

**News and Current Events :: Dallas Megachurch of Robert Jeffress to Open \$130 Million Campus in March****Dallas Megachurch of Robert Jeffress to Open \$130 Million Campus in March - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2013/2/18**

Congregants of the First Baptist Church of Dallas will be praising God in a gleaming \$130 million facility come Easter Sunday, March 31, when the church opens its new state-of-the-art campus after nearly two years under construction.

At a time when suburban megachurches are the norm and research shows that many people no longer feel the Church is relevant, First Baptist is committed to the Bible and to downtown Dallas," said Jeffress in a statement. "People are hungry not for religion but for the Word of God. First Baptist Dallas is built on the Bible, and because of that we are growing."

The new First Baptist Church of Dallas campus will be part of an effort to revitalize downtown Dallas, which recently included the debut of several multimillion-dollar museums, theaters and parks.

read more: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/dallas-megachurch-of-robert-jeffress-to-open-130-million-campus-in-march-90086/>

**Re: Dallas Megachurch of Robert Jeffress to Open \$130 Million Campus in March, on: 2013/2/18 8:20**

And where is Jesus in the midst of this????????? Is this wwhat the Son of God meant when He said upon this rock I will build my church?????????

Bearmaster.

**Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2013/2/18 8:40**

Bearmaster,

are you serious?

Why would Jesus not be in this?

p.s. And I'm not a baptist.

**Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2013/2/18 9:13**

I have to agree with Bear on this. Where did the monies to build such a place come from? Will this new building, that I assume was built with tithes house the poor...feed the hungry, care for the sick...will it house the widows, cloth the naked reach the lost? I am not attempting to criticize but rather wonder at the use of GOD resources to build such a place? Perhaps many good things will come from this but it does cause me to wonder how many good things could have come from 130 million dollars. How many children could have been fed, how many widows looked after, how many poor cared for?? ? 130 million dollars might have gone a long way to do much good in the name of JESUS but then men would not have a beautiful cross-tower and large fountains to enjoy as they come together to worship GOD. I wonder how JESUS would have reacted, didn't HE say something about our bodies being a temple unto the LORD and that we the church were living stones that build HIS church...if that be so then why would HE need a 130 million dollar building anyway???

Just some of the questions on my heart and mind.

God bless  
maryjane

**Re: Dallas Megachurch of Robert Jeffress to Open \$130 Million Campus in March - posted by dohzman (), on: 2013/2/18**

Bigger isn't always better, however it appears that the church has a ton of ministries helping people in various needs. here's the link if anyone's interested in checking it out before making a snap judgement.  
<http://www.firstdallas.org>

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2013/2/18 9:48**

To me I had very mixed feeling about this when I first looked at it. The thought that screamed out to me was look at this! how can that be bad, its a large testimony for christ in the downtown of a city.

Yet when I was able to think more sober-minded about this it was clearer that the purpose of Christ was not to build larger Mega Churches or even large church buildings.

And how this money could have been used for the Gospel in missions, bible distribution and tracts boggles the mind.

It is a reversal of the early church where they did not have silver or gold but the power of God. And now we "have" silver or gold or at least get in debt for millions of it and then do not have the great reliance on God.

There are few mega churches that have the right calling and balance, 2 I can easily think of are: Brooklyn Tabernacle and Times Square Church.

**Re: - posted by NeedHelp, on: 2013/2/18 12:32**

John 12:3-8 (KJV)

- 3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.
- 4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,
- 5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?
- 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.
- 7 Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.
- 8 For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.

Read...Ponder...consider...What are you doing for the poor? How much are you helping to get the gospel to the poor? It is easy to criticize others but we will all be judged by what measure we use toward others in trying to justify ourselves.

**Re: Dallas Megachurch of Robert Jeffress to Open \$130 Million Campus in March, on: 2013/2/18 12:59**

Quote:  
-----3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.  
4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,  
5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?  
6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.  
7 Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.  
8 For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.

