

Flourish!

The Rehoboth Christian Ministries Newsletter



“ Today in the town of David
a Saviour has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord. ”

Luke 2: 11

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CORPORATE

Board Chairman Update

For many of you, seeing my name as Board Chairman likely comes as a surprise. You may be wondering who is Brian de Haan, and where did he come from? So, with this write-up I hope to answer your questions, and provide an update on the work that the Board of Directors is undertaking currently.

So first a bit about me: I live in Edmonton, and attend the Immanuel Canadian Reformed Church. My wife Jolena and I have been gifted with four children: Jenna (9), Kendra (7), Joey (5) and Josh (2). I have previously served as an elder, and also completed a three year term on the Board of Directors for Parkland Immanuel Christian School. Rehoboth has a soft spot in our family's hearts, as Jolena's aunt Liz Koning has long been a client, and currently lives in the Mayfield home. Serving on the Rehoboth Board of Directors is an opportunity for us to give back, serving this great Christian organization with thankfulness.

My first two years on the Board I served as secretary. At the September Board meeting, I was appointed the new Chairman, replacing Carl Price. As Board, we've been blessed with very experienced Board members who have a heart for "making room". In June, after serving two consecutive 3 year terms, we said goodbye to John Bekkering (Coaldale), Carl Price (Calgary), Bobbie Bauer (Three Hills), and

Annie Visser (Lacombe). These four individuals were dedicated to the mission of Rehoboth, and God blessed Rehoboth greatly through each of them. On behalf of the Board and the entire Association, we say "THANK-YOU" for your passion, and we wish you strength in your new and existing endeavors and challenges.

It's also important to recognize the incoming Board members. Johan Knol and Bryan Stoutjesdyk join us from Coaldale, and Stephan Dykema from Calgary. When you see these individuals in your communities, be sure to thank them for volunteering to serve on the Board. In addition, if you know of any suitable candidates able to serve on the Board, please talk to any of the current Board members; we are particularly looking for additional representation from the Three Hills/Lacombe area.

So what's currently taking the time of the Board? As Board, we meet quarterly, with executive meetings held more frequently if required. A typical Board meeting includes a review of the financial health of the Association, updates on each Region's key initiatives, Ron Bos provides his updates to the Board, and we ensure that the mission, vision, and values of the Association are being adhered to. In addition to standing agenda items, ongoing governance issues are reviewed. For example, we are currently going through accreditation,

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and this process included a review of the Board. Henry Vansteenbergen, Johan Knol, and I were interviewed by the accreditation team in September; essentially they wanted confirmation that the Board has sufficient policies in place, and that we are adhering to our policies. One significant item to note is that the accreditation team was very pleased with the operations and governance of Rehoboth, and impressed by the level of grassroots support we have through our membership across Alberta.

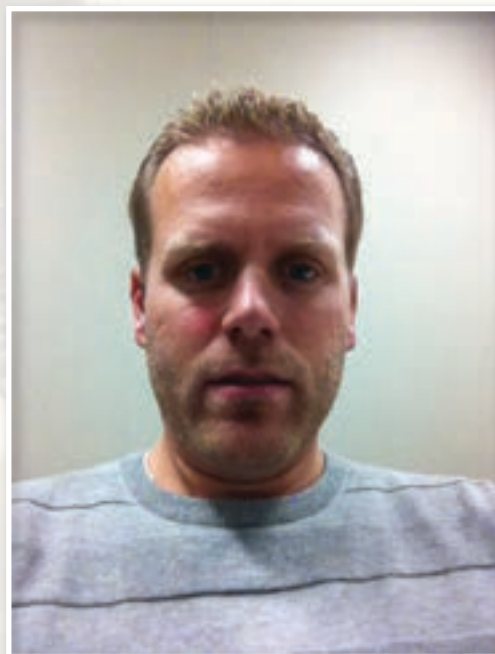
The Board also is working on establishing processes to handle estate bequests. We want to ensure we are prepared for these situations, and also to make our membership and others in the community aware that Rehoboth is a cause worthy for consideration at such times. We are working on finalizing a fundraising campaign for several large capital projects at the Rehoboth Camp facility at Gull Lake. In this newsletter, you will find additional details on this significant initiative. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but gives a small sampling of what keeps us busy, and how the Board operates today.

