

Pastoral Interviews  
Report for Week of: August 6, 1997  
Number of Calls: 10  
Number of Conferences: 3

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. How many churches do Ingathering among these 10 pastors? Seven. Of these seven, all three from Canada do an ADRA Campaign. All three from Northeastern do a "consolidated fund" approach to fund raising. And from Northern California, one of three pastors say they do Ingathering. The Canadian (BC) pastors have modest participation. One says, "I applaud administration for their flexibility and openness." Another says, "Success will come if we are more business-oriented (vs. door to door)." In Northeastern one pastor said he'd like to go back to traditional Ingathering (as opposed to the consolidated fund approach), another says, "My members see this as a smoke screen for the conference to raise money." Two comments come from the Northern California pastors: "Keep funds local" and "Door to door fundraising is not a good strategy for today."

2. Outreach and evangelism is certainly shaped by geography and ethnicity. Northeastern conference pastors do "tent" evangelism. British Columbia pastors do traditional public evangelism. And Northern California pastors do a mixture of seed sowing, low key stuff. A Northeastern pastor had one suggestion: "Tent location is no longer a primary issue--as far as being pitched near an Adventist church or not." In Canada, a Vancouver pastor used Leo Schreven successfully and emphasized "dynamic advertising on the media." Another Canadian pastor was really upbeat about Heartbeat '97 and had 93 people turn out (in a town of 17,000). The most interesting note from a California pastor was his usage of Willow Creek's "7 Step Strategy." I teased him about a 187 member church being too conservative to buy into this. He said they were unusually progressive. He wishes there were better resources to take members through Rick Warren's 4 levels of teaching (compared to a baseball diamond with levels 101, 201, 301, and 401. He said he uses Connections for one step, and Willow Creek's "Becoming a Contagious Christian" for another, but wishes we would create something as cutting edge and dynamic for introducing Adventists to Christianity (Christianity 101) and to the unique beliefs of Adventism (Adventism 201)...

3. Have you ever received Adventist Witness magazine? Out of ten pastors one said "Yes." And commented, "I enjoyed it. Its a good magazine." Four pastors said, "No." and Five pastors said, "I don't know" "I might have" "I get tons of stuff..." etc.

4. Resources pastors are looking for, ranked by general area: Software and fact sheets tied (7 each), and the rest tied with 6 each: video, print, online resources, and live training events. Lots of comments came in this section. They ranged from specific resource suggestions (parenting or family video teaching, succinct Bible studies that are 1 pagers with fewer texts, sharing booklets on felt-need topics with a light touch at the end on

religion, demographic materials, Moody Science type videos), the current system (have resource center agents in every metropolitan area, too expensive for small churches, too expensive for Canadian churches with border taxes, need a grading system that gives independent candid assessments of resources) to other miscellaneous comments (I'll buy videos if the subject matter is critical to me, we need to totally revamp week of prayer to be more revival/preaching oriented instead of reading stories from the Review, we need evangelistic materials--slides, pamphlets--that are multicultural--not white angels and white people waiting for Jesus' coming, create seminars that are facilitator friendly since I don't have time to prepare and study a lot). One pastor is "mad" at the NAD because of their passive involvement in an auditing problem in his (Northeastern) conference. They don't want to get involved because we are a black conference.

5. Four of ten pastors have called PlusLine and four of ten pastors think lay leaders have called PlusLine. Six of ten pastors have called (or mail-ordered) to AdventSource, and three of ten pastors believe lay leaders have called AdventSource. A few brief comments were made about AdventSource, "I get fliers from them", "I use mail order with them", "They've sent me things," and "Pathfinder leaders and Sabbath school leaders have called them."

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Pastor: JF

Conference: British Columbia

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? Do you have any suggestions for improving it?