Scripture quoted by needhelp  
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Well if anyone happens to bump into Judas Iscariot in down town Dallas remember to poke him in the eye. You'll know him by the size of his purse bulging with \$130M Dollars.

**Re: , on: 2013/2/18 13:48**

Brooklyn Tab Choir are going to be special guests at Dallas First Baptist for the grand opening

<http://www.firstdallas.org/grandopening/>

just a joke Greg... I don't know what to think personally. I can't really judge

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2013/2/18 14:19**

I am glad we do not have to be judges over such things and at the same time I am glad we do not have to endorse the idea of Mega churches. I believe the Lord is leading believers in these end times to the oppose and we have setup a web site and book soon to encourage saints to gather in 2-3 believers or more under the headship of Jesus Christ:

[www.gospelfellowships.net](http://www.gospelfellowships.net)

**Re: Taking them by faith - posted by dohzman (), on: 2013/2/18 17:23**

I'm not one to advocate a large church, however there is a place for such in different places I'm sure. I have learned to take a good many things by faith, especially people and leadership and their directions, etc...If I don't feel a check in my spirit about something or when I ask the Lord about it, I stay silent as long as He's silent toward me about it. Who art thou to judge another mans servant seems to ring in my ears much these days as my words have become increasingly fewer and fewer. I guess I have so much on my own plate to worry about(or if you like ... take care of) that I don't have time to spend looking at what others are doing, outside of an occasional glance or maybe even a short prayer for them. It would be my hope that a church that size with all the ministries they have and the very large staff they have would be honoring to the Lord and that He would keep them from the evil one.

**Re: But Questions Need to be Asked, on: 2013/2/18 18:31**

Where this may be good. Is such a large church God's best? We see Jesus laying out the model for the church in Mat. 18. Jesus said where two or three came together he was present. Such a gathering conotes intimacy with Jesus and one another. Where does one get this at First Baptist? Is this what Christ envisioned for his church in the first century? Where do you enter into the lives of the people at FBC Dallas?

How could such a large church whether persecution? Such a huge venue would be easier for government control. Faced with the loss of their 501c I imagine FBC would capitulate and compromise the gospel.

I remember the story of a Vietnamese pastor who saw persecution coming from the communist. Borrowing a page from the Communist's own hand book he divided his church into cell groups of three people each. Not only did the cell groups grow and multiply. They were harder to infiltrate by the government.

Bottom line. Bigger is not always better.

Bearmaster.

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2013/2/18 18:36**

It's really hard for me to personally find anything wrong with the name Church in it, after all we are the church. So is it wrong to have a mega Church inside the walls? I have always been told, Bill you always think way outside the box, and I have always took that as a compliment. I guess my thoughts would be, that the mega churches will touch more lost souls because of the exposure they get, and as long as they are running the church they way God would have it, well who am I to judge?

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2013/2/18 18:46**

Quote:

-----bearmaster.....Such a gathering connotes intimacy with Jesus and one another. Where does one get this at First Baptist? .  
-----

Bear, I am a member of a large Church, and I can personally tell you, I have never been to a Church were the intimacy with one another and God is better. If you have never been a member of a large Church as I have for 16 years. Trust me , when I walk in the doors, I feel like I am walking into an old Country congregation, hugs and lots of Love and how are y ou's shown at the doors. It's a preference, and just because some don't prefer the larger Churches, I respect that, I have been Blessed so much, and had the opportunity to Bless and Pray for old and new members, I just could not ever see m e going anywhere else.

**Re: - posted by dohzman (), on: 2013/2/18 19:48**

Rember that Jesus ministered to the multitudes, there are many references to the multitudes pressing in on Him, note th e woman with the blood issue, the multitudes who needed feed and several occasions, Peter even needed to use his bo at so Jesus could teach the multitudes at the sea shore. So just because anyone of us belongs to a small gathering as o pposed to a larger gathering is not a good test for spirituality.

