

# EC Leader



March 2014

## Special points of interest:

- 2014 National Prayer Summits
- Fresh Expressions National Gathering



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## From the Bishop

I'm continuing a series of articles on how we join together as a denomination to resource, encourage and equip one another through the good things we do with Ministry Funds. I realize that most of us are not "numbers people" so the charts and graphs all start to look the same. Maybe I could have called this something like "The National Conference Budget for people who don't like numbers!" Our National Conference asks every local congregation to contribute a percentage of their income to the National Conference in order to accomplish "together" ministries. Last month I wrote about the important work of our Commissions & Committees. This month I'm going to focus on Church Center operations and denominational leadership.

Every human organization is built on relationships. Relationships mean we serve person-to-person; people-to-people. The Evangelical Congregational Church depends on the faithful service of denominational leadership and the staff of our national headquarters, E.C. Church Center, located in Myerstown, PA.



As good stewards, we don't have a large staff, in fact many of our administrative support staff are part-time, while others are in shared ministry positions, but we work together to provide services and resources to help our local congregations minister effectively and efficiently. Here's a quick overview of some of the services they provide:

Brenda Long, the Church Center **Office Manager**, Jodi Earhart, **Administrative Assistant to the Bishop**, and Pat Wolfe, **Receptionist**, each provide administrative support for various denominational leaders and all of our commissions and committees. They oversee our information services, mailings, and coordinate the work of holding our annual National Conference.

Our **Controller**, Kevin Henry, has a shared ministry position as we share his time and expertise with Evangelical Seminary. As

denominational Controller he oversees the day-to-day transaction processing and financial and tax reporting as well as being involved in the planning process for the financial operations including the development of the denomination's annual budget, and consultation to churches and pastors on not-for-profit and clergy tax issues as well as risk and benefits management.

Dave King, serves as our **Benefits Administrator**, providing answers and resources to pastors' questions regarding denominational benefits for pastors, including health insurance and other benefits administered by our denomination's Benefit Corporation in compliance with federal regulations and employment laws. Dave also performs accounting duties for the denomination and Evangelical Seminary.

Shirley Long, **Accounting Specialist**, and Peggy Derr, **Accounts Payable & Payroll Specialist**, process the daily incoming and outgoing financial transactions of the denomination.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise



1. Pray for missionary Ken Sears and others serving the church in Ukraine as political civil unrest continues to be a regular experience. Remember too, millions of other Jesus followers who live in even more difficult circumstances all around the world.
2. Ask for the Lord's leading in the continuing work of the Stationing Committee as they seek God's will in assignments where pastors and congregations will "fit and flourish."
3. Pray for all the people, including me, who are busy preparing for National Conference 2014 which will be held on the campus of Messiah College in Grantham, PA, May 28-30.
4. Pray for out-going Great Lakes Conference Minister Gary Brown and incoming Conference Minister Chuck Campbell as they work together during this time of transition.
5. Pray for our camping ministries (Camp ECCO in Ohio, Rock River Bible Camp in Illinois, and Twin Pines Camp in Pennsylvania) as they begin to recruit staff and plan the summer camping programs.
6. Praise God for a safe and effective trip to Ukraine for Randy Sizemore and me. We ordained missionary Ken Sears in his home church in Zaporozhye, met with classes and students in the Bible college, and interacted with lots of brothers and sisters in faith. (And, of course we returned with some interesting stories.)
7. Thank God that through the weeks of Lent we have the opportunity to worship and even celebrate a suffering Savior who gave his all that we may have life in its fullness.
8. Praise the Lord for the good start Randy Sizemore has been able to experience in his new shared ministry position as Director of Global Ministries Commission and Lead Pastor at Bethel E.C. Church, Dixon, IL.
9. Praise God for the individuals and congregations who are in the community engaging their neighbors with the Good News of God's wonderful grace.
10. Thank the Lord that as a good old fashioned winter ends (I hope) we get to turn the clocks ahead this month and spring finally begins (at least on the calendar!). Did you ever think you'd look forward to mowing the lawn?

