



Miguel

From Darkness to Redemption

Miguel Burciaga had fallen into a life of crime due to the influence of his environment, eventually leading to a life of addiction and thievery. Nothing could stop this addiction from consuming him for over two decades. It wasn't until he became desperate that he reached out for help.

READ MORE ON PAGE 4.

Partners Play a Vital Role



Myra E. Garlit
M.Ed., LISAC, BHP
Chief Executive
Officer

Partners! We are grateful for your support, whether through donations or other means. This newsletter serves to highlight how your contributions are making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Your financial support allows us to cover essential expenses like utilities, meals (including the necessary meat and vegetables for our dishes), and transportation for individuals needing rides to appointments.

Speaking of meals, meat is a precious resource here at the Mission. To manage costs effectively, we often prepare meatless meals, and thanks to our talented cooks, the meals are both nutritious and delicious. We are committed to being prudent in our spending to maximize the impact of every donated dollar.

This past winter has been particularly harsh, and many guests at the Men's Shelter chose to sleep on the floor to escape the cold. But as we look ahead, warmer weather is on the horizon, with predictions of triple-digit temperatures next week. Despite the changing seasons, our dedication to serving those in need remains steadfast.

On Page 3, we invite you to explore the architect's rendering of our upcoming Center of Hope—a 120-bed facility designed to meet the needs of our male guests. This space will include beds, lockers,

bathrooms, and offices. We are thrilled about this project but need additional cash donations to move forward with construction. Your generosity would greatly help us achieve this goal.

If you turn to Pages 4 and 5, you'll find the inspiring story of Miguel—a true testament to the transformative power of faith. He shared his testimony at our recent Country Lovin' Hoedown, moving many attendees to tears with his powerful narrative of hardship and renewal. More details about this memorable event can be found on Pages 6 and 7.

We are also thrilled to report that several men from our New Way program have successfully secured their own homes or apartments. Our Executive Assistant, Angel Salas, creates thoughtful housewarming baskets filled with hygiene and cleaning products to help them settle in. Celebrating these successes is possible because of your generous in-kind donations, for which we are immensely thankful!

Your financial contributions and donations play a vital role in supporting the Mission. Beyond that, we sincerely appreciate your prayers. Each day brings new challenges for both our staff and clients, and your prayers uplift and strengthen us. Please keep the Mission in your thoughts and prayers.

*Thank you once again for your support!
God bless you!*

Myra E. Garlit

Introducing Sassa Culver



Crossroads Mission's New Public Relations Director

Not a lot of people are as knowledgeable of what Crossroads Mission does as Sassa Culver. She has worked her way up the ranks; from cook, to clerk, to director. She can relate to those who come to the Mission, because her life transformed radically after building her own foundation of recovery. She is living proof of the beautiful redemption and restoration that is possible thanks to God.

Please say hi to her when you see her out in the community spreading the message and Glorifying God by serving those at the crossroads of their life. She's ready to help!

The Impact of Volunteering

Have you ever wondered if volunteering at the Mission makes any difference? The answer is, absolutely! Here's part of a letter from one of our homeless guests, telling us about the impact a single meal served by volunteers had in his life last Christmas season. As you read, we invite you to get in touch with us to set-up your next volunteer adventure: **928-580-4482**. It may just be the miracle someone is looking for.

"I'm an old homeless Jew barely hanging on. This morning, we had group bring breakfast to the Crossroads Mission. They not only brought breakfast out to the homeless shelter, but cooked it, and served it. Served it.

Like take a seat, let me bring you some milk and juice. They looked you in the eyes, as they delivered your food to you. They looked at you. Like a real person, looking at another real person. Would you like some more Sir? Can I take your plate Sir?

The girl who looked after me was named Rose. I have never seen anyone so eager to serve, so filled with love and compassion. Honestly,

her selflessness and giving energy humbled me, it made me look at my own hands, wish I had shaved and worn a suit or at least a jacket, and question my own worthiness.

I'm an old man. I'm tired. My health is bad. My heart is jaded. My health won't improve, I can't imagine my heart getting better either. This soul of selflessness, servitude, innocence, beauty, and dare I say Holiness - It broke me.

