

Encountering God through an earnest sincere and continuous prayer life

## To Build a Real Meaningful Relationship with God

Engaging in life transforming BIBLE STUDY & Reading Ellen White's Writings

Experiencing meaningful & inspiring worship

# Rebuilding the 'Walls'

Rebuilding People

Restoring Relationships

Inspiring Excellence

Creating a culture of integrity, honesty and trust among the members, pastors and administrators

## To Build Loving Relationships with Fellow Members

Fostering spiritual unity whilst embracing cultural diversity

Rebuilding loving family relationships in the home and the Church

Building authentic relationships with people of other beliefs and persuasions

## To Build Saving Relationships with Others

Proclaiming the everlasting gospel in the context of the Three Angels' Messages

Developing a clear sense of identity & mission through teaching and discipleship

## Our strategy to develop a healthy, growing church

Netherfield Seventh-day Adventist Church has been around for a few years as a part of the Adventist Church scene in Nottingham.

In 2012 Pastor Lorance Johnson was asked to become the President of the North England Conference and gave the churches in the whole area a plan.

A short summary of the first element of the plan, 'Rebuilding the Walls' in the North England Conference' follows

There are three simple goals to reach. The three goals are to build a real, meaningful relationship with God, to build loving relationships with fellow members and then to build saving relationships with others.

The goals are all relationship based and describe the activities of a healthy church. However goals need to be put into action . You may have seen the advert put out by a Nottingham college, "A goal without a plan is just a wish." The writer was Antoine de Saint-Exupery, famous French writer and wise man.

To put our goals into action we are setting objectives for ourselves—which you will see on the right.

The issue for us at Netherfield Seventh-day Adventist Church is to work out how we can put the objectives into practice in our situation. This workbook will help us to put these objectives into action.

## OBJECTIVES

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## Linking the objectives

The first objective that we will look at is the first, ‘Encountering God through an earnest, sincere and continuous prayer life’. At the same time we would be engaging in life transforming Bible Study and the reading of Ellen White’s writings. The third element as we develop a real meaningful relationship with God is to experience meaningful and inspiring worship.

The second goal is to build loving relationships with fellow members. The objectives that apply to this goal are that we will set out to Create a culture of integrity, honesty and trust among the members, Pastors and administrators. We will also set to foster spiritual unity whilst embracing cultural diversity. The third aim is to rebuild loving family relationships in the home and the Church.

Our third goal is to build saving relationships with other. Here we move on to consider enhancing relationships with people outside the church. The three objectives that apply to this, and which we must apply at Netherfield are that we need to build authentic relationships with people of other beliefs and persuasions. As we do this we will need to discover a way to proclaim the everlasting Gospel in the context of the Three Angel’s Messages. We will also set out to develop a clear sense of identity and mission through teaching and discipleship.

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## OBJECTIVES

The first goal: To build a real meaningful relationship with God

We have to work out how to apply these three objectives so that we build a real meaningful relationship with God. We will look at prayer, Bible Study and experiencing meaningful and inspiring worship.

### Read

Luke 16:19-31 ...

The Rich Man .. What is important to him?

Is the parable teaching what happens at death?

The key verse is v.31 .. Describe what the text means

What have you learned about God's character here?

Does Bible study help us to know God better .. or how to behave better?

### Now read this ..

"To learn of Christ means to receive His grace, which is His character. But those who do not appreciate and utilize the precious opportunities and sacred influences granted them on earth, are not fitted to take part in the pure devotion of heaven. Their characters are not moulded according to the divine similitude. By their own neglect they have formed a chasm which nothing can bridge. Between them and the righteous there is a great gulf fixed." Christ's Object Lessons p.271

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### A human interest story

"Prayer is our main form of communication with God, at least so far as speaking to Him is concerned. I love the description that Pastor Dwight Nelson gives of his morning worship procedure. He has a corner of the house for his morning worship. He makes a drink, takes up his Bible and notebook and then settles down for his time with God.

The Bible is opened and a passage is selected, and worked over. The notebook is there to record what the passage says but also is there to outline what God is asking Dwight to do. The notebook is also there to help Dwight know what to talk to His Father about."

