Knysna Baptist Church





MINISTRY UPDATE

Dear Church Family

Every time we put a ministry report together I'm amazed at the amount of work that has been achieved and the capacity that this little church has to be used in the Kingdom of Christ. May you be as encouraged as I am by what I read within these pages.

Let us remember though, that, whether we want to acknowledge it or not, we are 100% dependent on the creative, sustaining, energising and accomplishing power of God. Therefore, if there is one thing we must be compelled to do for Christ's Kingdom (and this applies to every believing soul in this church), it must be to live that dependence out!

Shouldn't then prayer be at the top of our priorities, because prayer is the greatest affirmation of dependence on God. Secondly, shouldn't everything we do for Kingdom be done submissively to Him. He must completely own our lives. Character and Attitude must be the Character and Attitude of Christ. Work must be the work for the Gospel.

The descended, crucified, risen, ascended and glorified Jesus Christ must be seen in our behaviour and heard in our words.

We are 100% dependent, and responsible to live this dependence out. And if we take care of this responsibility, Christ will do the rest, as He said, "I will build My Church".

Whatever it is you do in your ministry, may you be wholly dependent on Him.

 $May\,2014\,be\,an\,exceptionally\,Glorious\,year!$

Malcolm

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Prayer Meeting

by Ron

The two first and essential means of grace are the Word of God and Prayer. By these come conversion, by these we also grow, for we are exhorted to desire the sincere milk of the Word that we may grow thereby, and we cannot grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ except we also speak to Him in Prayer.

We Christians have a wonderful privilege. We can come to the throne of grace directly with our prayers and petitions and we are confident that our Great High Priest is willing and able to intercede on our behalf.

The Saturday Prayer meeting was started by the late Brian Barnes, the Pastor of our Church in 1994. That makes it the oldest ministry in Knysna Baptist, together with the faithful preaching of God's Word.

Every Saturday morning at 7:30 am, eight folk meet at the Church for prayer.

We come together to seek God's face for the Church (the Pastor, its members and adherents and ministries), for missions and missionaries, and for our town of Knysna.

It is a blessed time, especially when we see God answer our prayers!

This is not an exclusive group of people. We are just earnest to intercede. We encourage every member, adherent or friend of Knysna Baptist to join us.

Come on! it will change your life!

BIBLE STUDIES



Cunningham Bible Study

by Malcolm

Our Bible Study group meet every Tuesday evening at 7 for 7:30 in various homes. It has been a blessing to get to know a few new folk through these regular meetings, especially in a way deeper than the usual chit-chat. How encouraging it is to talk about the Lord Jesus with other Christians!

Hebrews 10 is true when it urges Christians to not stop meeting together!

Last year we completed our study on Paul's letter to the believers in Rome, his 'systematic theology'. His great message is, "we can have the Righteousness that comes from God, through faith in Jesus Christ". It was both challenging and encouraging in our personal walks with Christ.

It was sad for us to say goodbye to Danny and Dolly who left back to the US within the year! Cherry has joined us, and Jacques Malan. The Ravenscrofts appeared on the scene too, and all these folk have contributed greatly to the discussions.

Since Romans, we have begun working through DA Carson's "The God who is there", as well as Justin Peters' "A call for discernment", both dealing with very contemporary topics in a world full of atheism and false religion.

It's a great group; bible study, discussion, prayer, along with lashings of coffee and cake!

Please join us!

Cairs Bible Study

by Ron

Our group changed our meeting day from Tuesdays to Thursdays to accommodate the parents of small children who rely on grandparents in our group to baby-sit for them.

This change has resulted in some of our number dropping out due to prior commitments. Nevertheless, we have had an average of 12 people attending regularly. We meet in a different home each week at 6:30 pm.

In 2013 the book of the Prophet Isaiah was studied. This book is long and quite complex, but it was well worth the effort. Isaiah is often referred to as the "fifth Gospel" because of the prophesies about Jesus Christ, the suffering Servant. The detail in this prophesy is amazing in it's accuracy and teaching, which is so relevant today.

We also spent time as individuals reading "Pursuit of Holiness" by Jerry Bridges. This book can be read over and over again by Christians as we pursue personal holiness in our walk with Jesus.