Overall, we can be thankful to our God for continuing to bless the work of Rehoboth; the support we receive from our provincial government and the generous contributions from our membership ensure we can continue to help

our clients flourish.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions – I can be reached at 780-487-9040 or President@rehoboth.ab.ca.

On behalf of the Board,
Brian de Haan



Camp Facility Closure for 2015

The excitement of the new construction project at camp also brings the news that the Rehoboth Camp Facility will be closed for the 2015 Camp Season. This closure is required based on the scope and size of the RAISE THE ROOF PROJECT detailed elsewhere in this magazine.

We are mindful of the many campers and programs that will be affected but we must ensure that the Camp Facility needs to be safe and functional. The scope of this project does not allow us to ensure that it will be completed in time for Camp Season.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Camp Facility in 2016 as we launch Rehoboth's 40th Anniversary of service to our developmentally disabled neighbours and friends with the grand re-opening and dedication of the new Kitchen and Mess Hall in the spring of 2016.

Keep your eyes peeled for information and events on the website (www.rehoboth.ab.ca).



Raise the Roof

Rehoboth Camp Development Committee is undertaking the biggest project in the history of Camp in the next twelve to fifteen months. The 40 year old kitchen and mess hall have reached the end of their lives and service to Camp. The tiny outdated kitchen, outside trailer pantry, and cramped mess hall need to be replaced.

We are so thankful for the patience of Camp patrons over the past several years working in less than ideal conditions to still provide a camp experience to the more than two thousand people that use this facility each and every year. We need you to help RAISE THE ROOF on a brand new Mess Hall and Kitchen Project that will see the construction of a brand new state of the art kitchen and renovated mess hall where the current building now sits. We are expanding the seating capacity in the dining area and building the facility for eventual year round use with up to date heating and ventilation equipment.

We are excited to share this project with our supporters and friends, many who have been to the facility as part of the summer camp program volunteer force, family reunions, or church retreats.

This is a massive undertaking that will require many different types of support. This first

A large, stylized white flourish or leaf-like graphic that curves across the bottom right of the page, partially overlapping the website address.

www.rehoboth.ab.ca

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request is to assist in raising the \$500,000 required to make this a workable project. You will see a RAISE THE ROOF card in your church mailbox in the next several weeks giving you the details of how to contribute to this worthy cause.

We also require goods, and service donations, along with volunteer assistance to get this project completed. We are also in need of various companies to complete the infrastructure work required in the areas of site prep, concrete, construction, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, dry walling, and finishing.

We are looking at starting this project right away in the spring of 2015 and having it completed by mid to late August.

If you require information or are willing to become part of this project contact Kelvin Van Dasselaar at the Rehoboth Offices in Stony Plain.

Please visit our website (www.rehoboth.ab.ca) to see the plans and scope of this massive project.

This project includes:

- New Year Round Kitchen
- Renovated Mess Hall
- New south facing covered deck
- New site drainage and sidewalks
- Infrastructure upgrades (power, gas, etc.)
- Emergency Power
- Re-purposing storage areas for Camp Offices and Tuck Shop.



Joyful Noise CD Announcement

Many Voices - One Song is the title of the new Joyful Noise Choir CD recorded live at West End CRC in Edmonton last fall as part of the choir's 35th anniversary celebrations. The choir was accompanied by an ensemble using traditional Irish instruments giving the recording a unique Celtic sound. All proceeds will be contributed to the construction of the new kitchen at Rehoboth Camp. Please contact Linda Rosendal to purchase a copy (\$20):

Linda Rosendal

linda.rosendal@rehoboth.ab.ca

Copies of the JNC Christmas CD – *All The Way To Bethlehem* are available for \$10.