### How can you apply the first 2 objectives to your own life?

Could you find the time to do what Pastor Nelson does? What Bible book could you start with? Could you use a notebook to record what you mean to pray about?

You are encouraged to create your own method? What would suit you best. If you have a computer click [here](#) to record your method.

### How can we apply the first 2 objectives to the life of the church?

How can we develop prayer and Bible study at Netherfield Church as part of our regular worship?

## OBJECTIVES

The first goal: To build a real meaningful relationship with God

In this section we will look at the third objective, 'experiencing meaningful and inspiring worship'. Please click [here](#) to take a look at an excellent definition of meaningful and inspiring worship

### Read

1 Corinthians 14:6-32 ...

In verses 6—12 .. Paul concentrates on making sure the church is built up. What does it mean to build up the church in our Divine Service?

Read verses 22—25, note what Paul closes with, "as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!" This has the picture of worship doing something to people who participate in the event.

### Now read this ..

"I have been unable to sleep much during the past night. I have thought of the church at [Kettering] which must be left much of the time without preaching. But it is the duty of those connected with the church to feel an individual responsibility to do to their utmost ability to strengthen the church, and make the meetings so interesting that outsiders or unbelievers will be attracted to your meetings.

Nothing can weaken a church so manifestly as division and strife,

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and if this does exist, nothing can so war against the truth, and against Jesus Christ, as this spirit." Manuscript Release No. 162—The Work in England

What do you think the members at the Kettering church could do to make the meetings so interesting to visitors if they haven't got preachers?

Can you describe a time in your life when you felt moved, even slightly, by worship? What made the moment special? If you are doing this on the computer can you click [here](#) and describe that event?

### How can you create worship experiences that inspire you in your own life?

You are encouraged to create your own method? What would suit you best. If you have a computer click here to record your method.

### How can we create meaningful and inspiring worship in church?

Can you make suggestions on how we could make our current worship more meaningful, for ourselves and outsiders?

## OBJECTIVES

The second goal: To build loving relationships with fellow members

This section may be the hardest section to work on. We need to work out how to create unity in a people who want to be united. We are looking at the top two objectives in the table to the right first:- a culture of integrity, honesty and trust and of spiritual unity.

### Read

Ephesians 4:1-6

What should my character be like to be a person who wants to be united with others?

If you haven't got that characteristic— how do you get it? Can you see the source in Ephesians 4:11—16 ..

### A life story

During World War II, Hitler commanded all religious groups to unite so that he could control them. Among the Brethren assemblies, half complied and half refused. Those who went along with the order had a much easier time. Those who did not, faced harsh persecution. In almost every family of those who resisted, someone died in a concentration camp.

When the war was over, feelings of bitterness ran deep between the groups and there was much tension. Finally they decided that the situation had to be healed. Leaders from each group

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met at a quiet retreat. For several days, each person spent time in prayer, examining his own heart in the light of Christ's commands. Then they came together. Francis Schaeffer, who told of the incident, asked a friend who was there, "What did you do then?" "We were just one," he replied. As they confessed their hostility and bitterness to God and yielded to His control, the Holy Spirit created a spirit of unity among them. Love filled their hearts and dissolved their hatred.

[When love prevails](#) among believers, especially in times of strong disagreement, it presents to the world an indisputable mark of a true follower of Jesus Christ.

*Our Daily Bread*, October 4, 1992

### How can you apply this to your own life?

Is there someone you don't trust in church? What can you do to resolve the situation? How can you stay trusting the person or persons? Is there something in your life that makes it hard for you to trust others? Can we help you with trust issues?

### How can we apply this to the life of the church?

Is there a continuing process we can develop that will enhance unity and trust in the Netherfield Church? Would [meeting together](#) outside church activities help with this?

## OBJECTIVES

The second goal: To build loving relationships with fellow members

We have looked at the top two objectives in the table to the right, now we need to look at rebuilding loving family relationships in the home and the Church.