Both of our churches do the ADRA Campaign. No. It's fine. It's quite good. We do it for one week only. We offer multiple levels of being a part. About 30% are involved. I do applaud our administration for their openness and flexibility.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

We do traditional evangelism, the Net '96, small groups, etc. They all work well and all don't work well. We found in one campaign we lost 50% after the first year, but that doesn't always happen.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

I don't recall. We get a paper blizzard of stuff, so I might get it, might not.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - Yes, we've used them. They are useful when they are useful. The Connections one on spiritual gifts. That was good. Satellite one on disaster response



is rehashing the same stuff in boring monotone. Grade it as 101, 102 or 102. Upgrade it and I might watch it. But not if its the same thing as last year. If we could just have a grading system and a consultant ... that would be good. The overload factor is dominant. There is so much information.

Printed material - We're less inclined to use a lot of printed material that requires a lot of pre-digestion. We have limited time, so we can't digest what is really going on here... we burn up time.

On-line computer service - Extreme value. The immediate of the Internet. Electronic, file-based, etc. surpasses everything. Compuserve is a long distance call. The reality of the economics keeps us off.

Computer software - see above

Fact sheets - Yes, do it and do it more. Its on my terms.

Live training seminars - Yes, we use local conference resource persons. Here on the west coast we take it a little more laid back ... don't feel we need the latest fast.

Other: I would really like a representative from the media and come and make presentations of what they got, covering the cost, instead of doing a "hype", be real, tell us effectiveness of certain products, etc. I would really like an honest assessment ... what works where ... I'm on overload. I can't get quality information anywhere. I wish we had an independent candid assessment.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) or AdventSource? Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine or AdventSource? If so, which ones generally use it?

No. No.

Yes. I doubt it.

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Pastor: DE

Conference: British Columbia

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? Do you have any suggestions for improving it?

It does Ingathering. Its only a remnant that do Ingathering in our church. Its a matter of getting the church mobilized ...

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

Public evangelism. Mass evangelism in the metro-Vancouver area with Leo Schreven. Its the only thing that really works. A clear-cut proclamation of the Third's Angels Messages. I think it needs to be advertised in a dynamic way. Need to do media advertising. We had hundreds and hundreds of people come every night. Growing awareness of interest in prophecy.

We have revived the Adventist youth in our church. We have a vibrant group in our church. The AY program fulfills a great need up here.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

May have received one copy. Not familiar with it.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - Yes, that's part of the wave of the future. No question ... with Blockbuster competing ... we need more resources in this area. Especially on the family. Proving the authenticity of the Bible. Moody Science videos were a great thing.

Printed material - Some of the Sabbath school material for kids is not Biblical enough. Not really geared right. Not asking the vital questions and giving the vital Bible answers. Like Primary ... I'm not trying to be negative. Need to be more biblical. The last two quarters of the lessons for the adults is right on... character of God, etc.

On-line computer service - We as a church haven't gone to the satellite system, but we plan.

Computer software - I need to go that direction, haven't yet. Members of my church are on.

Fact sheets - Yes

Live training seminars - Not too much, but I see a great opportunity in this area... expense.

Other: I think we need a different approach to the Week of Prayer in the Adventist church with simple reading. Why not emphasize a week of revival! Its a downer the way it is. Nothing substitutes dynamic preaching. Exchanging pulpits.

I think we also need to revive the midweek meeting. Family life. Raising children. Midweek needs re-doing. Seminars on creation. Life of Christ. Geared for the 21st century. Our homes are fragmenting. Can you imagine if all our Adventist churches across the Division had something dynamic on Wednesday evening for the family?

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) or AdventSource? Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine or AdventSource? If so, which ones generally use it?

No. Not to my knowledge.

No, but I get the catalogs and fliers.

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Pastor: JP

Conference: British Columbia

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? Do you have any suggestions for improving it?