Membership Campaign

Thank you for renewing your Rehoboth Membership! If you have not had the chance to contribute to this year's Membership Campaign, you still have the opportunity to do so. Simply visit www.rehoboth.ab.ca and click on the Donate button. If you would like to contribute by cheque, please mail it to Rehoboth, 3920-39 Avenue, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 2J7, or you can give it to the Rehoboth contact person in your church.

Our goal is to reach \$125,000 in donations and 5000 memberships – you can help the individuals we serve flourish in all they do by supporting our campaign.

A warm and special thank you to our volunteer contact persons and canvassers for contacting and collecting money from our supporters across the province on behalf of Rehoboth.



www.rehoboth.ab.ca

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Gifts Gratefully Received

Rehoboth would like to thank all those who contributed from April 15/14 – November 21/14

Groups/Corporate Donations

- Atco I-Tek Inc.
- Atco Pipelines
- Bekkering Family Reunion – in support of Rehoboth Camp Facility
- Byrne's Electric
- CACHS Student Council – in support of Rehoboth Camp Facility
- Christian Credit Union
- Christian Stewardship Services
- DMT Mechanical Ltd.
- Edmonton Community Foundation – Kool Family Fund
- Gibbard Insurance Brokers Inc.
- Kleinjan Farms Ltd.
- Leder Hoedown
- Snell & Oslund Surveys 1979 Ltd.
- Telus
- United Way of Alberta Capital Region
- United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton
- United Way of Calgary and Area

Church Donations

- Barrhead Christian Reformed Church
- Bethel Christian Reformed Church – Lacombe
- Bethel Christian Reformed Community Church – Edmonton
- Bethel Free Reformed Church – Monarch
- Bethel Lutheran Church – Sherwood Park – Joyful Noise Choir
- Bethel United Reformed Church – Calgary
- Brooks Christian Reformed Church
- Burdett Christian Reformed Church
- Calgary Canadian Reformed Church
- Centerpointe Community Christian Reformed Church – Edmonton
- Coaldale Canadian Reformed Church
- Covenant Christian Reformed Church – Edmonton
- Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church – Leduc
- Edson-Peers Christian Reformed Church
- Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church – Calgary
- Fellowship Christian Reformed Church – Edmonton
- First Christian Reformed Church – Lethbridge
- First Christian Reformed Church – Medicine Hat
- First Christian Reformed Church – Red Deer
- Granum Christian Reformed Church

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- High River Christian Reformed Church
- Hope Christian Reformed Church – Stony Plain
- Immanuel Canadian Reformed Church – Edmonton – Vacation Bible School proceeds in support of Rehoboth Camp programs
- Iron Springs Christian Reformed Church
- Maranatha Christian Reformed Church – Edmonton
- Neerlandia Canadian Reformed Church
- Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church
- New Life Fellowship Christian Reformed Church – Red Deer
- Orthodox Reformed Church – Edmonton
- Parkland Reformed Church – Ponoka
- Providence Canadian Reformed Church – Edmonton
- Redeemer United Reformed Church – Lacombe
- Redeemer United Reformed Church – Lacombe – Vacation Bible School proceeds in support of Rehoboth Camp
- Rimbey Christian Reformed Church
- River Park Christian Reformed Church – Calgary
- Sonrise Christian Reformed Church – Ponoka
- St. Barnabas Anglican Church – Three Hills
- Taber Canadian Reformed Church
- Taber Christian Reformed Church
- Trinity Christian Reformed Church – Edmonton
- Trinity Reformed Church – Lethbridge

- Vestry of St. Barnabas – Three Hills
- Wolf Creek Community Church – Lacombe
- Woodynook Christian Reformed Church – Lacombe

Estates

- Estate of Mr. Gerald Henry Woudstra

In Memory of:

- Mr. Bill Graven
- Marguerite Ruddell
- Ms. Sonia Partlow
- Annie Way
- Mr. James Payne
- Jennie Giselbrecht
- Hilary Lindenbach
- Mr. John Brander

**Rehoboth Financial Policy**

Spending of funds is confined to programs and purchases approved by the Rehoboth Board of Directors. Each donation that is designated toward an approved program will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, designated donations will be used where most needed. All donations are acknowledged and receipted with a tax-deductible receipt.