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## OBJECTIVES

The third goal: To build saving relationships with others

In this closing section we will be looking beyond our immediate brothers and sisters at church. We'll see how we can build authentic relationships with people of other beliefs and persuasions and then how to proclaim the Gospel—in the context of the [Three Angel's Messages](#).

To recognise the importance of this section we will explore each objective on a separate page. In this section we will look at how we can build authentic relationships with all sorts of people—those of other beliefs and persuasions. We will recognise that this is how Jesus worked.

### Read

Luke 7:1—10

What kind of relationship did the synagogue elders have with the centurion? Where did you get this information from?

What is Jesus doing by healing the man?

The centurion reacts to the healing. How? Is he a Christian at this point?

What is an authentic relationship?

### An important quotation

“Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the peo-

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ple. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me."

Ministry of Healing p.143

### How can you apply this to your own life?

Is there a person who lives near you with whom you can come close?

### How can we apply this to the life of the church?

What teaching could the church provide to help you develop an authentic relationship with someone?

Could our Sabbath School class work as a unit to find someone in need and whose need we can heal?

Is success only measured in this if the person we help becomes a Christian?



## OBJECTIVES

The third goal: To build saving relationships with others

We move on from looking at our first objective to look at the second objective in this set. You might want to look more closely at the content of the [Three Angel's Messages](#).

To recognise the importance of this section we will explore each objective on a separate page. In this section we will look at how we can proclaim the everlasting gospel in the context of the Three Angel's Messages.

### Read

Revelation 14:6— 13

Write what you think the first angel's message is .....

What is wrong with Babylon? How should we respond to what Babylon has done? Can a church overturn this?

### Read

John 8:1-11

What is the content of the gospel here?

The third message looks at people who do not worship God. What should be our response to the people who are drawn into such worship?

Read Revelation 14:12 Is this a call to avoid the messages of the angels or a call to do something about what they have spoken

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about?

**“How can you apply this to your own life?”**

Can you define for yourself what the gospel is?

Can you write out what you could say to a friend to explain what the gospel is?

**How can we apply the proclamation of the gospel to the life of the church?**

Please read this short passage ... “The word of the living God is to be proclaimed throughout the world. The gospel is to go forth with great power, marked by practical manifestations of the Spirit of God. Our workers are to become a living agency to reveal the purpose of God in calling them to His work. The word of the glorious gospel is to be preached in its divine comprehensiveness. By the living voice, and by kind, compassionate deeds, we are to exemplify the principles of the gospel. [Health Food Ministry p.87](#)

What does our area need? How could we find out what they need?

What can we do as a church to carry out the guidance in the passage?

## OBJECTIVES

The third goal: To build saving relationships with others

This is the last objective we are going to look at. The objective is to develop a clear sense of identity and mission through teaching and discipleship. We need to look at the role of teaching and discipleship in the Netherfield Church.

### Read

2 Timothy 3:16,17

This passage describes a growth process. How would you describe each of the four stages?

Imagine yourself in a class learning how to share the gospel with people on your street. What four stages might the instructor take you through in order to train and equip you? What would the teacher do with the students under each section? Do the suggestions to the right of this table help you work out what 2 Timothy 3:16,17 outlines?

Teaching	<i>Instruction</i>
Reproof	<i>Practical demonstration</i>
Correction	<i>Class reviews efforts</i>
Training in ...	<i>Training applied and developed</i>

### An important quotation

“There are many Seventh-day Adventists who do not understand

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that to accept the cause of Christ means to accept His cross. The only evidence they give in their lives of their discipleship is in the name they bear. But the true Christian regards his stewardship as a sacred thing. He perseveringly studies the Word, and yields up his life to the service of Christ.”

(*Reflecting Christ*, 287 - See more [here](#))

**How can you apply this to your own life with reference to the four stage process?**

How do you learn best?

Could you work out what areas of your life you need training and discipling for?