## News from StoneRidge Retirement Living



### StoneRidge Retirement Living and Church of God Home Affiliation Completed

Steve Reiter, President and CEO of StoneRidge Retirement Living of Myerstown, PA, has announced that as of January 1, 2014, the affiliation with the Church of God Home of Carlisle, PA, is complete. Over the past two years the two Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) have been moving toward combining operations and centralizing business functions to be carried out at the StoneRidge Myerstown location.

StoneRidge Living is the former Evangelical Congregational Church Retirement Village (ECCRV) with roots in the local area, first in Herndon, then moving to Lebanon County for the past 90 years. The name was officially changed to StoneRidge Retirement Living in 2008. The non-profit company operates two retirement living campuses in Myerstown: StoneRidge Poplar Run and StoneRidge Towne Centre. The Church of God Home in Carlisle, operating at the Cumberland County location for the past 65 years is now a StoneRidge Retirement Living Commu-

nity, but will retain its name for public recognition.

With a long history of serving Independent Living, Personal Care and Skilled Nursing residents, the affiliation of these two faith-based retirement communities will serve to strengthen the StoneRidge brand in the market and to promote and expand their vision of increasing services to senior adults in the Central PA area. For information about StoneRidge Retirement Living visit:

[www.stoneridgeretirement.com](http://www.stoneridgeretirement.com)

(continued from page 1)

Each of these positions is shared with Evangelical Seminary.

Pat Strain, **Deputy Director of Missionary Care**, provides administrative assistance to the Director of Global Ministries as well as edits and coordinates all the publications produced by the Commission. She monitors missionary reports and finances, responds to missionaries' needs, and coordinates missionaries' speaking schedules.

Rev. Randy Sizemore, our **Director of Global Ministries**, has recently begun a shared ministry position as GMC Director and Lead Pastor of Bethel E.C. Church, Dixon, IL. As Director Randy provides administrative oversight of the entire ministry of the Global Ministries Commission including the development and organization of international mission conferences, provides long-range planning, oversight for missionary recruitment and accountability,

and develops resources to encourage local church involvement in fulfilling the Great Commission through missions.

Our three **Conference Ministers'** ministry is to support, encourage, and assess healthy ministry through their relationships with the pastoral and lay leadership of regional churches. This can be accomplished through prayer; by coaching and/or resourcing; providing fair and objective counsel, especially in times of conflict; assisting in the development of pastoral leadership through recruitment, placement and accountability; helping sharpen the churches' perception of ministry; and assisting the Bishop in the coordination of denominational leadership.

Finally, my ministry, as **Bishop**, is to oversee everyone and everything. The Bishop is to oversee the spiritual interests of the church; to serve as the Chief Executive Of-

ficer of the denomination; to lead strategic planning for the denomination; to chair the National Conference, Evangelism and Discipleship Commission, the Leadership Commission, and the Church Planting Commission; to represent the church in national networks and coalitions; and to assume other tasks that may be assigned by the National Conference.

Please join me in praying for each of these individuals who serve the National Conference as they provide encouragement, resources, and help to pastors, lay delegates, and the congregations and ministries of the Evangelical Congregational Church.

In Christ's service,




**Rev. Charles "Chuck" Campbell has chosen Sunday, April 27, 2014 as the date for his installation service. It will be held at 3:00 pm in New Zion E.C. Church, Emlenton.**



## News from Benefits Corporation

The Worker's Compensation audit forms will be received at the local church shortly. It is very important that we receive all the salary information to obtain an accurate worker's compensation billing. Missing information will be estimated and most likely estimated higher than actual, resulting in a higher bill. Please help yourself and other EC Churches by returning the Worker's Compensation audit forms.

The annual disability premium was due January 15 and the Benefit Corporation administrative fee is due by April 15, 2014. Retirees are not subject to the administrative fee. Both of these fees are listed in the Treas-

urer's Guide available on the EC website ([www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com)). Many have remitted the disability fee timely and a few have submitted the administrative fee and we thank you for your diligence and hard work.