I am a man who hasn't cared enough to even tend to my most basic needs in several years, a man who hasn't allowed anyone to have contact with me that I couldn't walk away from without looking back, a man who prides himself on his attitude of indifference; I almost wept like a baby, as this angel served me eggs, pancakes, ham, and orange juice.

I don't care as a rule. I just don't. As I've said before, I'm no Christian, but part of me still suspects this is a Christmas Miracle"

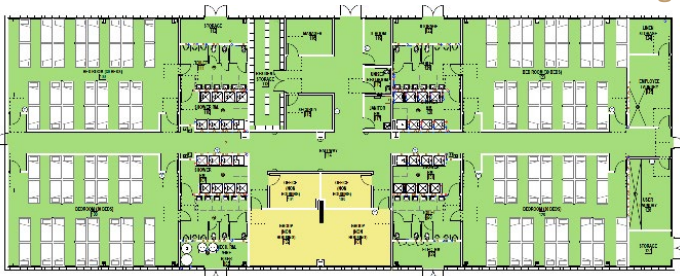
- Solomon



The Future Center of Hope



Architect's Renderings



We continue to work on our most ambitious project yet; a new Center of Hope building for men.

The first of three building projects would expand our shelter capacity by 120 additional beds! (See plans on the left.) We're excited for what this would mean for our community and for the many men that currently sleep on the floor because we don't have any beds available. We recently applied for an important grant that could fast-track the ground-breaking and construction. Would you please pray with us that we receive God's favor through these funds? THANK YOU!

Miguel: From Darkn

Miguel Burciaga was introduced to an environment influenced by gang culture at a young age. This led to him partake in the use of mehtamphetamine, which became his drug of choice for over two decades. What started as experimentation, quickly spiraled into a debilitating dependence, leading to a lifestyle centered around crime and addiction.

Without ever holding a steady job, Miguel turned to crime to support his addiction. He stole from homes, traded whatever he could find for drugs, and spent his days and nights wandering the streets. His world became smaller as his addiction tightened its grip. Family gatherings became a thing of the past, and relationships with loved ones faded in favor of his current environment.

"We were like vampires, hiding in sheds, laundry rooms, and backrooms — anywhere we could be away from the light."

Despite his destructive lifestyle, Miguel had moments of clarity where he recognized the pain, he was causing himself and those around him. He wanted to change, especially for his son, but addiction had a hold on him that he couldn't break. His mother's tears, his faith in God, and his love for his family were not enough to stop his dependance on drugs.

His addiction and lifestyle led to multiple run-ins with the law, which had him spending all his twenties in prison.

