

# THE CROSS & THE FLAME



APRIL 2025

## Justification by Faith

*The plain condition whereof being once fulfilled, 'there is no more condemnation for us', but we are 'justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ'.*

*Justification by Faith – John Wesley*



Early Methodists had their doctrine to help Methodist members become perfect Christians who love God and love their neighbors. Early Methodists' doctrine was the way to Heaven. And there were a few steps in this way to Heaven. Repentance – Justification – New Birth – Sanctification – Perfection. Among those steps of doctrine, there were two main pillars. They were Justification and Sanctification. These doctrines of Justification and Sanctification were not new ideas that Wesley found in the Bible. Before John Wesley, the ideas of Justification and Sanctification were used by Christian theologians and the church. However, John Wesley organized the relationship between Justification and Sanctification well, and Wesley's greatest achievement was applying these two concepts to churches and ministry. John Wesley and early Methodists devoted their lives to being perfect Christians according to the Methodist doctrine. And it truly happened that they experienced Justification and Sanctification in their lives.

Then, what is Justification? In his sermon, *Justification by Faith*, Wesley said, "The plain scriptural notion of justification is pardon, the forgiveness of sins. It is that act of God the Father whereby, for the sake of the propitiation made by the blood of his Son, he 'showeth forth his righteousness (or mercy) by the remission of the sins that are past'."

For easier understanding, we can simply say, Justification is that "God justifies someone as righteous." Justification is God saying, "You are righteous." Then, how can we be justified as righteous? We can be justified through the forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness of sins is the act of God that is shown to us through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Then, what is the condition to be justified? Wesley said, "I cannot describe the nature of this faith better than in the words of our own Church: 'The only instrument of salvation' (whereof justification is one branch) 'is faith: that is a sure trust and confidence that God both hath and will forgive our sins, that he hath accepted us again into his favor, for the merits of Christ's death and Passion.'" The only thing that we need is faith to be justified by God. It is not our moral good work, kindness, or good attitude. The only thing is the faith that we believe God forgives us and will forgive us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Justification by Faith is the first pillar of the doctrine of the early Methodist people. They believed that they could not save themselves by their works, but they believed Jesus is the only way to enter the life of God's presence. This is what we should learn in the present day as Methodists.

Pastor Paul

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## APRIL ANNIVERSARY

John & Barb Huschka April 8th



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Ann Carlow	April 6th
Colton Dustin	April 9th
Dale Gudgeon	April 15th
Mitchell Hanson	April 15th
Betty Ross	April 23rd
Cavan Fang	April 25th
Joe Dustin	April 26th
Matt Mc Garry	April 26th
Ansel Brenneman	April 28th
Gradyn Hanson	April 28th
Janette Hanson	April 28th
Taylor Stalsberg	April 29th

*God's Blessings on You!*

happy  
birthday

## OUR PRAYER

### Viroqua UMC

God, the giver of life, generous giver of gifts and abilities, help us discover our talents and have the courage to use them to serve you and our community with unimagined new purposes and deepening love for Jesus Christ. Amen.

## *Long Range Objective*

### *Viroqua UMC*

Develop a unique identity by becoming servants of the community and providing Christian opportunities for all people.

God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.

John Wesley



## Art Auction

Such beautiful art!!

Thanks to all the artists who contributed their work and to those who have bid on the art. The silent auction has been extended to April 6th so there is still time to get your bids in!

Remember that all proceeds go to our missionary, Temba, in Zambia.



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## Radio Fund Pledge Drive

We're almost half way there! Pledges in March for the Radio Fund totaled \$650. this brings us to \$1,490 of the \$3,240 needed to fund the Radio Ministry.

Pledge cards can be found in the pews and pledges may be made at any time.

Thanks for your support!

**Viroqua UMC Radio Ministry**

3/31/2025

The radio ministry is an important ministry that reaches shut-in's, passer-by's, and many others that are unable to attend church in person. Continue reading to understand how you can be a part of sharing God's love with other's.