What I think we focus on is cost, the cost of the building in this case..if we are not careful we can end up in Judas' camp complaining to the Lord that the cost of the ointment could have been better spent on feed or giving alms to the poor. Ag ain...you have to trust that God is working through the leadership of this church and its congregation to move in that dire ction in "their" stewardship of the funds they seem to be entrusted with.

As to the cell groups? I have seen this method work well in many different settings, but God is diverse and is able to dire ct His church however the circumstances dictate, in order to meet the needs present for the time period and the church grows.

**Re: - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2013/2/18 19:50**

Personally I am seeking to be guided by two words I felt the Lord whispered into my heart a while ago:

"Think small."

Allan H.

**Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2013/2/19 2:19**

Friends really!

I'm actually amazed that there would be a question on this, If its not up your street just walk away, It is before his own m aster that he stands or falls.

I know nothing of this church, but taking the article at face value I'm saying AMEN!

Does anyone know what this church preaches, what its outreach program is to the community, does it feed the poor, and more importantly does it preach Jesus Christ and him Crucified?

You are falling into the same trap as the pharisees, Dont judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.

**Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2013/2/19 8:08**

Greetings

I have been in prayer much about my previous response to this topic. I have considered the words I chose and upon reflection feel that some were written from the wrong heart and have since repented of my attitudes. On the topic I still do have many questions as to whether the money GOD gives and allows should be used in such a way but I will work those things out with HIM. I do still see Bearmaster point and the points that Greg makes.

God bless and thank you for allowing me to clarify what I have been seeing.

mj

**Re: - posted by SkepticGuy, on: 2013/2/19 8:35**

it is troublesome to me to read the responses to this article on this forum. what a bunch of judgemental hogwash, my friends. have any of you who have responded ever darkened the doorway of this church, or met robert jeffress? do u know anyone who goes to this church? ever visited their website to see what they believe or what outreaches they may have?

bearmaster and others are crying out against this mega-church while at the same time LOVE times square church in nyc, founded by david wilkerson (speaker of many false prophecies), that has a weekly attendance of 8000. times square church is a mega-church that is ok, but this one in downtown dallas is not? who gets to make that decision? based upon what?

people, come down off your high horse and judgementalism. whether this church builds a \$130M campus or doesn't has no effect on your life, so leave it alone. if it is not of god then it will be judged by him, not any of u. if it is of god then u are kicking against the goads and struggling against god.

sum1 compared jeffress and this church to judas, but actually when the woman poured out expensive perfume on jesus it was JUDAS who declared how that money could be used to feed the poor. sounds to me that sum people have things backwards around here.

also, as sum1 with much construction experience i can tell u that it doesn't take much to build a \$130M campus these days. and i bet there are a number of architects, engineers, contractors, carpenters, etc in the dallas area that would be able to keep their people employed during these economic tough times. i bet sum of them even give thanks to jesus christ for that project that put food on their tables.

shameful, people.

**Re: , on: 2013/2/19 8:47**

MaryJane I have read your post and do not see that it was written from a wrong heart. But you had the courage and conviction to ask the questions that should be raised. If this church was a liberal dead church then we could say they were operating in demonic darkness. But FBC Dallas says they are built in the preaching of the Bible.

If they are built in the preaching of the Bible then what of the passages where the Son of God said the foxes have holes and the birds have nests. But the son of man has no place to lay his head. It was pointed out that Jesus ministered to large crowds. Indeed! Out in the open, in the elements, sitting on hard ground. So to look at this facility one must wonder what Christ would think.

Does anyone really think sinners would be drawn to such a place. And by sinners I mean the lost, the last, and the least. Maybe a few rich Texans. Those with big pockets. But what did Jesus tell the rich young ruler who wanted to follow him. It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus also told the Pharisees who loved money that what is highly valued among men is detestable in God's eyes. Interestingly that the evangelicals who decry the prosperity gospel of the charismatics are the very same ones who build the multi million structures. And many go into debt to do so.