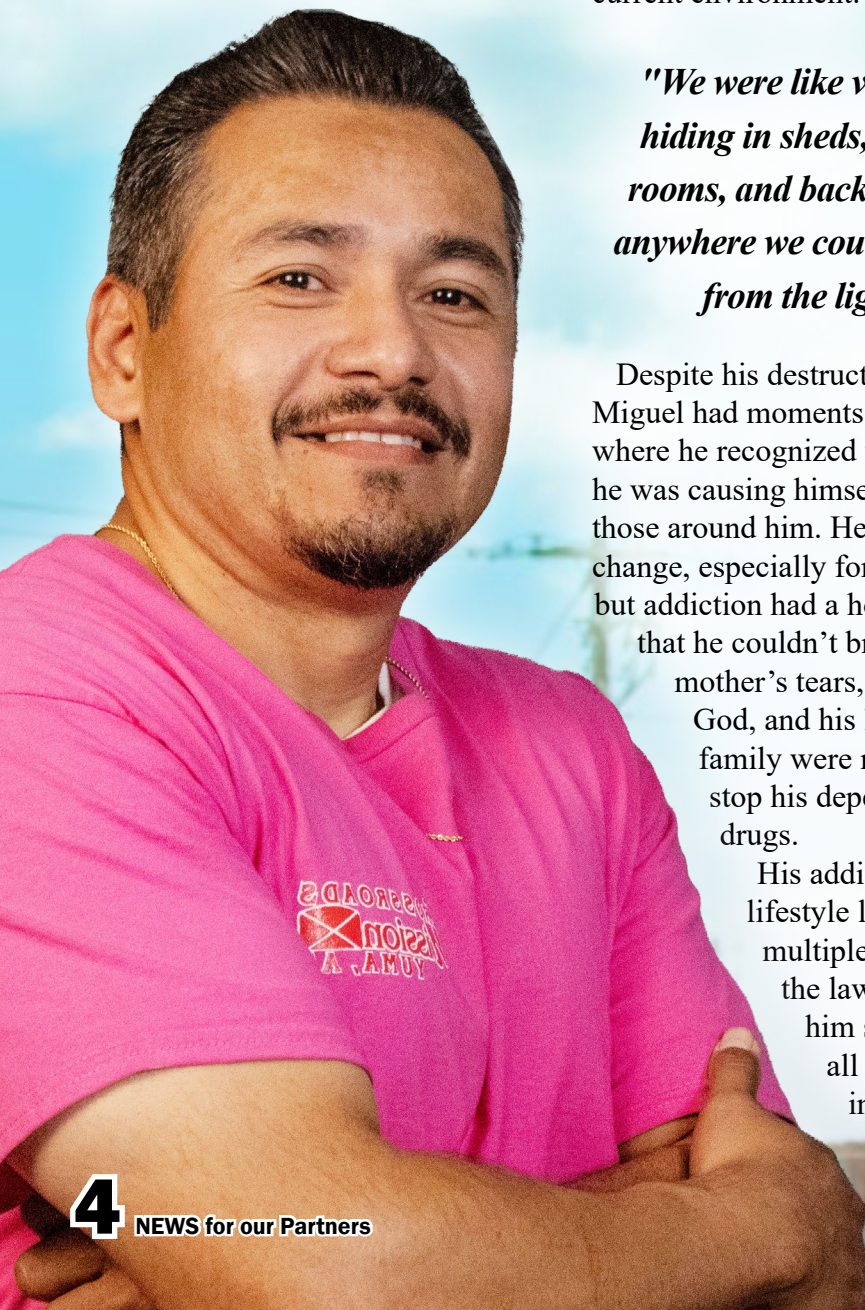
Probation violations, failed drug tests, and weekend stints in jail became routine. He tried to outsmart the system, faking urine analyses, just to buy himself another day of freedom.

Then came what Miguel refers to as "the gift of desperation." He had finally reached a point where he couldn't continue living the way he was. His attempts to beat drug tests no longer worked, and the realization that he was trapped in an endless cycle pushed him to take a different path.

Instead of running from his problems, he faced them head-on. He admitted to his probation officer that he had a problem he couldn't control. In doing so, he took his first step towards real change. That moment of honesty led him to Crossroads Mission, where his life took a dramatic turn.

At Crossroads Mission, Miguel entered the New Life Program, our intensive recovery program designed to help individuals overcome addiction and rebuild their lives. It was there that he was introduced to the 12-Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, a program that would change his entire perspective on addiction.

The staff at Crossroads Mission helped him realize that addiction wasn't just about willpower—it was a disease that required treatment and long-term commitment. With the guidance of



ess to Redemption

counselors and mentors, he began to understand the patterns that had kept him trapped for so long.

A major turning point came when he worked through Step Four and Step Five—conducting a deep, fearless self-inventory and sharing his past with another person. This process forced him to confront painful memories and long-buried guilt. For the first time, he openly acknowledged the things he had done and the pain he had caused.

“As a man, I never wanted to share the things that hurt me, but when I did I felt relieved of them.”

The structured environment at Crossroads Mission provided him with the discipline and support he needed to stay on the right path. He committed to meetings, worked closely with a sponsor, and embraced a lifestyle of service and accountability.

Today, he is sober, working,

and actively involved in his community, and even returned to his home church after many years. His relationships with his family have been restored, and he maintains regular contact with his siblings across the country.

Miguel now dedicates his time to helping others who are at the same crossroads he once faced. Through his church, he is part of a movement dedicated to serving others, ensuring they can come back into the light, just like he did.

Whether through mentorship, sharing his story, or simply offering a helping hand, he is committed to being of service to others. For those struggling with addiction, Miguel’s message is clear: Change is possible, but you must be willing to do whatever it takes.

“You need to get away from your environment, no matter what it is. You need to have the willingness to change.”