You can be a part of sharing God's love, too! **Make a pledge today!**  
To make a pledge, scan the QR code below, or on Sunday morning offering, or calling the church office (808-637-3551).

The "Radio Ministry" for the Viroqua United Methodist Church is funded with direct contributions from listeners and members of the church. Starting in 2025, the back-up funding comes from a designated fund "Wills & Memorials". Previously the back-up funding came from the general budget or weekly offerings.

**WVRQ**

1380 AM

107.3 FM

Sunday Morning

10:30am - 11:30am

**Make  
A  
Pledge  
Today!**

**Viroqua UMC Radio Ministry**

Category	Amount
Pledges YTD	\$1,490.00
Pledges Needed for 2025	\$2,340.00
<b>Total Ministry Cost</b>	<b>\$3,120</b>

**Make a pledge to announce a 'Birthday', 'Anniversary', or 'In Memory' of a loved one on the Sunday of your choice!**

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29: 13





**Palm Sunday 10:30 am @ VUMC**

**Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm @ Westby UMC**

**Good Friday Ecumenical Service 1:00 pm @ VUMC**

**Easter Sunrise 7:00 am @ VUMC**

**Easter Breakfast 8:00 am @VUMC**

**Easter Worship 10:30 @VUMC**

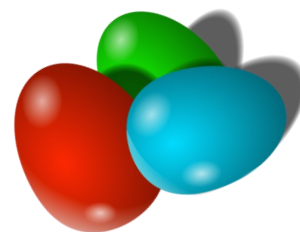


## **Viroqua UMC Easter Egg Hunting**

**Saturday, April 19th at Viroqua UMC**

**221 S. Center Ave.**

**South Lawn of the Building**



This year, Viroqua UMC will host an Easter Egg Hunt for our children, friends, and neighbors. There will be two programs. One for young children ages 0 to 9, and one for those aged 10 to 18.

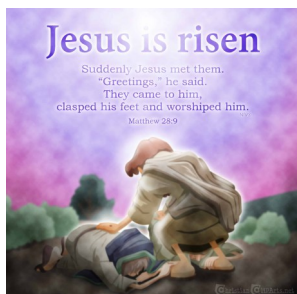
**10:00 am - 11:00 am: Young Children (ages 0-9), a parent must be present with the child.**

In addition to egg hunting, there will be stations for young children's programs such as a coloring/craft table, games, and snacks.

**11:10 am for Teenagers (Ages 10—18)**

In addition to candy filled eggs, there will be rewards for finding the Golden, Silver, and Bronze eggs!

## **Easter Sunrise Service**



The Sunrise service will have a different look and feel this year.

The service will be informal and held in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a Bible Trivia game and small group activities.

Breakfast will follow the service.

## *Viroqua UMC February/March Giving*

Thank you to those who keep up their giving. This is so much appreciated, as we do our best to continue God's work.

The amount needed each week to meet our 2025 Budget is \$2,635.

February 23	\$1,696.05
March 2	\$2,413.05
March 9	\$1,698.05
March 16	\$1,437.05
March 23	\$1,079.05

### *April Sunday Servants*

	Liturgist	Ushers	Greeter	Communion Stewards
<b>April 6</b>		Janette Hanson Janet Welch	Alice Sloane	Confirmation Class (Janette Hanson)
<b>April 13</b>		Mary & Chuck Mulvaney Kemp	Ardith Olson	
<b>April 20 (Sunrise)</b>		Miny Hirschfield	Marlo Volden	
<b>April 20 (10:30)</b>		Barb Casper Joanne Hornby/ Cavan Fang	Betty Ross	
<b>April 27</b>		Janet Welch Tom Lohr	Alice Sloane	

### **Spring Fling Potluck**

Our spring all church potluck will be held on Sunday, April 6th right after the Worship Service. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to eat and fellowship together as a church family. The food is always wonderful and the people are great!



**So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**

Isaiah 41: 10



## Rummage Sale

The Rummage Sale will be held on Thursday and Friday, May 1 & 2.