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Wheelchair Donation

Rehoboth Christian Ministries is pleased to accept a donation of three wheelchairs from the Rotary Club of Edmonton Strathcona for use at the Rehoboth Camp.



Richard Neumann in his new wheelchair.

The Rotary Club of Edmonton Strathcona is working with other Rotary Clubs and Districts, Wheelchair Foundation Canada and other organizations to raise funds for the distribution of wheelchairs to children, teens and adults in the world who need one, but cannot afford one.

In addition to the donation, members of the Rotary Club of Edmonton Strathcona visited one of our residents to make a wheelchair donation in person. Richard Neumann, a Rehoboth client, was presented with a brand new wheel chair for his own personal use. This chair has helped Richard with his mobility in his home along with allowing him to once again participate in the Community Access Program.



Rotary Club of Edmonton-Strathcona representative Raymond Merhej is flanked by Rehoboth Camp Committee Chair Marianne van der Ahe and Rehoboth's Kelvin Van Dasselaar.

Rehoboth thanks the Rotary Club of Edmonton Strathcona for their generosity.



GRANDE PRAIRIE

The Gift of Giving

At Christmas time many people go all out with gift giving, elaborate meals at gatherings with friends and family. Once the season has passed the spirit of giving can also pass. However, there are some people who consistently live out a life of blessing others and share God's love in a practical way throughout the year. Jonathan Lorentzen is one of many persons who live out their faith in a practical way.

Jonathan is a dedicated staff member in Grande Prairie who has worked with several Rehoboth individuals for the past six years. He has been described by others as a very caring, faithful and energetic person. Apart from his work with Rehoboth Jonathan is a very active volunteer in Grande Prairie. He volunteers every week with organizing and setting up for Joy Chapel, a ministry of One Hope Canada. Joy Chapel is a faith based gathering run by volunteers who provide a weekly social and spiritual event for persons with disabilities in Grande Prairie. Jonathan also volunteers during the summer with Joy Camp ministries held at Bear Lake Bible Camp just outside of Grande Prairie. Many of our Rehoboth individuals enjoy and look forward with excitement each year to attend the summer camps offered by Joy Camp.

During this year Jonathan was successfully nominated by a community member to receive

the Northwest PDD Community Citizenship award at the PDD Spring Celebration event in Grande Prairie. He also was recognized at the PDD Provincial Awards ceremony in Leduc when the Associate Minister of Alberta Human Services Naresh Bhardwaj presented Jonathan with a certificate of recognition. We congratulate Jonathan on his award and wish him many more years of serving the community of Grande Prairie.

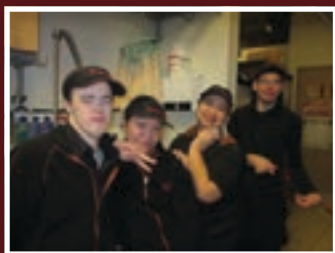
All the staff and clients in Grande Prairie wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas season!



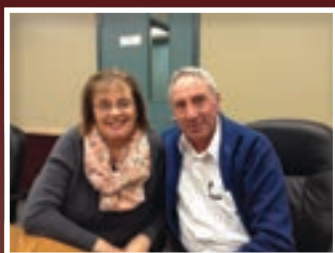
Sonny Sanders, Jonathan Lorentzen, and Nartey Bowers.