Thanks to Crossroads Mission, Miguel is no longer living a life of crime and addiction. Instead, he is a productive, faith-driven member of his community. He is proof that no matter how far someone has fallen, there is always a way back.



Miguel receiving his Peer Support Diploma



Miguel at the Country Lovin' Hoedown



Miguel Burciaga's family

Watch his Full Testimony



A Sweetheart's Ho

This Spring, we look back on the immense amount of support we recieved on our annual Country Lovin' Hoedown, an evening of good food, great music, and a shared purpose. The event brought together fellowship, friends, and community members for a night of dancing, laughter, and charity. All in support of Crossroads Mission's vital work.

During the program, Crossroads Mission's CEO, Myra Garlit, reminded everyone of the power of love, unity, and community. She spoke passionately about the impact Crossroads Mission has on those experiencing homelessness

and addiction. She gave an update on the construction of the Center of Hope, a new building to aid our existing men's shelter, which does not carry the available capacity for the demand. Everyone bowed their heads in prayer that our project could be started this year, and to thank every single person that came to support us that day.

Live music was played during the evening by Billy and the Time Machine. Couples, friends, and family could be seen dancing with one another in a display of fun and connection. As some danced and others sat in conversation, a delicious

Southern-style dinner of pork chops, buttery cornbread, savory greens, and delicious, mouthwatering dessert was served by our wonderful staff and program participants. Yes, program participants! They were wonderful at helping serve, and we could not be prouder of them.

A testimonial speech was given by Miguel Burciaga, who had benefited from the impact of Crossroads Mission and its community. His heartfelt speech was reflecting of his hardships during his addiction and life before the Mission, a true testament to the power of God. The speech earned standing ovations and praise, making clear the events of the



The night started with prayer for love, success, and the betterment of the community

The COUNTRY Lovin' J



People dancing and having fun to Billy and the Time Machines



Catching up with friends and family

edown Event!

night were not only to have fun as a community, but to impact it in a real, tangible way.

Later in the evening, anticipation was in the air for the announcement of the raffle winners. Beautifully crafted gift baskets filled with items were handed out to lucky guests, bringing excitement to winners.

The real highlight of the night, however, was the charity auction. Generous attendees bid on incredible prizes, such as a large flat screen TV, gaming set, and many more wonderful prizes. There was even a cowhide rug. Wow!

To those who attended, donated, and bid in the auction, thank you.

Your generosity is changing lives. And for those who couldn't make it, there's still time to be a part of something bigger. Consider donating to help people in need find hope healing, and transformation.

God bless you!

COUNTRY Loadown



Heartfelt moment after Miguel's speech



Many baskets were up for the raffle



We had many amazing folks participate in our fundraising auction!



Guests enjoying a southern meal together

A Jolly Lookback

The holiday season can be a difficult time for those facing hardship, but at Crossroads Mission, Christmas was filled with warmth, joy, and a true sense of community, for 3 days straight! Thanks to the generosity of our amazing donors and sponsors, and the help of our wonderful volunteers, we were able to bring holiday cheer to those who needed it most for more than a day. Turning a season of struggle into one of hope and celebration.

As the celebrations started, every guest received their very own gift. For many, these presents were more than just items, they were symbols of kindness and generosity, reminders that they

were not forgotten during the holiday season.

At the heart of the three day celebration was a warm meal. The warmth of a shared meal created a sense of family and belonging, something that is often missing for those going through difficult times. By day two, we had over 1,200 meals served!. Not only that, but clothing and photography booths were also available for all to enjoy.

Last Christmas at Crossroads Mission was more than just an event, it was a three day testament to the kindness and generosity of those who support

our mission. Because of you, those who might have otherwise spent the holiday alone instead experienced a day filled with comfort, joy, and hope.

To all who donated, volunteered, or contributed in any way—thank you. Your support is truly life changing. As we move into a new year, we invite others to join us in continuing this mission of compassion and care. Together, we can make sure no one is forgotten, not just during the holidays, but every day of the year.



The 3-Days of Christmas

2024	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	3 Days
Served	665	972	752	2389
Delivered	1000	818	1000	2818
Totals	1665	1790	1752	5207



Families welcomed with open arms



Barely Yuman bringing the mood!