A bar-b-que lunch will be available for shoppers.

Bring your donations in soon, so that we can have a good sale!

Thanks for your support!

## Book Group

The Book Group's next book is *Of Boys And Men* by Richard V. Reeves.

This book talks about why the modern male is struggling, why it matters, and what to do about it.

If you'd like help to obtain the book, let the office know.

The discussion about *Of Boys And Men* will be held on Monday, April 28th at 7 pm.



## Community Dinner

The Viroqua Community Dinner is served at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on the 4th Monday of every month.

Area churches and other groups take turns serving the dinner. The Viroqua United Methodist Church has agreed to serve in June—that will be June 23rd.

If you'd like to be a part of planning the menu, let the office know. Once the menu is decided, there will be more opportunities to sign up—to help prepare food, serve, and/or make donations of food or money.

This is a community outreach opportunity for our church.

## April Online Studies – Lent, Easter and Praise

For our April online studies, we start the month off by finishing *On Purpose: A Lent Devotional Journey*, which will end on Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday. During Holy Week, we'll dive into answering some questions related to the events leading up to Easter. *The 7 Whys of Easter* study will help to answer questions like, Why did Jesus die on a cross? Why did he rise from the dead? Why does it all matter? Understanding the answers to these questions can help us increase our love for Jesus and praise Him even more.

After Easter, we'll continue with the desire to praise our Lord by reading *The Mysteries of Praise*. Did you know that praise can be used as a weapon? This study will help us learn how to wield this spiritual weapon in challenging times and joyful times.

Here's the schedule for the April online studies. Please click on the links below to join us.

On Purpose: A Lent Devotional Journey – ends April 13

<https://bible.com/p/72275107/049d2b890ca2bb50d05de9f51ee49bb9>

The 7 Whys of Easter – begins on April 14

<https://bible.com/p/73110182/4e37924c0ed0f242b2323f29a94929fd>

The Mysteries of Praise – begins on April 21

<https://bible.com/p/73206664/804b01d83a86fb7e312cbe5c91a65716>



## Repair Clinic To Be Held At VUMC in July

Do you have an item that needs repair? See the information below to learn more about the Repair Clinic. The Clinic operates every 3 months and moves from location to location. They will be at this church on July 20th from 12 –3 pm. You might want to check it out earlier by attending the April clinic in La Farge.

# FREE REPAIR CLINIC



We are the Fix-It Folks and our mission is to keep broken stuff out of the landfill, and strengthen our community while we're at it.

We invite you to bring us your broken household items, torn clothing, beat up bikes (and more!). Our Repair coaches are ready to help.

We don't only want to fix things, we want to teach you how to make your own repairs. We want to start a whole repair culture! After all, if you can't fix it, you don't really own it.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 12-3 PM

### LA FARGE COMMUNITY CENTER 202 N. STATE ST, LA FARGE

Facebook: Fix It Folks Viroqua  
Questions? Contact Kent: (920) 602-4896

### *Hospitality Committee*

March 11, 2025

Members Present: Gregory Cheever, Joanne Hornby, Barb Casper, Alice Sloane, Kathy Hanson, Avis Marino

Kathy opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes from our February meeting and the homebound list were reviewed.

Avis' February cards: 4 birthday, 1 anniversary, 1 get well, 1 thinking of you, and 1 sympathy. We will send a thank you card to Jim Porter for all the cleaning he is doing on a volunteer basis.

The Lenten service schedule was reviewed. It changes as plans evolve.

Our spring potluck is scheduled for Sunday, April 6th. We decided to name it a "Spring Fling Potluck." Set up will be on Friday, April 4th at 1:00.

Easter gifts for homebound members were planned. We'll try to do live flowers if they are available. Assembly and delivery will happen on Good Friday right after the service.

Mother's Day—we want to do plants again. Kathy will get some to start as soon as they are available. We can use 2 inch pots if anyone has some to donate.

The Rummage Sale committee has not met to finalize plans, but it will be the last week of April or the first week of May.