Treasurer's please begin using the 2014 Ministry Fund forms for January offerings. Offerings collected in December 2013 should be remitted on the 2013 Ministry Fund forms.

As always please contact Dave King, Benefits Administrator, or Kevin Henry, Controller, with any questions or problems, [dking@eccenter.com](mailto:dking@eccenter.com), [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com) or 717-866-7581.

## Church Health Commission—Exploring Interest in a New Affinity Group

Having participated in the now concluded Affinity Group, *Pastors Serving Smaller Congregations*, and presently participating in a second group, *Turnaround Churches*, I can give personal testimony to the benefits that can be experienced through meeting with others for study, discussion, fellowship, and prayer.

The **Church Health Commission** has asked me to explore what interest may exist in a new Affinity Group, *Dangerous Calling: Confronting the Unique Challenges of Pastoral Ministry*. This group would be built around a discussion of the book and accompanying 10 session DVD series of a live conference presentation of the same title authored by Paul David Tripp. The discussion materials offer the following introduction.

The call to care for God's people is invaluable. Pastors are in a position to bring Christ—the Way, the Truth, and the Life—to the hearts of people whom God loves. Pastors are called to proclaim and lead people to eternal life, authentic truth, and empowering grace. The pastor is called to feed and care for "God's people, holy and dearly loved" (Col. 3:12). However, this invaluable calling is also a challenging calling.

Pastors cope with the pressures of expectations. They burden a weight of responsibility for a healthy and vibrant church body. They are concerned for the fi-

nances of the church and to properly use God's resources. They strive to balance family, the church body, and their own well-being. Pastors strive to be diligent and effective in preaching while meeting the individual needs of the people. They face criticism, opposition, and unrealistic expectations. Consequently, this calling is not only invaluable and demanding, but also dangerous. Pastors face specific temptations as a result of their roles as shepherds.

This series will require you to look honestly at your heart and at the ways in which you deal with those temptations. This study is a reminder of what God has truly called you to do and how He has and will provide for this calling to be achieved. Whether you are a pastor or in a position to care for your pastor, this study will assist you in examining your church culture so that those in ministry can fulfill the work they

have been called to do in a way that is glorifying to our Savior King.

My initial vision is an affinity group that would meet five times, either once a month for five consecutive months, September 2014 through January 2015, or every other month, September through June. My suggestion for a meeting would be to plan to complete two sessions each time we meet, gathering at 9:30 a.m. and concluding at 2:30 p.m. We can plan a break for a brown bag lunch.

I encourage you to check out *Dangerous Calling* by Paul David Tripp at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com), where you will find 171 reviews, 143 five star and 22 four star. If you feel that you might be interested in being part of an affinity group to process this material with fellow pastors please send me an email at [revjfp@comcast.net](mailto:revjfp@comcast.net). I will contact those expressing interest so that we can plan an initial meeting, possibly at National Conference, to plan a meeting schedule for the group.

Rev. Jim Price  
Church Health Commission



**“Can You  
Hear Me  
Now?”**



## 2014 National Prayer Summits

### Delaware & Susquehanna Regions

March 28-29

### Camp Swatara

*Seeking and Finding God's Will and Power in Group Prayer*

Registrations forms have been mailed but you can also register online at the EC website

[www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com)

**Both of these Prayer Summits are open to everyone across the denomination.**

### Great Lakes Region

March 29

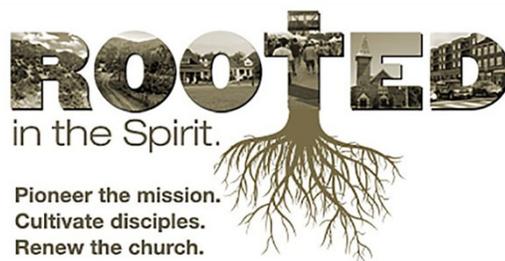
Delightful E.C. Church, Southington, OH

*“In God's Presence”*

Registration forms will be available soon.