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Jason Loch, Justin Geib and two employees



Ian and Lindy Havin - Owner/Operators, Tim Hortons



Jason Loch and fellow employees

STONY PLAIN

A Partnership as Exceptional as Tim Hortons Coffee

"One of the best decisions we ever made," says Ian Havin, owner of the two Tim Hortons' locations in Stony Plain, speaking of the decision to hire clients from Rehoboth Christian Ministries. Ian and his wife, Lindy, had no idea what an interesting adventure was ahead when they recruited five of Rehoboth's Employment Services (ES) clients to work in the restaurants. Nor were they aware of what an education it would be for them and their 75 employees. Learning the skill levels of the clients and finding places for them on the Tim Hortons' team has "been fascinating" as "they each have something unique to offer," Ian says. He has watched his staff embrace these new team members fully, displaying attentiveness and kind-heartedness.

The feedback received from their customers and staff about the five employees that started working at Tim Hortons in July 2014 has been so positive. Ian went on to praise the ES practitioners, "They are great to work with while they support and train these guys to be as successful as possible."

The ES practitioners have found this employment opportunity has been empowering for the clients. The positive atmosphere at the Tim Hortons' locations, the support from the owners, and encouragement from the other employees has allowed them to excel.

Communication skills have improved and the clients have thrived by being fully included into the team. The new employees are quick to say that they love the job, the tips, and they even enjoy the cleaning.

Ian and his managers are already thinking of different tasks for the clients to fit the skill set that each has. They've witnessed the pure delight of one fellow when asking him to help with the baking. "It looked like Christmas morning on his face". Recognising these abilities has been rewarding and is giving the other Tim Hortons employees added fulfillment in their jobs.

Stony Plain Tim Hortons has been donating to Rehoboth's Family Fun Golf Classic for the last five years and it is wonderful that they have taken this step in supporting our clients and cause. It is heart-warming to watch these clients' sense of self-respect flourish as they grow in skills and confidence.



CALGARY

A Celebration of Growth

Calgary Region held a combination pot-luck Cultural Feast and Staff Recognition Night in October. Staff, clients, and family were encouraged to make and bring foods from their countries of origin, to wear cultural dress, and to place a pin on the world map indicating where they are from. There were foods from Africa, El Salvador, and the Philippines just to name a few. There were also two cultural musical performances! Clients enjoyed the opportunity for a special celebration for those that support them day-to-day. Some cheered loudly, some even cried with joy while their staff received their awards. It was a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and appreciation!



Staff serving Lechon (roasted pig) at cultural dinner celebration.

Being recognized for two years of service, Innocent Ezenwile was introduced by his team leader with an inspiring story of growth and

achievement. Innocent was born and raised in the Republic of Rwanda in the central part of Africa. At the tender age of 12 years, he survived the brutal genocide in which most of his family members including his mother, father and five sisters were killed. With limited resources and his family shattered, arrangements were made by a surviving family member for Innocent to travel out of the country for safety and in search of greener pastures. Innocent came to Canada after travelling through Europe, pursued a career in the nursing program and found his calling working for people with disabilities. Innocent began with Rehoboth Christian Ministries working with individuals in the Gladstone home in Calgary in 2012, where he has continued to make a positive impact on the lives of clients, guardians and family, and the colleagues he works with. Innocent reflects on the years of misfortune and considers working with Rehoboth clients as the ultimate best he passionately contributes back to society.

Calgary Region is truly grateful for all the skills and compassion each of our staff members bring to our team. We are looking forward to a beautiful holiday season and wish all our readers a safe and Merry Christmas!



Innocent receiving two-year recognition from Team Leader Kofi Debrah and Regional Director Karen Faint



Cultural map close-up

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Marilee decorating her tree at home for Christmas 2014



Marilee celebrating Christmas with Santa many years ago

THREE HILLS

Marilee - Christmas Memories Then and Now - by Katie Elliott

Marilee is known in her community for her friendliness, laughter and love for the Lord. You can't know Marilee without also being aware of her enjoyment of Christmas. She has many boxes of decorations, loves to sing Christmas songs and share with others "the reason for the season!"

How did your family celebrate Christmas growing up?

My mom baked a cake and had a candle in it. We sang "Happy Birthday" to Jesus and blow out the candle. My dad read the Christmas story while we were still in our pajamas. After Christmas dinner we'd go snowmobiling and then came back in to make homemade ice cream!