We are currently studying the gospel of Matthew and we "try" to cover one chapter a week! This is a tall order due to enthusiastic discussion.

We would love more folk to join us, and extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to study God's Word in an informal environment where we can share and encourage each other and grow in grace.

Come and join us! What better way could you spend a Thursday evening?

Ladies' Morning Bible Study

by Marge

Our Ladies Bible Study has been a great blessing to all of us. Warm friendships and support for one another has been a great part of what has happened in our group. We have been studying Luke for quite a few months already and still have a way to go!! It has been a blessing searching the scriptures and getting to grips with our Lord and Saviour's life here on earth. We thank God for His leading week after week.

This past year both Dolly and Chrissie left us and we do miss them as both of them were important contributors to our group. Felicity joined us this year as did Margi, Sabine, Hannalie and Ashley. Each member is an important part of our group... the tea makers, the contributors and the ones who hold our ladies up in prayer! We meet on Fridays, 9h30 in the Sunday School facility.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

by Jacqui



In December I took on the new Role of Sunday School Superintendent. Since then we have made a couple of changes.

We renovated the downstairs classroom by painting it, laying a new carpet and tiling the bathroom and kitchen. The transformation is unreal. If you haven't been down to have a look

yet, you must! Thank you so much to the deacons for getting this done speedily and properly!

We also switched over to a new curriculum, "Generations of Grace", from Grace Community Church in LA (pastor John McArthur). It has been received here with very satisfactory feedback, from both the teachers and the children. It is a 3 year curriculum that navigates through the whole Bible.

We have also changed the age group split between the Junior and Senior class as well, and welcomed 3 new teachers: Gaylene Ravenscroft, Caira Bayman and Di Swart. This

brings us up to a total of 10 teachers! How exciting! Everyone seems to be adjusting well.

We will be organising a family picnic once every 2 months with the intention of teachers and parents and kids all getting to know each other better. This is not only for the Sunday School. This is a great opportunity for you to invite unchurched people along and introduce them to church folk, perhaps encouraging them to come on Sunday as well.

Please pray for the vital ministry of the Sunday School. Pray that the Children will be touched by the Lord as they learn of Him in the Word. Please pray for the Teachers to have wisdom as they lovingly teach and guide these young minds. Please also pray that the Lord would bring more Young Families with children into our church.

Music Ministry

by Felicity

The desire of the Music Team is to bring glory to God through

- our relationship with Him
- our selection of music
- our thoughtful presentation of the material we use
- our desire for all our selections to be true to Scripture

and to lead the congregation into a spirit of worship.

This year the music team has enjoyed participating in some great worship events, like Easter, the Pastors' Conference, Missions Weekend and Christmas, a number of which were productions including Scripture Reading, Prayer, Performed Items.

Song is certainly a Divine Gift to our human race, from the very heart of God who "dances over us with singing" (Zeph 3:17)

Our usual practice time is on Friday at 4:30 pm.

Our Team consists of:

Worship leaders - Malcolm, Ron and Welland

Guitarists – Malcolm, Sarah

Pianists – Gloria, Estelle and Felicity

Singers – Jacqui, Estelle, Diane, Nicky, Danica and Lila Sound – Mel, Ron Webster, and Jacques Bayman

Projection – Mary, Daniel and Jacques Malan

We look forward to new members joining us. Our aim is not perfection but willingness to be used by God in this ministry to His glory.

Family Picnics

The Knysna Baptist Church Sunday School (KB CSS) has decided to arrange a family day outing every two months for all the children of the Sunday School, their families, friends and other church

members.

For our first outing Retha and I decided on Wild Waters Fun Park in Plettenberg Bay. There were water slides, putt putt, a swimming pool, kiddies play area and trampolines. Fun was had by all. Grannies were jumping on trampolines with their little ones and of course the adults were probably having more fun on the water slide than the children. It turned out to be a beautiful day made even more enjoyable by the company and just watching the children be children and enjoying themselves. Not all the children get to see each other or spend time with each other except for Sunday School so it was a lovely opportunity to see them bond together during the outing.

It would be lovely to see the outing grow and we are definitely looking forward to the next one!



by Malcolm

In 2013 we began a very exciting teenage ministry. Now that the younger children in the church are growing up, there is a particular need to minister to this age group.