**DEADLINE for registrations for both Summits is March 10th.**



The EC Church is once again a sponsor of the Fresh Expressions US National Gathering in Alexandria, VA, March 28-29, 2014. As a pastor/leader from a sponsoring denomination you can attend the national gathering at a discounted rate!

Anyone who's been in church knows the story of Israel in Egypt. During their captivity, the people of Israel helped build a great civilization. When they were released, it took 40 years of wandering in the desert (and lots of wishful thinking about the way things used to be) before Israel finally crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land. The Church faces a similar situation today. Throughout history and in spite of persecution, we helped build a great civilization. Time and again, we've renewed our roots in the ancient faith. But the culture has changed. In many ways, we've been released from the captivity of Christendom. This is good news. In cities and towns, large and small, we're finding our way back to the land. We're learning to cooperate with God's mission again in ways that are attentive to the people and contexts in which we live and work and play. And the fields are ripe for the harvest.

This year's national gathering takes us back to the Church's roots. It's about who we are, and whose we are—A people on the move in a world restored by the One who beckons us to be rooted in the Spirit. This is how Fresh Expressions of church develop and grow. Make plans to join Graham Cray, Alan Roxburgh, Cherith Fee Nordling, Don Coleman and others committed to joining God's work in the world to pioneer the mission, cultivate disciples and renew the Church.

To register and receive your discount, go to [www.freshexpressionsus.org/national-gathering](http://www.freshexpressionsus.org/national-gathering). When you register, use the discount code ECChurch to receive a \$20 discount on each individual registration.

## News from Global Ministries

### Delaware Mission Leaders' Brunch

Global Ministries Commission empowers over 500 international

churches in 5 nations, facilitates 50 mission workers in 12 countries working with 20 different sending agencies, ministers to the marginalized in many of these same countries and creates global Christians through informational and educational initiatives.

With such a large ministry scope there are always updates, programs, changes, challenges, and exciting developments to share with our local church partners! I am excited to invite you to the third annual Mission Leaders' Brunch on Monday, March 10, 2014 at the Perkins Restaurant, located at 3400 Lehigh Street, Allentown (next to South Mall). **PLEASE NOTE THE NEW LOCATION!** (Perkins is only about a mile away from the Superior, so it's very easy to find.) We will begin at 10:00 a.m. and finish by approximately 11:30. This is Dutch treat (Each person will pay for their own meal). Please join me for this encouraging and informational gathering to learn what God is doing in and through the EC Church around the globe.



### Mission Moments media available on website

There are 3 new short narrated power point presentations on Japan, India and Nepal on the denomination's website

([www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com)) that can be used for mission moments in your church or mission meetings. We hope to add more to this "Did You Know" mission moments collection.

### Prayer for Randy's

#### Travels

Thank you so much for your prayers for Randy & Bishop Hill's trip to Ukraine to ordain Ken Sears and to visit his field of service. (Pictures and video will be forthcoming on the website.) Please be in prayer for Randy and Carla as they travel back to Pennsylvania February 28-March 14 to participate in the Family Missions Rally, to conduct the spring GMC meetings, attend the National Ministry Team meeting and hold a variety of other Global Ministry Commission sponsored meetings and speak in a variety of local churches and other venues.



### VAMANOS! Come to Spain!

**October 7-14, 2014**

You are invited to join a vision tour to the country famous for olives, the running of the bulls, and Don Quixote.

We will be teaming with missionaries Ron & Brenda Anderson, and BJ & Rachel Whitaker, to pray for and work with believers in Spain as they share the Good News with their countrymen.



Our vision tours have a two-fold purpose:

- First, you get to see the missionaries 'in action' on their field of service. You will have opportunity to interact with them as they minister to their community, and see how their cultural setting influences their work.
- Secondly, you can encourage the missionaries by praying with them and for them in an informed manner, having participated in their ministry and experiencing the culture of the country where they live and work.