The committee decided to undertake a project to "spruce up" the lounge. We will do a good cleaning and rearrange the furniture on Monday, March 24th.

Next meeting: April 8th @ 1:00 pm.

## *Finance/Administrative Council Committee*

March 16, 2025



Members Present: Dan Brown (Finance Chair), Gregg Roberts (Financial Secretary), Gregory Cheever (Treasurer), Pastor Paul, Kathy Hanson (Council Chair), Cavan Fang, Kristen Parrott, Layne Hanson, Aaron Hanson, Phyllis Kalnins, Barb Casper.

Treasurer's report (Mr. Cheever): Projected annual cash flow forecast will be approximately - \$19,000. Sufficient cash on hand for at least another month—no need to sell investments.

Treasurer's report accepted as given: Cavan made a motion, Kathy second. Motion carries.

Secretary's report (Mr. Roberts): Accepted

Sonja Bjerkos checkbook audit results needed

New building insurance provider is M3: Property insurance is \$22, 331 annually (\$1860.92 monthly) which is unchanged from last year's policy provided by Church Mutual

Fundraiser: Rummage sale last week of April or first week of May.

Kathy announced that the spring potluck (Spring Fling) will be held on Sunday, April 6th following the worship service.

The Hospitality Committee is planning to clean and update the lounge on Monday, March 24th.

The Visioning Committee has met and will be visiting a couple of churches in Onalaska for ideas in the next couple of weeks. The committee is planning to meet regularly on the second Sunday of each month following the worship service.

**SPRC:** A joint meeting was held to discuss the expense percentages for Viroqua/Westby beginning in 2026. The District Superintendent will be asked to weigh in on the planning and numbers may evolve before they take effect.

**Trustees:** Trustees asked for more research before approving the purchase of a surge protector for the copy machine from Tri-State Business Machines. Some members present had done some research. After discussion, permission was given on behalf of the Trustees to make the purchase. New smoke alarms need to be purchased as the life of the ones we have is expired. See complete minutes elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Worship Committee:** Lenten services, Holy Week, and Easter are the focus of the committee. See complete minutes elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Missions Committee:** The art auction is in progress, UMCOR Sunday will be March 31st, and the committee will host a bake sale at the Rummage Sale.

A motion to adjourn was made by Phyllis and seconded by Kristen. Approved. We ended by joining together in the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: Sunday, April 27th @ 11:45 am.

## *Missions Update*

The next meeting of the Missions Committee will be Sunday, May 4, at 11:45am.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Human Relations special Sunday offering in January. Together we raised \$224 to support three national projects: neighborhood ministries (through Community Developers), community advocacy (through United Methodist Voluntary Services), and work with at-risk youth (through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs).

And thank you to everyone who contributed art for our art silent auction! The end of the auction was extended by two weeks, so you have extra time to bid on the many beautiful items. The auction will conclude on Sunday, April 6, at 11:45AM. Money raised will benefit our missionary, Temba Nkomozepi in Zambia.

The Missions Committee will participate in the upcoming church-wide rummage sale. We will have a bake sale table, and the money we raise will also go to support our missionary. Please help us to have lots of delicious baked goods to offer the community! In particular, we will need some individual desserts available, like cookies and bars, to sell to shoppers who are purchasing the lunch. The date for this event is May 1 & 2.



# Trustees Meeting

March 11, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

Jack opened the meeting with prayer.

Kathy Hanson shared with the committee that the Hospitality Committee would like to clean/update the lounge on Monday, March 26. She asked for the Trustees' approval which was granted.

Bills paid:

Arrow Lift      \$446.40    elevator repair (switch in door fixed, trip and diagnosis)

Hauge Boys:    \$587.00    for snow removal and salt for the parking lot (Aaron will talk to Hauge Boys about the large amount of salt that is being used when they plow.)