Donald Ravenscroft took over from Retha (who was close to child birth!) and championed the

ministry, doing a wonderful job of connecting with the children and simultaneously keeping the group Bible-focussed.

Various topics were explored, including Creation and Evolution, Relationships, Missions, and even "rewards in Heaven", while all the time centring the message on the Gospel of Salvation through Jesus Christ.

Fun events included a wildly successful Amazing Race, wherein we raced around the town on Friday night in various cars, doing a treasure hunt, and being stopped by traffic cops (only for routine checks!).

The numbers of teens have fluctuated, from 2(!) to about 20.

Unfortunately at this stage, a number of factors have prevented us from continuing it into 2014, including a lack of available leaders, and uncertain commitment from the teens.

It may be useful to reposition our teen ministry into more of a small group ministry that meets in a home for socialising and biblical instruction. These teenagers are at the critical point junction of their lives. They truly need godly mentors who will see them through the challenges.

If you are a member of the church, are young at heart, have a passion for the Word of God, and a desire to minister to teenagers, please let me know!

Retreat Weekend

by Albert



The weekend of 18 - 20 October 2013 was the event of the Knysna Baptist Church's Annual Retreat. The venue was De Hoek Mountain Resort, nestling at the foot of the beautiful Swartberg mountains, outside Oudtshoorn. Our guest speaker was Errol Wagner from George Baptist Church. His sermons were based on the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus, found in John

17. Participants set out eagerly, arriving on Friday afternoon. Helpers all jumped in and started preparing the delicious Cottage Pie. Some folk were lucky enough to win the odd spot prizes for 'free dish washing'. Afterwards followed a great time of worship, led by the new youth band, and then Errol taught us the first of 4 great messages.

After an early coffee and muffins on Saturday, we once again enjoyed a time of worship and continued with the series on the Priestly Prayer. Then everyone got stuck into a delicious "skottel" cook-up for brunch. A relaxing "free time" followed the full tummies, with people participating in games, fellowship, even knitting, while others got down to the serious business of preparing potjies for the big competition.

(Editorial: Congratulations to Albert and Diane who scored a perfect 10!)

After the third session of worship, the floor was opened for fun and games, accompanied by great hilarity! Skits, charades, and team challenges had everyone in stitches (not literally, thankfully).

On Sunday morning we enjoyed the final sermon, after which we all departed for home, some members stopping halfway for pizza at the famous Pizza stall outside George.

We departed refreshed and rejuvenated by the wonderful truths we had been reminded of by Errol in his messages on John 17. It was a period of "time-out" in which we could soak up God's word as expounded by Errol and be reminded of His love for us and His promise to keep us until He comes in Glory. And our purpose to bring glory to God in all we do. We were awarded the opportunity of meaningful fellowship and fun across all age groups, family and friends.

A time of blessing!



How time has flown! It's been a little over a Men's Retreat year (1 March 2013) since the men (myself, Malcolm, Jaques Bayman, Garthen Fortuin, and Alan Cameron) attend the George Baptist men's camp, which was located at DeHoek

Mountain Resort. Pastor Christo Beetge was the guest speaker and his theme for the weekend was Purity, and turning away from sin.

Christo also shared a very useful method of identifying and turning away from sin, originally from John Piper. Piper uses the acronym ANTHEM to illustrate, and we've all found this very useful in our own lives!

- AVOID as much as is possible and reasonable the sights and situations that arouse unfitting desire. (2 Timothy 2:22, Romans 13:14).
- Say **N**O to every lustful thought within five seconds. And say it with the authority of Jesus Christ (James 4:7)
- **T**URN the mind forcefully toward Christ as a superior satisfaction. (Ephesians 4:22, 1 Peter 1:14, Proverbs 7:22)
- HOLD the promise and the pleasure of Christ firmly in your mind until it pushes the other images out. "Fix your eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 3:1, Matthew 11:12)
- **E**NJOY a superior satisfaction. Cultivate the capacities for pleasure in Christ. (Psalm 90:14)
- MOVE into a useful activity away from idleness and other vulnerable behaviours. (Romans 12:11, Titus 2:14)

A lot of time was apportioned for fellowship, whether in the whole group or smaller groups, and along with that, time for prayer, discussion and confession. Good food was aplenty and everybody had a great time relaxing, hiking, playing volleyball and cooling off in the huge blue pool. Everyone who participated in the weekend said it was an edifying experience, sharing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25).