Join us for this unique opportunity to share with our missionaries on the field where they live and serve.

For more information contact the Global Ministries Commission at 1-800-866-7584 or

[ecglobal@eccenter.com](mailto:ecglobal@eccenter.com).

## News from Evangelical

### Our “One Call Phon-a-thon” is under-



**way... and \$10,000 is at stake!!** Last year when our dedicated volunteers made some 600 phone calls to Evangelical’s alumni and friends, they discovered just how busy you all are. So this year we’re respecting your time and trying something new. If all who supported last year’s Phon-a-thon contribute as much or more, in 2014, we’ll equal or exceed last year’s sum of \$60,000 for the Annual Fund for Transformational Leadership. When that happens, President Blair will make One Call to Board Chair Bill Worley, who will then notify several trustees who have promised to contribute an additional \$10,000! Will you help us meet our goal and turn \$60,000 into \$70,000? Pledges are due by March 3, but gifts and pledge fulfillments can be sent anytime before June 30.

### Thom Keller will speak at the Faith in the Marketplace Breakfast on March 6, at 7:00



**a.m.** A former owner of Keller Bros. Ford & Kubota in Schaffers town, Thom founded Lebanon’s Calvary

Chapel in 2001 and left the family business to become full-time pastor of the congregation in 2009. Register online at [www.evangelical.edu](http://www.evangelical.edu) (click on lifelong learning) or call Marsha Conley at 717-866-5775, ext. 2130.

### Dr. Ben Witherington, III, will keynote the 2014 Wesley Forum on April 7.

The author of over 40 books and one of the world’s top evangelical scholars, Witherington is Amos Professor of New Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary and also serves as doctoral faculty at St. Andrews University in Scotland. The day’s focus is “The Image of God: Theology and Ethics in the Bible.” Full details and registration are available on the seminary website.



**Evangelical Congregational History and Polity** is the second ICL (Institute for Church Leadership) course for this Spring. Open to all, the credit free course is offered on Tuesday nights (6:30-9:15 p.m.) from March 25 through May 6. Bishop Emeritus Mike Sigman is the instructor; cost is \$195. See full information and registration details at [www.evangelical.edu/lifelonglearning](http://www.evangelical.edu/lifelonglearning) (click on

ICL button at left) or address questions to Ken Nafziger at 717-866-5775, ext. 2113.

**The first annual Four Chaplains Scholarship Run** was held on February 8, 2014 starting and ending on the campus of Evangelical Seminary. Ninety-two runners and walkers completed the four mile run and thirteen participated in the one and one-half mile fun run/walk. The event raised over \$3,000 for the Four Chaplains Scholarship program which provides a tuition fee MDIV to military chaplain candidates. Results of the run are available at <http://pretzelcitysports.com/roadracesresults.html>. Thanks for the staff of Evangelical Seminary and EC Church Center for their hard work on a very successful event.

There are a limited number of t-shirts available at \$15 each. Please contact Shirley Long or Kevin Henry 717-866-7581 to purchase a t-shirt.



## News from Twin Pines

E.C. Church Center  
100 West Park Avenue  
Myerstown, PA 17067

Phone: 717-866-7581  
E-mail:  
[eccenter@eccenter.com](mailto:eccenter@eccenter.com)

We're on the Web  
[www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com)

We've attached calendars for March and April and will attach subsequent calendars in the future issues so you can keep up-to-date with what is happening in the EC denomination. These calendars are also available on the EC website

[www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com).

If there is an event you would like to have included on the calendar please contact Brenda at [blong@eccenter.com](mailto:blong@eccenter.com) or call 717-866-7581.