A Visit from Mr and Mrs. Claus



Guests enjoying a warm meal during those three days!

A New Way Home

Crossroads Mission makes it a goal for all our participants to feel empowered and that they can rise above their situations, whether that be homelessness, addiction, or any other vulnerable situation. Our New Way Program helps participants continue their life after joining us. We are extremely blessed and proud of the individuals who complete our program and emerge anew.

Celebrate their success as your own, for we could not have done it without you. Your love and compassion for the community keeps us going, it reminds us of who we are as an organization.

These men come to us for help and to seek out the love of our Lord, we help guide them back into the path of love for oneself and the awe-inspiring love of God.

Once someone graduates the New Way Program, we celebrate them with their very own care package, which contains home essentials such as paper towels,

shampoo, body wash, deodorant and the likes. We want to make them feel empowered and independent in their new lives. They remind us of what our mission is, of what second chances can do for someone. Thanks to you, we are able to help those in need and help them in God's blessing of being able to start again, to be able to build fellowship in struggle and rise above it.



Our graduates get to start a new life by opening their very own apartments!



We gift our graduates with supplies

Thank You Der Yumans!



Pam Reiney, Kitchen Coordinator; Myra Garlit, CEO; and Sassa Culver, PR Director with Der Yumans

The Der Yumans did it again! Their annual Volkswagens at the River event raised an amazing \$8,933 for Crossroads Mission. The event, a combination car show and VW fan festival, has become a community favorite. Der Yumans continue to donate all the event proceeds to the Mission - Thank you!

Thank You Bonita Mesa!

The Bonita Mesa RV community came together in a truly special way, showing incredible generosity and support at this year's auction event. The event featured a wonderful bake sale with an array of delicious pastries, as well as an auction, showcasing generous bidding from community members. Every purchase directly supported Crossroads Mission's programs, proving that even something as simple as a sweet treat can help change lives.

Our Public Relations Director, Sassa Culver, had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with many of the wonderful individuals who make up this supportive community. They raised \$6,461 - thank you!

Right: PR Director Sassa Culver with two of the resident organizers. Below: The auction in full swing.



Thank You Sober Riders!



Myra Garlit, CEO; Angel Wise, Exec. Asst.; and Pam Reiney, Kitchen Coordinator with Sober Riders

The Sober Riders Motorcycle Club has organized the "Run For Shelter" motorcycle run for many years to benefit the shelters at the Mission. This year's successful event yielded a donation of \$3,000, which they dedicated towards the new building project. We thank our Sober Rider friends for their continued support!

What Your Gifts Made Possible:

DEPARTMENT	DEC	JAN	FEB
Kitchen			
MEALS	18,397	17,310	16,339
Family Shelter			
BED NIGHTS	2,902	2,938	2,648
INDIVIDUALS	29	124	114
CHILDREN	29	31	28
Men's Shelter			
BED NIGHTS	2,949	3,360	3,014
INDIVIDUALS	60	165	187
Drug & Alcohol Stabilization Unit			
ADMITTED	25	52	41
COMPLETED	27	7	23
New Life Recovery Program			
ENTERED	21	19	17
GRADUATES	9	5	6
New Way Homeless & Transition Program			
PARTICIPATING	63	60	57
Career & Academic Center			
STUDENTS	94	113	117
HOURS STUDIED	622.25	793.00	751
Giving			
CLOTHES	1,755	1,426	971
FURNITURE	5	35	4

Memorial Gifts:

A Gift In Memory Of:	Kindly Given By:
Ricardo Arrellano Sandoval	Brenda Sandoval
Mgysgt Larry Price	Heather Price
Judith Kent Cuming	Juli Jessen
Eura Mary Victoria Franklin	Linda Fox
Bill Krammerer	Mary Jo Krammerer
Judith Kent Cuming	Troy and Jane Edwards
Allen Schimming	Veronica Croutch

Honorary Gifts:

A Gift In Memory Of:	Kindly Given By:
All glory to God!	Monica Nyenhuis

Our deepest sympathies are with those who have lost loved ones. A memorial gift to Crossroads Mission is a special way to offer hope to the needy in the name of a friend or family member. Every effort is made to assure that all names are correct. We apologize for any errors that may have occurred.