The article said this structure is to refurbish downtown Dallas. What about transforming the hearts of the people of Dallas. Doing that through prayer and the word. What would have happened if this church had spent more time in prayer and

g over their lost city and crying out for souls. What would have happened had this church cried for the baptism of God's Spirit to transform hearts. One must wonder?

I know to pose these questions people will say "You judge, you judge". For sure this church is accountable before God. But when such things are done in the name of Christ then the questions have to be asked. Particularly when the head of the church had no place to lay his head.

My thoughts.

Bearmaster.

**Reply to Bearmaster - posted by MaryJane, on: 2013/2/19 10:12**

by bearmaster on 2013/2/19 2:47:41

MaryJane I have read your post and do not see that it was written from a wrong heart. But you had the courage and conviction to ask the questions that should be raised.

I know to pose these questions people will say "You judge, you judge". For sure this church is accountable before God. But when such things are done in the name of Christ then the questions have to be asked. Particularly when the head of the church had no place to lay his head.

My thoughts.

Bearmaster.

---

Greetings Bear

Thank you for your response. You have brought up very valid thoughts on this topic. As I read over what you and others have shared I would really like to take more time and pray over this. I appreciate your heart as always and the things you shared are some of the same questions I have also but I really want to be sure I am hearing from the LORD before saying anymore.

On a personal level, as I have been considering this I was thinking about my own heart and how I use the provisions GOD has given me...there is always much room for growth in this area of my life I know. I was thinking about the house I live in, the car I drive, the clothes I wear? I wonder if another from a much poorer nation might look at my home and ask me if I have fed the hungry, clothed the naked, or cared for the widows? I want to be sure that I am not walking with a hypocritical heart in the things that I say or do. As a CHRISTIAN living in this country I am blessed with physical comfort that others do not have and I am grateful for that so much but do I use these blessings as HE would guide and lead me to?? Surely it is worth examining my own heart in this...

I guess what I am trying to say is that I came to this topic looking at the amount of monies spent to build a building(still praying on that) but as I seek HIM I also must look at my own heart and life and examine what I do in living unto HIM daily.

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Thank you all for sharing what you are seeing.

God bless  
mj

**Re: Reply to Bearmaster - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2013/2/19 15:45**

How much is "one" lost soul worth? If one life is turned from their sins and and repents and accepts Jesus Christ into the ir life because of this Church, was it worth 130 mil? Or have we now put a value on salvation? It never ceizes to amaze me, how some Christians will be so vocal about the Churches business, yet have such an issue minding their own. I guess all the naysayers were spo ken to by God to speak negative words about his house. Comparing Jesus speaking to large crowds in public to a Shep ard speaking to a large flock within walls, makes no sense. I guess if there would have been A 50,000 seat indoor arena back in the days Jesus ministered, he would have just passed up the opportunity to minister there because it was to big? It is sickening that even one saved soul would have anything negative to say about something that has not even been b uilt yet, what, we serve a big God that only thinks small? This all amounts to opinions, please show me one scripture tha t says, souls are only saved in small Churches. Billy Graham has brought more lost souls to Christ than anyone, within l arge stadiums, surrounded by walls. The Church needs to wake up, and focus on bringing in the lost sheep, and quit wo rrying about we're their brought in to.

**Re: - posted by SkepticGuy, on: 2013/2/19 16:45**

very well said, mr bill. these people may not want to be allowed into heaven becuz it will be bigger than big there! talk ab out a mega-church!

**Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2013/2/19 21:17**

The irony of this whole story, and it really does paint a vivid picture of the where the church is at, is that its all just about money.

It is quite revealing that in the gospels the only disciple who had issues with money was Judas. It is also interesting that he was the one who was in charge of the money.

Though Jesus talked much about money it is never mentioned that he took Judas to task for helping himself to the mone y bag. I believe that to God it is afterall 'just money'.

Perhaps, and maybe this is the lesson here for us, its a question of what was continually in his 'line of sight'. What is con tinually in our 'line of sight?'

I am reminded of the old Sunday school song: Be careful little eyes what you see.