MISSIONS NEAR

The Strategic Working Group (SWG) – Mobilising gospel outreach by Malcolm

I've been delighted to find in Knysna Baptist Church more than a handful of members who eagerly dream of opportunities to serve Christ in Gospel ministry. And I want to do all I can to enable that. Perhaps one of the reasons people don't fill those dreams is that they fear they are not capable. Perhaps they need resources, or advice. But it can't stop there!

In 2013 we formed the Strategic Working Group (SWG) in 2013 as a means of enabling you to carry out that gospel-burden which God has put on your heart. The SWG is a sort of middle-man among desires, opportunities and resources.

For now the group is composed of myself, Ron Cairs (chairman of the Deacons), Sarel Nienaber, Brian Campbell and Estelle Colyn. We want to maintain a high-level view of these desires, opportunities and resources within the church so that we can make sure there is no bottleneck to any gospel work! Our job is to identify those gospel dreams hibernating in your heart, and to enable you, in whatever way we can, to see that bear fruit. (See the report on the Executive Breakfast as an example of such a dream)

God has planted us like a City on a Hill (don't you think our placement next to the N2 is amazing—just consider the frontage we have!). We have got many resources, and many hands, and I'm sure many hearts that are earnestly desiring to be used by God for the extension of His Kingdom. But more than anything, we have a Message—the Gospel of Eternal Life through Jesus Christ.

Partnering with Local Black Churches

by Malcolm

Missions Weekend

It was an honour for us to host some local missionaries for the missions weekend when we learned about the Zionist church movement in SA and their need for the Gospel. The theme was "Missions Near" and Barry Adkins, our guest speaker accompanied us to 2 local black congregations — Luxolo Baptist, and Holy Ghost Fire of God ministries. He highlighted the need to be Biblical in our worship of the One True God through His Son Jesus Christ, and the great opportunity for this among the Zionist people.

Holy Ghost Fire of God Ministries

Pastor Bongi of Holy Ghost Fire of God ministries continues to meet with me weekly, where we talk about ministry, home life, and do some bible study on the passage he will

preach the coming weekend. Bongi and an additional four men have also attended our School of Theology training every Saturday afternoon. This training is being passed on to others in their church during the weekly bible studies, and even in Sunday sermons!

They have recently received notice that the property they currently rent has been sold to someone else and they will need to vacate by the end of April. They have identified another plot just next door, which is for sale, and they are trying to raise funds to purchase it.

Life is challenging for Bongi and his wife. God has blessed her with a position at the general hospital, in admissions, but finances are tight. We have decided to contribute a small amount to their family each month, as part of our missions giving.

Luxolo Baptist Church

Luxolo Baptist are a needy church, with very few resources. They meet in a rented garage in the location every Sunday for worship, but their pastor resides in Cape Town. We were privileged to host a baptismal service for them, buy Bibles for them, and offer them theological training (which unfortunately was not received). For the moment our partnership with Luxolo has taken a back seat as they need to first come to terms with a more sustainable leadership structure. Hopefully they will be able to join our training and become partners with us in the Gospel.

MISSIONS FAR

by Ron and Felicity



You, a believer in Jesus, have the incredible privilege of sharing in His world plan. It is important, therefore, for our church to be involved in putting that plan into practice. Besides sharing the gospel locally, our church must be involved in missionary endeavour. Knysna Baptist Church has always supported missions and missionaries with prayer, and monetary support as we have been able.

Our regular financial support goes toward:

- Keith and Christine Moller in Malawi working with the Yao tribe (Muslim/animists)
- Steve and Lorraine Stavropolous TWR Swaziland (seconded to Benin for a year)
- Henry and Sonja Jooste SIM (local missionary recruiting)
- William and Sharon Vaughan Samaria Mission (Northern Province and Mozambique)
- Gabriel and Nicky Pretorius IMD international (Northern Province, and Africa)
- Jews for Jesus

- The Baptist Union Missions Department (who send various missionaries)
- The Baptist Union Bible Way Correspondence Course (a Prison Ministry)
- The Bible Society of South Africa

Newsletters from our Missionaries and Missions organisations are available to you on our notice board. Please read these updates so that your hearts and prayers can be informed! You are welcome to take the publications home too. We keep in personal touch by email, and the missionaries are always encouraged by news from us. You can join us at the Saturday prayer meetings where we pray for them, and remember that weekly reminders are published in the bulletin.