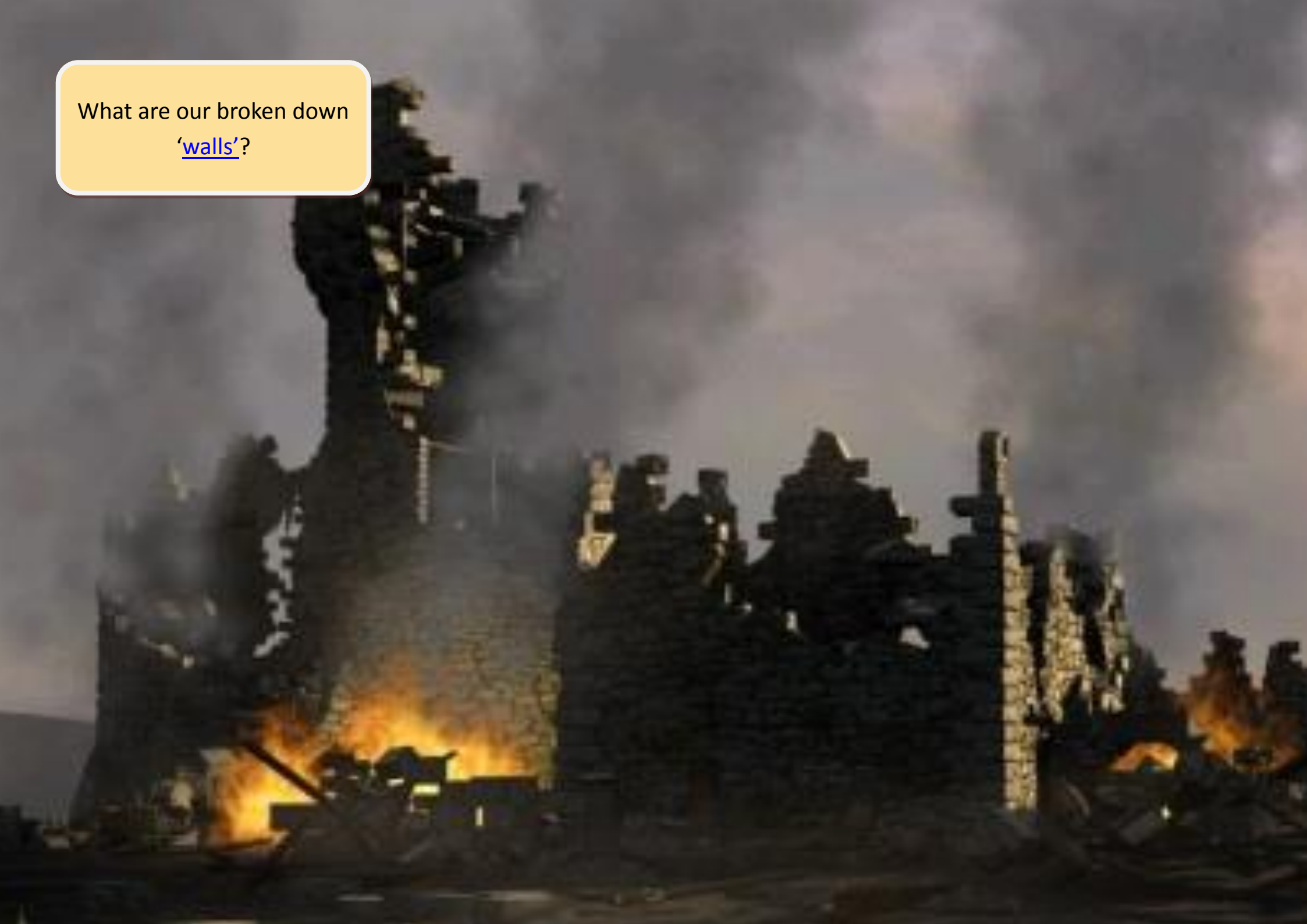
Can you suggest how the church could help you train and be disciplined?

**How can we apply the need for teaching and discipleship in the life of the church?**

When could we do this teaching? How would we do discipleship at Netherfield as a whole church?

What can we do as a church to carry out the guidance in the passage?

What are our broken down  
[‘walls’](#)?





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THE  
NORTH ENGLAND  
CONFERENCE  
STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

Rebuilding the  
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in the  
North England  
Conference

GOALS

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meaningful relationship  
with God

To build loving relationships  
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To build saving relationships  
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OBJECTIVES

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