I have a sense that the overall obsession with finances on both sides of the fence reveals the state of our hearts and wh at we truely place value in.

The questions that are raised by Bear are, generally speaking, valid. But why play devils advocate in a situation that kno wone here certainly has any first hand experience with? Why create doubt about the integrity of this church and this man ?

Instead of it being seen as a marvelous demonstration of Gods faithfulness and provision its twisted into story of how thi s church is wasting resources. Truely, in this present econmic climate, this is a sign and a wonder. What is wrong with u s, my word!

Could these guys be hucksters and indebted up to their eyeballs, quiet possibly. There could be many things out of wha ck here with this church, but don't let us the church be the first one to chuck a stone when we don't even know if there is anything wrong in the first place.

One poster posted that he felt God say, 'Think small'. With all respect to that poster where in the bible do you ever get th e impression that God thinks small and expects us to do the same. If anything he is asking us to lift up our eyes and see him who is eternal and live in the reality of that. Quite possibly God may have being telling him in reference to the Dodge ram he may be driving around in, but in regards to church no way man!!

I think also that this current thread represents a small sample of the general philosophy and leaning of the site admin an d vocal posters here.

There is a general negativity and pessism in regards to big churches. Why? Small house churches are championed as t

he cure to the scourge of the mega-church culture. What?!Why? The cure to a lifeless limp church, big or small, is Jesus Christ and not a model of fellowship.

Its not how big or small a church is, the important question is, is Jesus there and do the people live in the light of that fact?

**Re: , on: 2013/2/19 22:01**

Quote:  
-----Though Jesus talked much about money it is never mentioned that he took Judas to task for helping himself to the money bag. I believe that to God it is after all 'just money'.

Perhaps, and maybe this is the lesson here for us, its a question of what was continually in his 'line of sight'. What is continually in our 'line of sight?'  
-----

You say that Jesus did not take Judas to task over money. My friend Jesus spoke the most terrifying and fearful words He ever spoke to a man to Judas. "Have I not chosen all of you, yet one of you is a devil". This was just before Judas went out to receive his payment and to betray Christ. Judas was never called a liar in scripture or a pervert or anything other than a thief. He was a thief. He betrayed Christ for money. What need to expose him before the hour?

The principle concern about mega churches has to do with the corrupting influence of money. As was said in this post there are few such churches which manage to sustain a good testimony.

Jesus said to His disciples "you are a little flock". Jesus also gave the parable of the mustard seed which speaks about that which is given small, exceeding its growth and becoming the resting place for all the birds of the air. The purpose of cultivating and planting mustard is to harvest it for its effect. The same is true for the church. If the seed of the mustard over extends its growth in any one place it becomes likely to become of another purpose and effect than the one intended.

No one in this post has condemned a man or questioned his motives. What has been spoke of is a \$130 Million building project.

The Sunday School saying for children which you have quoted for our benefit brother is best suited for little children whose eyes are those spoken of in the rhythm. Jesus said however, "be ye as cunning as serpents".

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2013/2/19 22:24**

My guess is there is probably more corruption that goes on in the smaller churches than big ones, you just don't hear about them as much, why? because the small churches don't bring the bucks to the media as the big church announcements do. My guess is, if the same identical thing happened in a small hometown church as a mega church, you would never hear about the small one, unless maybe you lived in the same town.

**Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2013/2/19 22:49**

Quote:  
-----You say that Jesus did not take Judas to task over money.  
-----

You missing the thrust of what I was saying, the primary point being that, to God, money means very little. Evidenced in the fact that he even put Judas in charge of the money bag knowing he was a thief.

Quote:

-----Jesus said to His disciples "you are a little flock". Jesus also gave the parable of the mustard seed which speaks about that which is given small, exceeding its growth and becoming the resting place for all the birds of the air. The purpose of cultivating and planting mustard is to harvest it for its effect. The same is true for the church. If the seed of the mustard over extends its growth in any one place it becomes likely to become of an other purpose and effect than the one intended.