Yes. Here in Canada they've worked a lot at restructuring it. We have one evening where we get as many church members to go out as possible. I do some business contacts. That's basically it. We also go out with the school kids on an afternoon. Those are the three things we do here. Its working. I suppose if we want to improve the amount of money collected ... be more faithful in contacting businesses.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

We did Heartbeat '97 in our town of 17,000, we had 93 individuals come out. We felt good with that. So, we're looking to follow them up with some other health-related seminars. We've been through a couple of crusades. We had Mark Fox at the beginning of '96, then did Net '96. Our church members didn't enjoy having two crusades in a row. As far as outreach goes, we have a soup kitchen that is doing a lot of good work, especially reaching native people in our community, 50-70 each Sabbath afternoon coming out to our soup kitchen. We've had a lot of turmoil in the last few years that has been sapping a lot of our energy dealing with angry saints. A lot of it pertains to the school ... teachers let go or not hired. Also an ultra-conservative who "stands up" and speaks his mind.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

Yes. I enjoyed it, good magazine.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - A lot of stuff that comes from the NAD Distribution Center, because of the exchange rate ... bringing it across the border, custom fees, its a pain in the neck to order videos from them. So, I don't do it. If it comes on ACN, we can record it. That's more attractive for me here in Canada. I found we haven't used the ACN stuff as much as we could be ... probably related to the struggles we've had in our church. As far as the types we could use ... purpose and mission, getting on track as a church, going the same direction, that's where I could use help. I recently sent away for some stuff from the Distribution Center that was useful ... booklets ... 5-6 of them. One thing that might be pursued is the ABC going over the border (in Washington State) and selling stuff. That may be one of the things to pursue. Currently their warehouse is not much to speak of, but looking at building a new facility. [We talked about making available the ACN study guides downloadable for a fee and then laserprinted/copied locally to avoid border tax.]

Printed material - My bent is toward Church Growth. Practical, usable. And, I think those are the kinds of things I'm interested in.

On-line computer service -

Computer software -

Fact sheets -

Live training seminars -

Other:

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) or AdventSource? Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine or AdventSource? If so, which ones generally use it?

No. Yes.

Mail order. Not aware of it.

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Pastor: FJ

Conference: Northeastern

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. Does your church do “Ingathering” (or an alternative)? Do you have any suggestions for improving it?

An alternative. Let me just say its a conference program in which they have brought Ingathering and conference wide development under one area. So the church comes up with one total goal.

I think Ingathering used to help the members reach out to the members of the community, not just a money-making venture. I think the conferences ought to get back to Ingathering.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

I do public evangelism (pitching a tent) and have a crusade, that has been my substance.

3. Have you ever received “Adventist Witness” magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

No.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - Yes

Printed material - Yes

On-line computer service - We just started

Computer software - Yes

Fact sheets - Yes

Live training seminars - Yes

Other: In that I’m into public evangelism, in these days of new technology, I’m hoping the NAD will send us resources locally through our conference instead of resource centers. To be more available when you need them, instead of sending off to Texas or wherever for them. Bible studies, slides, evangelistic materials. Any time you need those things you go to the ABC and then have to wait for them to order. [We talked about the idea of having “agents” in every conference for resource centers. I attempted to explain



toll free ordering and overnight shipping... But he pressed for “agents” in every large metropolitan area...]

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) or AdventSource? Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine or AdventSource? If so, which ones generally use it?

No. I don't know.

No. I don't know.

[This pastor questioned why I called--some underlying reason, I sensed he thought, then he opened up and said,] “We're mad with the NAD. We don't think they are doing their job. We have certain problems here, but the NAD takes the attitude that we don't want to get involved because its a black conference, and if we get involved they'll say we are doing it because we are black. Our financial situation and our last session. Basically it has to do with our auditing situation.

Northeastern Conference in all its sessions brings to the session an audited statement. At this last session, administration tried to circumvent the division auditors by bringing in an outside party (smoking, had earrings) and paid \$60,000 for them and voted to have the session accept this report instead of the NAD report. We were told by the VP of the GC that its “none of our concern”. We are only here to help with the voting of a president. We asked if its ok to bring in outside auditors and if anything is out of line, and they responded, “No permission was granted, but we are looking in to it.” The members of this field believe the division is afraid of Northeastern conference because we are a black conference and don't want to stir up trouble. Its been this way since 1987.”