### Summer Camp

Now is the time to register for summer camp at Twin Pines. There are camps for kids and adults of all ages. For fathers and sons there is Dads 'n' Lads camp and for moms and daughters there is Moms 'n' Gals camp and this year Moms 'n' Gals will be staying in cabins! Both programs are only half a week and provide a great opportunity for parents to connect with their kids. For the whole family Twin Pines offers Family Camp with activities for every member of the family. If Family Camp sounds like fun but you



would just like to try it, there is the half-week Family Camp. This program has all the same great activities but is only Sunday through Tuesday. Another opportunity for adults is Adult Camp, a special week for spiritual renewal, fun, fellowship, and interaction with other adults and the Twin Pines' summer staff. Twin Pines also offers a wide variety of programs for kids of all ages. Twin Pines really does have a program for everyone!

If you are looking for a shorter camp program Twin Pines is offering several half week programs this year. Give camp a try!

If you are unsure of what camp you would like to attend, take a look at the summer camp schedule on the Twin Pines website, [www.twinpines.org](http://www.twinpines.org).

### Summer Staff

Twin Pines is currently in search of young people interested in Christian service. There are opportunities for summer staff available.



The areas of need include male counselors and life-guards. If you or someone you know



may be interested in serving on summer staff in 2014 please contact Shawn Fetterhoff at [shawn@twinpines.org](mailto:shawn@twinpines.org). If you are looking for a life changing service experience, don't hesitate and apply today!

### Summer Volunteers

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer this summer? Are you 21 or older and willing to help in the kitchen or on maintenance? If you answered yes to these questions you may be interested in signing up to volunteer for a week at Twin Pines this summer. If interested in volunteering please contact Shawn Fetterhoff at [shawn@twinpines.org](mailto:shawn@twinpines.org).

### Summer Celebration

Join us Saturday, June 7th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. for an exciting day at Twin Pines Camp. Summer celebration is our official kick off to our summer ministry season. This year we will have several 50th Anniversary activities as part of Summer Celebration, including a rededication service, time capsule, and live fundraising auction! Come help us celebrate 50 years of camping at Twin Pines!

Visit our [www.twinpines.org](http://www.twinpines.org) or contact Shawn at [shawn@twinpines.org](mailto:shawn@twinpines.org) for more information or to register for the motorcycle ride or to stay overnight.



# March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> Day of Prayer for Church Planting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Global Ministries Commission Mtg.	<b>5</b> ASH WEDNESDAY Global Ministries Commission Mtg.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church	<b>1</b> Family Mission Festival Boyertown
<b>9</b> FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Self-Denial Offering <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	<b>10</b> National CRC Mtg. Historical Society Mtg.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Church Health Commission Mtg.	<b>13</b> National Ministry Team Mtg.	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b> <b>15</b> Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance Premium due
<b>16</b> SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Susquehanna/Delaware	<b>29</b> Regions Prayer Summit Great Lakes Region Prayer Summit
<b>30</b> FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT	<b>31</b>					

**Ministry Funds to:**  
E.C. Church  
100 W. Park Ave.  
Myerstown, PA 17067

**Insurance/Pension Payments to:**  
Benefits Corporation  
100 W. Park Ave.  
Myerstown, PA 17067

**Self-Denial Offering to:**  
E.C. Church  
100 W. Park Ave.  
Myerstown, PA 17067  
*(designate—Self-Denial Offering)*

# April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church	5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Mountain Men's Conf. — Twin Pines</div>
<b>6</b> PASSION SUNDAY  Day of Prayer for Church Planting	<b>7</b> Wesley Forum—ETS	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Evangelism & Discipleship Commission Mtg.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> PALM SUNDAY	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance Premium due Estimated Tax due	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> MAUNDY THURSDAY	<b>18</b> GOOD FRIDAY Church Center closed	<b>19</b> Berks District mtg. — Shillington
<b>20</b> EASTER SUNDAY	<b>21</b> EASTER MONDAY Church Center closed	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Evangelical Seminary Board mtg.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Installation Service Rev. Charles Campbell	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Spring Spruce-Up—Twin Pines</div>	<b>30</b>			

**Ministry Funds to:**  
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100 W. Park Ave.  
Myerstown, PA 17067

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