-----  
Can you explain what you mean I am at a loss as to what you are talking about.

Quote:  
-----The Sunday School saying for children which you have quoted for our benefit brother is best suited for little children whose eyes are those spoken of in the rhythm  
-----

Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:3

**Re: , on: 2013/2/19 23:27**

Point taken about becoming little children in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. The only rational thing to say would be that we can't presently see the kingdom of heaven. So the only place to look is out into the world we live in.

You shared that one brother had made reference to "thinking small" and you asked "where does the scripture tell us to think small?" Bearmaster shared earlier about where two or three gather together etc. I am simply saying that Jesus didn't tell his disciples who were to evangelise the world to think like a herd of thousands, but called them a "little flock".

The parable of the mustard seed has been explained by others, (I simply am repeating it in agreement) as a picture of the church. To be more precise as a picture of the kingdom of heaven in those who believe. Rather than trying to explain the physiology of the mustard seed I enclose this link for your later reading.

<http://stephennewell.com/2006/10/02/mustard-seed-faith-matt-1714-21/>

<http://www.gotquestions.org/parable-mustard-seed.html>

The thing to note is that mustard is for consumption and is generally accepted as an antibacterial agent. It cleanses as well as spices food. It is one of the tiniest seeds yet it can if left uncultivated grow to an enormous tree. As the seeds which are used to make the mustard are on the outer edges of the tree they become somewhat impractical to harvest if the plant is allowed to grow over large. Once over grown then as with all trees the mustard becomes a resting place for the birds of the air. If the mustard seed is the kingdom of heaven within us and represents the church, and the church becomes larger than it was intended to become in order to be fruitful and purposeful then it ends up serving other purposes. The principle one being that demonic spirits find a place to nest in the branches of the church and thereby the gospel, ministry and direction of the church changes by their evil influence. One of the invisible characteristics of the mustard tree as opposed to the mustard plant, is also that its roots are up to four times the depth of its height. In short the tiny mustard seed if left uncultivated become a deeply rooted tree which not only is difficult to harvest, but its deep roots in the earth make it nearly impossible to root up even if it has become useless. It becomes permanently useless.

Perhaps you don't care for the picture. In any regard this is how the parable of the mustard seed has been presented by many commentators. I have to be completely honest and say that it is a perfect picture of what can happen in large churches when the ministry is compromised and doctrines "not of the Lord" come in.

No doubt you will see that as just negative or critical. Unfortunately it is easily proven throughout history.

In finally I didn't miss what you were saying about what you believe to be God' attitude to money. I reject it that's all.

**Re: - posted by SkepticGuy, on: 2013/2/20 6:12**

2 days now of sitting in judgement over a church in which no1 here knows a single soul that attends there. sad. so very sad to witness.

u folks should be ashamed of urselves and the witness u r giving to those who visit this website that may not be believers.

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2013/2/20 9:03**

Quote:  
-----SkepticGuy...2 days now of sitting in judgement over a church in which no1 here knows a single soul that attends there. sad. so very sad to witness.

u folks should be ashamed of urselves and the witness u r giving to those who visit this website that may not be believers.  
-----

I had an old fire and brimstone Baptist pastor back in the early 60's, that whenever gossip was going around at Church, he would say this. "You Ain't Never Been Beat Up Until You Have Been Beat Up By A Christian". As a little child, I really did not know how to take his statement, but as an adult today, his statement rings clearer than a bell.

**Re: , on: 2013/2/20 12:49**

I remember hearing a story of a humble godly monk who had been invited to the Vatican. As he entered the Vatican one of the cardinals showed him all off the papal treasurers. The cardinal said "My brother no longer will the church have to say silver or gold I do not have".. in reflection the monk said "But my brother can the church say in the name of Jesus rise up and walk."

Rather a provocative question to consider.

Bearmaster.

**Re: - posted by SkepticGuy, on: 2013/2/20 13:47**

again with the judging of brethren of whom you dont even know. where duz such authority derive from? not scripture, i assure u.