Want to donate your car?

Got an old car? Turn it into hope! Donate your vehicle to Crossroads Mission and help provide transportation, and change someone's life forever!

Contact us at 928-259-5608 for more information

Thank You, Students!

The students of three middle schools: Somerton Middle School, Southwest Junior High, and San Luis Middle School gave back in an amazing way. They were working with Campesinos Sin Fronteras, a local non profit organization to learn about generosity and giving back. These three middle schools raised over 1,200 pounds of donations such as hygiene products, food, and other items for Crossroads Mission. The future looks brighter knowing that children are learning to be humble, be kind, and be generous.



Crossroads Mission is committed to glorifying God by helping those at their crossroads of life.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

MAIN PHONE NUMBER: (928) 783-9362

*Operator on duty 24/7

Chief Executive Officer

Myra Garlit (928) 783-9362, Ext. 101

Major Gifts & Development

Financial Stock & Property Contributions,
Planned Gifts & Charitable Trusts

Azucena Solorzano
Development Director
(928) 261-9836

Finance & Cash Donations
(928) 259-5608

Kitchen & Food Donations
Kitchen Coordinator
(928) 328-1718

2nd Chance Thrift Store
Donations Pick-Up Line (928) 726-0491
Cashier's Station (928) 328-8626

Volunteer Involvement

Individual, Church & Corporate Volunteer
Groups, Service Clubs & Community Service

Sassa Culver
Public Relations Director
(928) 580-4482

Ministry Opportunities

Chapel and Devotion Speakers, Special
Presentations, Church Events & Worship Teams
(928) 328-8610

Public Relations & Special Events

Fundraising Events, Group Presentations, Tours,
Gifts of Goods, Food, Services and Donations of
Working Vehicles.

Sassa Culver
Public Relations Director
(928) 580-4482

***Family Shelter - OPEN 24 HRS.**
(928) 328-8611

***Men's Shelter - OPEN 24 HRS.**
(928) 783-9362, Ext. 107

***First Step Center - OPEN 24 HRS.**
(928) 328-8082

Career & Academic Center
(928) 328-8236

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(928) 328-8621

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**MINISTRY
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Welcome to gospel-powered life transformation

Ways to Give:

When you donate to Crossroads Mission you are helping transform the lives of people experiencing homelessness, poverty, hunger, and addiction. You can make a difference by giving:

- **CASH** Cash donations help keep the lights on and the free programs free. Give securely at crossroadsmission.org, or use the QR code. Donate in person at any of our locations.
- **ASSETS & IN-KIND** From cars and RVs to furniture and clothing. It all helps! We may be able to pick up your donations. Call 928-726-0491.
- **SHELTER NEEDS** Items such as towels, new socks, new underwear, coats for the winter, laundry soap and toiletries are always needed.
- **FOOD DONATIONS AND DRIVES** We are able to keep our food costs down because we do our best to utilize all of the food we get donated. You can organize a food drive, or donate from your business. Over 450 meals are served each day.

Crossroads Mission is a 501(c)3, Private Nonprofit Organization serving the homeless, needy and poor of Yuma County without regard to race, color, national origin, religious background, age, sex or handicap. (Alternative format and reasonable accommodations available upon request.) We depend on the contributions of concerned individuals and organizations. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We are an accredited member of the Citygate Network and are accredited by the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability. We partner with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (Arizona Complete Health, Indian Health, Banner Health, United Healthcare), WACOG, Yuma Community Food Bank, and FEMA. We do not solicit door to door. Please report any impostors to us immediately. News for Our Partners is a quarterly publication for the friends and supporters of Crossroads Mission. We welcome comments about the content of the newsletter. If there are issues or concerns you would like for us to know about, please contact Azucena Solorzano at asolorzano@crossroadsmission.org, (928) 328-8013.

HELPING SINCE 1959!

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For every dollar you donate to Crossroads Mission, only 4 cents are used for administrative costs.

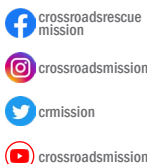


ADD US TO YOUR WILL

You can leave a legacy by adding a codicil to your will to designate a portion of your estate.



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