The new color copier has been installed. Tri-State Business Machines recommends that the church purchase a surge protector from them for \$200.00. Questions were raised about this purchase. What is the advantage of their device over those that the church could purchase elsewhere? If we choose not to use their device, will the coverage for the machine be affected? We will get answers for these questions before we purchase their device.

Fix It Folks, a company that travels around the area to repair items so that they don't wind up in a landfill, has asked to use the church on Sunday, July 20 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Their services are free of charge. They also like to show the owners how to fix the items they bring. The Trustees approved this request. It is a worthwhile activity and a community service.

The parsonage plumbing and heating problems have continued. We have been waiting for 3 months for the repairs to be made. An estimate was received for \$1000 for both repairs from 608 Plumbing. Strang's called the next day to say that they were ready to come and repair both items. Aaron will call Strang's and Pastor Paul to make arrangements for the repairs.

We will need to set-up a work day for the church.

Next meeting is set for Tuesday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m.

## Education Committee

March 3, 2025

Present: Heidi, Kathy, Avis, Janette, Pastor Paul

### Old Business:

1. Sunday School: No Update
2. Confirmation: Class has been moved to 1:00 on Sunday afternoons at the Westby church for the month of March due to scheduling conflicts with the Lenten Ecumenical Services
3. Snow Tubing: The snow tubing outing at Whitetail Ridge at Fort McCoy was canceled due to poor weather and driving conditions. It will not be rescheduled and an alternative activity will be scheduled.
4. 2024 Scholarship: Rachel Diehl received her scholarship check.

### New Business

1. 2025 Scholarship: Scholarship applications have been distributed at the high school. We will have the opportunity to select our candidates soon. Pastor Paul mentioned that the United Methodist Higher Education Fund has a dollar matching program that we will let our recipients know about.
2. Youth Activity: The Youth will have a day of fellowship on Saturday March 22nd. We will meet at Pizza Ranch in Onalaska at 12:00 noon for lunch. After that, we will go to Jump Start Adventure Park. The church will pay for kids lunch and park passes from the Youth Fund.
3. Easter Program: Pastor Paul would like to host an Easter Egg hunt for the community. More details to follow.
4. Next Meeting Date & Time: Our next meeting will be held on Monday March 31st @ 6:00 PM

## Worship Committee

March 6, 2025



Those present: Cavan Fang, Phyllis Kalnins, Pastor Paul, Kathy Hanson, Avis Marino and Barb Casper.

Pastor Paul opened the meeting with a Prayer.

Communion will be done with 3 confirmation class members as stewards. There will be no middle rail set up. People will proceed down the two middle aisles as directed by the ushers, receive the bread and wine and go back via the outer aisles. Anyone who likes to kneel or pause at the rail may do so for personal devotion.

The hymn sing service went very well.

Ash Wednesday was March 5<sup>th</sup> with our service at 1:00. We had 13 attendees. Westby had the evening service.

March 12<sup>th</sup> will be at Good Shepherd, March 19<sup>th</sup> will be here, March 26 will be at Immanuel, April 2<sup>nd</sup> will be at Westby, and April 9<sup>th</sup> will be at Bethel. All of these churches will hold a Soup Supper at 5:00 before the 6:00 service.

We will need a greeter and 2 ushers for the March 19<sup>th</sup> service. We made plans for 5 Crock of soup, 8 dozen bars/cookies, and Cavan's homemade bread. Barb will do the set-up the tables earlier in the day of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

April 13<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday. Weather permitting, we will have a Palm Parade outdoors. Then we will have a Palm Parade in the sanctuary during the opening hymn. Hopefully people of all ages will join in both chances to wave the palms.

April 17<sup>th</sup> is Maundy Thursday and the service will be held at Westby.

April 18<sup>th</sup> is Good Friday. We are still getting information about what the service will entail.

April 20<sup>th</sup> is Easter Sunday. There will be a Sunrise Service at 7:00, breakfast at 8:00 and the regular service at 10:30.

We want to emphasize the availability of ride sharing. Anyone needing a ride can call the church office and we can line something up for them.

Barb and Kathy will checkout Easter lily prices and where we can get them.