What is your favourite Christmas memory?

Well, my sisters are good cooks, but they don't make the homemade buns and stuff like my mom did. She had lots of tender, loving care. When I was living with mom and dad, before we moved to Three Hills, we were watching Billy Graham. When he gave the altar call, I started crying. Mom and Dad had the chance to tell me about Jesus. That was the best Christmas I ever had.

What Christmas family traditions do you still try to do?

The children are grown up now, so it's hard to read the Christmas story like my dad did, when

we were in our pajamas. Usually Jerry or Lawrence reads the story now. But I try to do things like my mom used to. She liked to do things right, so I want to do things right too. Like baking cookies; if I forget the baking powder they would be a complete flop.

Do you have any new traditions?

Sometimes we'll have fondue on Christmas Eve now, but that depends on whose house we're at. It's fun!

When do you start celebrating Christmas?

How do you know it's time?

Early! I like to get the excitement started! With the snow, it's just the feeling you get. My mind goes back to Mary, when she was expecting baby Jesus.

What does Christmas mean to you?

It's a time of celebrating, it's like going to a party. Not just celebrating, but making room for Jesus in my heart.

Is there anything else you want to share about Christmas?

I really like to be around family. Friends and staff are nice, but there isn't that kinship that I have with my family.



COALDALE

Christmas at Rehoboth Coaldale

It is a very exciting time each year as we work toward another successful annual Pancake Breakfast and Christmas Sale. Our Sunshine Auxiliary puts on the breakfast, and we put on the sale of crafts and poinsettias. Different teams from our Vocational center take different areas and dress them up for the season.

Our lunch room in one of the areas that is particularly fun because it is such a large area and lots of cool spaces to fill with different expressions of celebration of Christ's birth. We have many reminders of what this season is about in our facility.

Our Retirement Program is moving at the end of this year, and it will be problematic to decorate very much, but that doesn't mean the excitement isn't palpable and clients are really looking forward to their new space. Next year they will be given the opportunity to decorate a space that will also be wonderful to decorate. From everyone in our Retirement Program, Merry Christmas and may God bless you in the New Year.

Our Christmas storefront is full of many hand-made crafts and cards all tied to the spirit of the season. The clients all have participated in their creation and are very proud of them and are excited about their friends coming in to purchase them. Some are in the second round

of production because they sell so fast. All are very excited. A number of our clients would like to say Merry Christmas to you in their own words.

Best Wishes... **Robert**

Merry Christmas to all... **Joan**

Happy New Year... **Louise**

Have a Merry Christmas... **Joe**

Have a good Merry Christmas... **Brett**

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas... **Maureen**

Have a very good Christmas this year... **Kitt**

Merry Christmas, I'm dreaming of a white Christmas... **Shawn**

Thank you everyone and have a great Christmas... **Yvette**

Hope you have a great Christmas and don't get into trouble...

Rhonda

Everyone have a very good Christmas and a happy new year.

Hope you have a great life ahead of you... **Ron H**

Remember its Jesus birthday and he is our Savior. Please believe... **Christian**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everybody! And all the best to our staff in Coaldale... **Darren**

I wish you a Merry Christmas... **Adrienne**

Joy to the World... **Jen**

Merry Christmas everyone... **Landon**

Merry Christmas to all the readers of this Newsletter. Rehoboth

is a really nice place to work. Merry Christmas... **Ron B**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone... **Carey**

Merry Christmas. Love your family... **David**

From all of us in the south part of the province, Merry Christmas and God's richest blessings in the New Year.



Rehoboth client Jennifer Foessel



LOCATIONS

CORPORATE HEAD OFFICE

3920 - 49 Avenue
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STONY PLAIN REGION

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COALDALE REGION

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Fax: 403-345-3483

THREE HILLS REGION

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Three Hills, AB T0M 2A0

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Fax: 403-443-2399

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGION

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Grande Prairie, AB T8V 7T2

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