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Pastor: EK

Conference: Northeastern

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. Does your church do “Ingathering” (or an alternative)? Do you have any suggestions for improving it?

We do Ingathering. People need to see the necessity of it. A lot of times people see this as a smoke screen as a way to get more money out of the members. That's pretty common in my church.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

Basic Bible studies. We have a study group that meets in the church. We have Bible classes that meet at the church on Friday evening and Sabbath afternoon.

3. Have you ever received “Adventist Witness” magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

No.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - Yes

Printed material - Yes

On-line computer service - No

Computer software - Yes

Fact sheets - Yes

Live training seminars - Yes

Other: More community based information, what's happening in my local town.

Basic demographic information. I guess most of this stuff would be the responsibility of the GC. Things that relate to the "social" aspects of our community. I want to reach my peers. I want to target my community.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) or AdventSource? Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine or AdventSource? If so, which ones generally use it?

No. No.

No. I doubt it.

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Pastor: MC

Conference: Northeastern

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? Do you have any suggestions for improving it?

Yes. Some people still go out. Most people give out of their own means. We have a "consolidated goal fund" and it covers a number of conference offering goals.

I think as a part of the Ingathering promotion, we should plan to do something locally in the community where we are taking the offerings from. The church should plan something that relates to the local community and let the people know about this.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

Public evangelistic meetings. I do it myself. Well, its basically going door to door to invite people, having Bible studies in the homes ahead of time and throughout the meetings. Nowadays it doesn't matter if your tent is next to your church or away from your church. People are not afraid of your tent or whatever you have being identified with the Adventist church.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

I don't know. I do receive a lot of stuff from AdventSource.



4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - No.

Printed material - I use Amazing Facts Bible lessons

On-line computer service - I get on-line. I would like to get statistics. Facts relevant to people (what's happening, crime, violence, etc.) would help me in my preaching and evangelism.

Computer software - Sure. Resources for sermon preparation.

Fact sheets - Yes.

Live training seminars - Yes.

Other: I'll tell you what's needed. We need teaching material with a multi-cultural emphasis. We don't have that. And I think there is a great need for that. The slides ... all the angels are white. We need a multi-cultural perspective.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) or AdventSource? Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine or AdventSource? If so, which ones generally use it?

No. Not heard of. I don't know.

Yes. They've sent me things. I don't know.

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Pastor: JR

Conference: Northern California

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? Do you have any suggestions for improving it?

No. Let the money all stay here and we'll go out and ask for money for our projects.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

Probably for us its been ... we haven't had a lot of overt evangelism ... we have an evangelistic oriented worship services. We tend to orient it toward non-members. We make it easy for people to visit our church not feel like they are on the spot.

Our community service programs. Which is long term. I've been here 11 years. I'm just now coming full circle. I focused my energies on the local church for four years, then back to the community, now I'm coming back to the church ... using Connections. Cell church stuff. Maintenance and nurture.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

I may have. Can't remember.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - Maybe. A video seminar is missing interaction. If its passive, no. You do a clip and then built-in interaction, yes. Winston Ferris is teaching adult education at the seminary and one of his presuppositions is, most people bring to the table about 80-90% of what they already need to know. You only absorb so much. He says, real learning takes place in the interaction. He's doing a Ed. D. on creating a curriculum for adult education.

Printed material - Is as supportive ... I would find it useful in support of a process... like Connections ... handouts, literature, I don't think anyone ... Clifford Goldstein wrote something for Dan Houghton ... I think it failed ... it just ... you know what we don't have to give people in the secular world ... that deals with real life issues like anger, stress, domestic violence, death, divorce, blended families, custody of children... being a good father when you're divorced ... there's a whole range of things that could be spoken to, short, to the point, with a spiritual tone at the end that's low key. Its the philosophy of casting the bigger net. *Understanding Who You Are* by Larry Crabb is a fantastic book.