Cavan gave an update on choir dates and music.

Phyllis gave a "screen" report and we discussed needing more people to learn how to run it during the service.

Positive feedback on the Lenten Devotionals.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm due to choir needs to rehearse at 6pm. Let's try to get started right away so it doesn't run too late.

Barb Casper

## United Women of Faith

March 12, 2025

Members present: Joanne Hornby, Barb Casper, Ann Carlow, Avis Marino, Betty Ross, Phyllis Kalnins and Janet Welch.

President Janet read a meditation from "Walking in Grace" a daily devotion from Guidepost. "Love is so patient..." 1 Corinthians 13:4

President Janet read the Secretary's report from the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Barb reported we has \$1,723.51 in the treasury.

Child Fund for March is Barb Casper and for April is Ardith Olson.

Church coffee and cookies for March is Hospitality III and April is Hospitality II.

President Janet told about the book "Squirrel Is Alive" by Mary Rostad, a sixteen year old girl who joined the resistance movement, serving in her home city of Brussels in 1940 when the Nazis occupied her country of Belgium. Adopting the name of "Squirrel," she walked far away from her home and family to report on the movement of German troops. She met an American soldier whom she later married and later moved with him to his hometown of Spring Grove, Minnesota. So interesting.

The S.W. District Spiritual Growth Retreat meets Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> at Lancaster U.M.C. We would like a driver.

Joanne led an interesting program on women who were influential in the early Methodist movement.

Snacks were served by Phyllis and Betty will serve in April.

President Janet Welch



# April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:30am Exercise Group 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	2 Ecumenical Lenten Service 8am Prayer Group	3 10:30am Exercise Group 6pm Choir Practice 7pm Worship Committee	4	5
6 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/ Communion 11:45am Spring FlingPotluck	7	8 10:30am Exercise Group 1pm Hospitality Committee 5:30pm Bell Choir 6pm Trustees Meeting	9 Ecumenical Lenten Service 8am Prayer Group 1:30pm UWF	10 10:30am Exercise Group 6pm Choir Practice	11	12
13 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 4pm Bible Study @ Kathy Hansons	14	15 10:30am Exercise Group 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	16 8am Prayer Group 6pm Choir Practice	17 10:30am Exercise Group 6pm Maundy Thursday Worship @ Westby	18 1pm Good Friday Service	19 10am Easter Egg Hunt Ages 0-9 11:10am Easter Egg Hunt Age 10-18
20 7am Easter Sunrise Service 8am Easter Breakfast 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Easter Worship	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 10:30am Exercise Group 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	23 8am Prayer Group 6pm Choir Practice	24 10:30am Exercise Group	25	26
27 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Finance/Administrative Council 2pm Bell Choir Concert	28 7pm Book Group	29 10:30am Exercise Group	30 8am Prayer Group 6pm Choir Practice			

*The Cross & The Flame is published monthly  
for our congregation and friends. We welcome you  
with open hearts, open minds and open doors.*

**VIROQUA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PASTOR**

**REV. PAUL LEE**

(262) 393-8416

[pastor.dplee@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.dplee@gmail.com)

**CHURCH OFFICE**

221 S. Center Ave.

Viroqua, WI 54665

Phone: 608-637-3551

Email: [viroqua@viroquawestbyumc.org](mailto:viroqua@viroquawestbyumc.org)

Website: [www.viroquawestbyumc.org](http://www.viroquawestbyumc.org)

Office Staff: Kathy Hanson/Barb Casper

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 12:00pm

**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE**

**Adult Sunday School Class—9:00 am**

**Worship—10:30 am**

**Broadcast on**

**WVRQ 1360 AM/107.3 FM or on  
Facebook Live**



**Viroqua United Methodist Church's Mission Statement**

The Viroqua United Methodist Church exists for the purpose of carrying out Christ's Great Commission by enabling all who come to personally know the joy of God's love and forgiveness and to lovingly share this joy in the fellowship of the church and in reaching people throughout the world.