We encourage you to get to know these missionaries and , perhaps, be willing to write to them.

Youth For Christ



I am privileged to serve as a member of the committee (finance) on a voluntary basis. We trust that the Lord will continue to bless them as they serve and proclaim the Gospel to Youth of Knysna. If you would like to assist in any of their projects contact Phllip Schöder. They need volunteers.

Some facts and projects of Youth For Christ.

Youth for Christ South Africa, as part of Youth for Christ International, was established in South Africa in 1947. The Knysna branch started on the June 7 1998. It is run by full time staff complimented by several committed volunteers. The Knysna branch impacts numerous communities in Knysna as well as Plettenberg Bay. Philip Schröder, the current centre director, pioneered YFC Knysna. The centre continues to share the love of Christ in a relevant way. They continue pursuing the reason for their existence as a centre: "to ensure that every young person in every community in Knysna in which we are active will have the opportunity to come to faith in Christ."

YFC has staff working in the schools together with international volunteers, mainly from Germany. National Office want to improve what YFC is already busy with and have requested details of how many learners hear the gospel, respond to the gospel and how many in discipleship groups.

Two new projects run by the Knysna branch are -

1. Sewing project

Older ladies are taught how to sew and can finish with owning a brand new sewing machine. Two participants are Rastafarians and are starting to participate in praise and worship.

2. Tool box project (Hands and Heart)

There are currently 16 students learning woodwork and metalwork – Monday to Thursday from 08h00 to 14h00. There has been very positive feedback from parents and family members. Their enthusiasm for the skills development and for the Gospel was witnessed at the official opening presentation on 27 February 2014.

As can be imagined, projects like these required a lot of funding and was given a big boost of an initial sponsorship of R100 000 from the Natie Kirsch Foundation. KBC has committed themselves to support YFC with the amount of R200 per month.

School of Theology

by Malcolm



The School of Theology was born out of an appeal by Bongi and other local black preachers, who are desperate to grow deeper in their knowledge of God and His Word. We asked the students in their application forms why they wanted to attend the theological training. Some of the responses include:

"I am serving as a Christian ... I'll take this opportunity to study theology so that I grow more in the Word of God, and to be a mature Christian

"I believe being a child of God means knowing the Word, Ways, Objective of God for me. These classes will help me gain more understanding"

"I love to serve the Lord and to study the Bible. I believe this course will help me know more, for the Bible says, "my people perish because they lack knowledge"

From the time Bongi pleaded with me for this training it has burdened my heart for perhaps a year. More than once he has asked me to make the time we have together every week available to more men in his church. When I came across Third Millennium on the Internet, providing biblically sound and comprehensive training material for free, I believed it to be a good fit, and so far, it seems it is!

We have just completed out pilot training course. Exams were held on April 5th, and we celebrated their completion with a combined Sunday Service at Knysna Baptist after Faster.

Charles Van Niekerk, Ron Cairs, JC Van Zyl and Jacques Malan have joined me to facilitate these sessions. Philip Swart has overseen the student administration, and Charlotte Cameron has organised the materials and catering. This has been a wonderful experience. May the Lord lead us in how we move further.

Executive Breakfast

by Brian

The Strategic Working Group (SWG) helped put together an Executive Breakfast in November 2013, which I have had on my heart to accomplish for a while. The idea was to give executive-level business people the opportunity to hear the gospel in a friendly and non-threatening environment. Although at first there was very low response, and an amount of fear that it would flop, we remained steadfastly in prayer, asking that God would bring the right people. In the end, approximately 75 attendees came, from Plettenberg Bay to Great Brak.

The Breakfast was held at Pezula Golf Club, and a great time it was. Dempsey deLange was our guest speaker, and François Wolfaardt the MC.

Very positive feedback was received. Some spiritually hungry attendees were even considering visiting George Baptist.

