've been as a church is important, as it helps prepare us for tomorrow. When we prepare, God will provide. We've seen this at Hope Ankeny, and we are excited to continue preparing for tomorrow. *Can you dig it!?*

*Building Hope for Tomorrow* is about digging ditches to prepare us for what is to come. Building Hope for Tomorrow focuses on completing building improvements, addressing debt reduction and furthering community outreach.

The way we connect, and grow is important. Our worship center and supporting technology is in need of updating to effectively connect with those in person and virtually. We must also prepare to support our growing church family with an expanded children's playground, renovations to the Harbor classrooms, and improving the gathering area in the Student Entrance with more interactive technology and spaces for our youth to collaborate about God's great love.

Over the past few years, the financial world has changed drastically. Currently, Hope Ankeny is paying interest only payments on its prior building projects. Unless we eliminate our mortgage debt, significant rate increases are forthcoming. Rate increases will reduce our ability to support or invest in certain initiatives, programs, or outreach.

Financial independence will allow us to further our community outreach and execute Hope Ankeny's mission to reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ.

*There are three goals of any giving campaign at Lutheran Church of Hope – to Gather, Grow, and Give.*

There will be time to Gather at weekly worship services. There will also be opportunities to Gather at informational meetings and an upcoming celebration service. We encourage you to

Gather to learn about this campaign, but also to connect with one another and perhaps build new relationships.

Take this as an opportunity to Grow. Develop more effective communication patterns and a deeper bond between you and God. You will have opportunities to watch Hope Ankeny social media or subscribe to receive a daily prayer.

Finally, prayerfully consider to Give. This is a personal decision for all and should be done guilt-free, pressure-free and cheerfully! Pray. Listen to God. Trust in God on whatever He calls you to do.

We find great joy helping in this important campaign to witness God's plan for this incredible church.

Thank you to all volunteers who are donating their time, talent, treasure and prayers towards *Building Hope for Tomorrow*. With all of you helping Hope Ankeny, anything is possible!

If you have any questions, about the campaign, please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@hopeankeny.org](mailto:info@hopeankeny.org), and one of us will happily follow up with you.

***God Bless You All and God Bless this wonderful Church!***

***Schafers, Olberdings and Peklapps***





Ankeny

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