On-line computer service - Yes

Computer software - Yes

Fact sheets - Yes

Live training seminars - Yes

Other:

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) or AdventSource? Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine or AdventSource? If so, which ones generally use it?

Yes. Yes.

Yes. Yes.

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Pastor: PP

Conference: Northern California

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? Do you have any suggestions for improving it?

Yes.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

Personal Bible studies, individual members bringing people to church.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?



No.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - We've gone through Mark Finley's video series. I still prefer the live presentation. There's a dynamic there that can't be matched on video. The satellite approach is good. But it will never replace a live presenter.

Printed material - Yes. Especially pamphlets and booklets to hand out when making visits.

On-line computer service - I'm online and use it on a daily basis. As I look at different religious pages and Adventist pages, seems like we are behind. Put it out there. People are scanning the net. Recently I can across Jack Sequiera's web page. He's not afraid to put his material on the web.

Computer software - Yes. The EGW CDROM is extremely helpful.

Fact sheets - I usually go to the PlusLine if I need that type of stuff.

Live training seminars - This is my priority. It wouldn't exclude the others.

Other: I wish there were a fairly simply set of Bible studies in pamphlet form, not too much detail, maybe 1/2 dozen texts, something you can give to church members to give out fairly easily. Too many texts discourage people to go through it. People live a fast-paced life.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) or AdventSource? Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine or AdventSource? If so, which ones generally use it?

Yes. Never asked them.

Yes. Yes. Pathfinders and Sabbath school.

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Pastor: SC

Conference: Northern California

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? Do you have any suggestions for improving it?

No. No suggestions.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

We have been consumed with a building project. That's been taking up most of our time. The thing that works the best is to have a "happy church" that is spiritually meeting peoples needs. Also, willing to take risks. Also, involving members. We are baptizing people just like those have "campaigns". Also, high fellowship.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

No.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - Yes. Especially parenting and marriage. Can't find excellence in these areas in parenting. The thing on that is that you have to see what it is first.

Printed material - Yes. In the last several years, last 20 years, we have been printing "light" stuff ... not good stuff ... so much fluff now a days. We've handicapped our materials. Teaching materials ... there is a great need to go even farther. The problem that happened at IBM and Apple ... Apple would not give a license out and they are dying. We need to make things extremely accessible. Not held close for the bucks we can make out of them. Gates became a billionaire.

On-line computer service - No.

Computer software - No.

Fact sheets -

Live training seminars -

Other: My direct answer is "none." Its become to expensive for the local church to buy resources. We even let go of our church secretary. And running the school... I generate all of my study guides out of my computer. We can afford the price of buying periodicals or books. I'm afraid we're not alone on that. The cost of ... our monthly budget is \$7,500. \$4,000 is building budget and school subsidy. I become the resource person for the church. I will use what ever I can find and convert it into a seminar.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) or AdventSource? Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine or AdventSource? If so, which ones generally use it?

Yes. Maybe 1.

Yes. I'm not sure about that.

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Pastor: EF

Conference: Northern California

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? Do you have any suggestions for improving it?

No. Our world has changed in such a way that door to door fundraising is outdated. We need a complete remake.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

We are in the midst of an experiment that seems to be working very well. We are using a "seven step strategy" adapted from Willow Creek. [He went through the list.] Tracy is very unusual. Its always been progressive. We have a 60 student K-8 school, half are nonAdventists. [He went on to talk about taking leaders to Willow Creek, taking them through Rick Warren's book.]

We are taking our members through basic training curriculum during Sabbath school to cover what is somewhat related to Rick Warren's diamond (Christianity 101, Basic Adventist Beliefs, Becoming A Contagious Christian, and Connections).

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

I don't remember seeing.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - No. Tons out there. But the subject matter is more critical.

Printed material - I'm under a ton of paper.

On-line computer service - Yes.

Computer software - Yes.

Fact sheets - Yes.

Live training seminars - Tons of those. No.

Other:

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) or AdventSource? Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine or AdventSource? If so, which ones generally use it?

Yes. Yes.

Yes. Yes.

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