It was a good learning curve for us to tackle such an event and it just shows what God enables us to do with a vision for the Kingdom and faith in His will.

In terms of further evangelistic events, I believe for now that we should concentrate on small group and one-on-one sharing opportunities in the community, when the clear message of the Gospel can be presented. Sharing the Gospel should be a way of life.

Of course, if the opportunity to do further 'Breakfasts' and the like arises, we are well equipped to do it again!

(Editorial: Why not pray for such activities within our Body? What opportunities do you identify in your own life? Can the SWG help?)

Labour Pool Feeding Scheme

by Charles and Carrol with Phillip

We have been involved with this feeding scheme for four years. All for HIS glory.

On Saturday morning we wash the beans and maize. On Sunday afternoon we do all the preparation of the food and the initial cooking at our workshop premises. Then early Monday morning we do the finishing off and prepare some pasta.

By 06h45 (in summer) we are on our way in our little 1961 Morris LDV. (which has become known as "die kos kar") to Loerie Park where the hungry folk eagerly await us.

At present we feed approximately 80 people. They each receive a fruit, bread, a drink and a plate of stew.

We have taught the people who come for food that God provides for them by using us, and that we should give thanks to God before beginning to eat. Now when we ask them who should we thank for the food they immediately reply "God" and remove their hats or caps before we pray.

After all the tummies are full we return to our workshop premises to do the washing up.

In all the time we have been involved with the feeding we have never had to cancel because of bad weather, there is always a break even if it is just sufficient time to get all the people fed – God's amazing faithfulness!

We have on occasion handed tracts out, and we trust our Lord & Saviour to work in their lives.

(Editorial: Would you like to attend one of these feeding sessions and look for an opportunity to share the gospel with any of the men?)



by Malcolm

PASTORS' CONFERENCE The Pastors Conference was initiated back in 2010 as a means of encouraging the local pastors in their ministry. It's a weekday morning, filled with good teaching, and it ends with a social lunch for networking.

> "Call of Duty" was the theme of this year's Pastors' Conference. Christians are faced with the unrelenting penetration of Islam and Muslim people

into the West. Last year, the local Muslim representatives have made their presence clearly felt through numerous publications is the local media. How ought we as Christians respond? This was the question that many pastors along the garden route came to have answered.

John Gilchrist (Benoni), Alan Profitt (CT) and a Muslim convert to Christianity were our guest speakers, and three sessions were held:

Session 1: Our Approach to Muslims: Charity or Militancy? (John Gilchrist)

Session 2: Implementing the vision in the local church (Alan Profitt)

Session 3: Personal Testimony, Interview, and QnA

The messages were well received and a lot of attitudes were changed! The talks are available on audio CD if you are interested.

Watch this space for details of this year's conference. Remember that this is not only for pastors. Our own congregation have always been greatly blessed by attending!

PROPERTY

by Mel



Knysna Baptist Church has been blessed with a wonderful location and beautiful building and we feel that we are responsible, as custodians of the church, to keep our place of worship in good condition. Our praise

and worship can be heard without any assistance but for those who are hard of hearing we have had to make sure that when the Word is preached, it can be heard by all who attend, without any discomfort of having the sound too loud.

The past year has seen a major change in the sound system with the upgrade of some of the units, amplifier and speakers, as well as the move of the sound desk down to the main seating area. This was to improve the quality of the delivered sound and to assist with the operating of the sound desk. Our multimedia capability, recording of the sermons and transferring them to disc, was enhanced with the donation of a new computer. Thanks to the members who have agreed to assist in the running of the desk.

The building has not required any major maintenance this past year. A new store room was constructed in the balcony area to take the overflow of the goods stored in the front store as this was overflowing. The parking areas had demarcation bricks laid to assist with more efficient parking. New parking area disabled signs were installed as the original signs went missing when the big tree was removed.

The new trees planted on the East side of the church have taken well. This was due to some of the members watering them!

The basement, Sunday School area, was spruced up with the walls, ceiling and toilet areas being painted, new tiles and carpets laid and a new stable door installed so that the top of the door could be left open for air circulation while the bottom be left closed to prevent any children leaving the room without the teacher's knowledge. Thanks to those that have given their time and assistance to the completion of this project.







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