

# INSIDE

*ASi*

W I N T E R 2 0 2 2

YOUR  
STORY

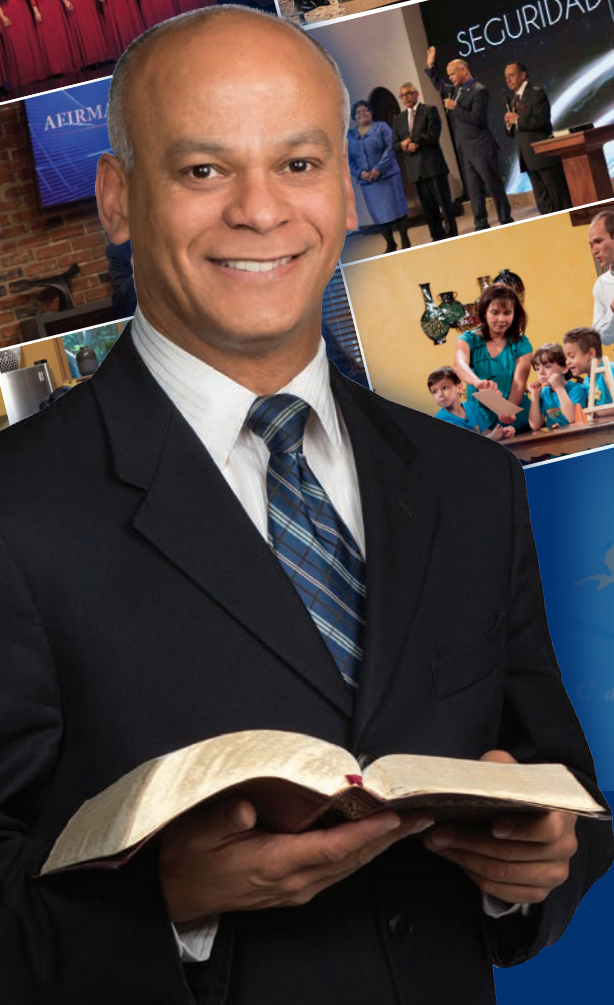
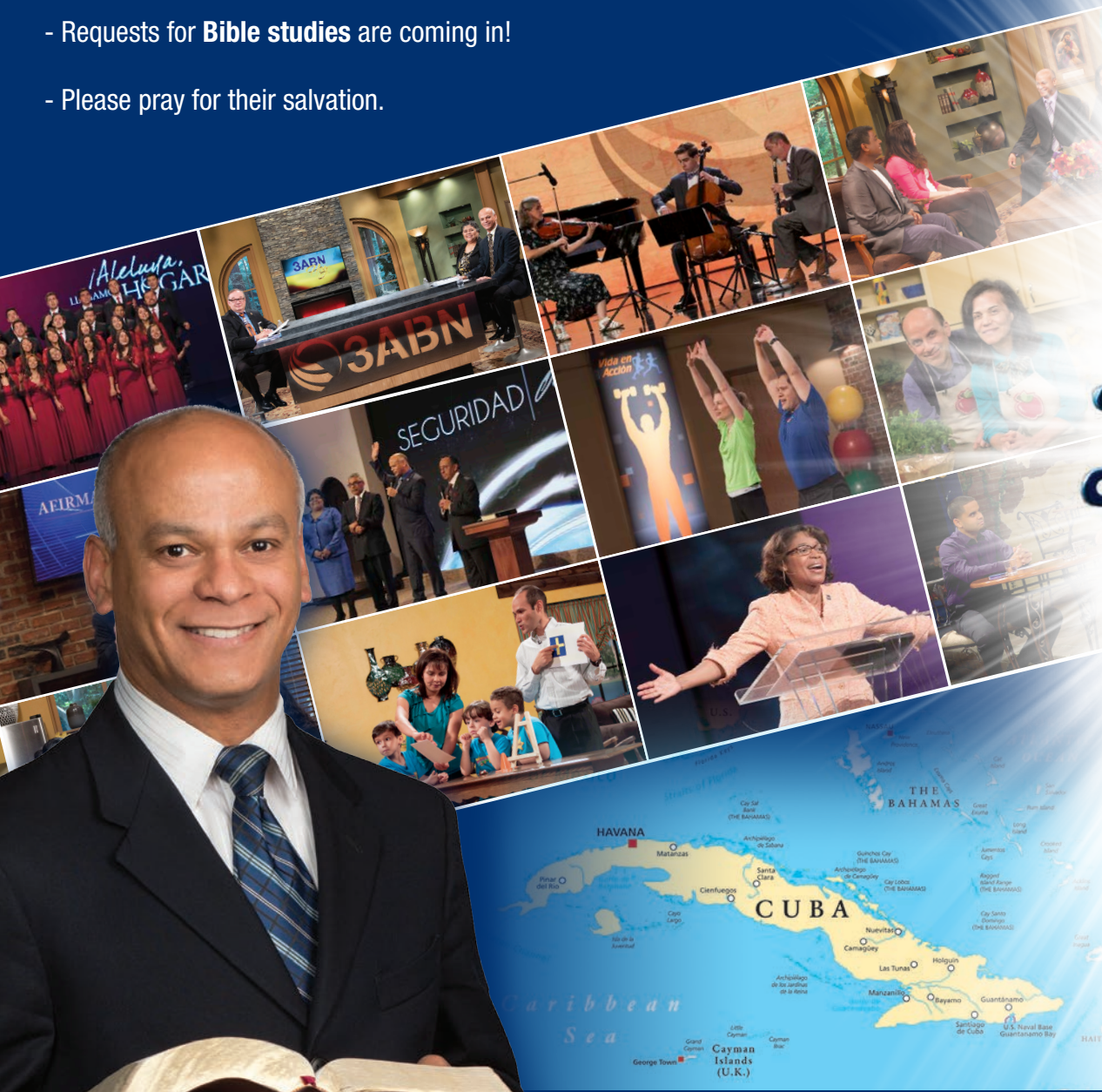
The graphic features the words 'YOUR' and 'STORY' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Each letter is filled with a portrait of a young person of diverse ethnicity and appearance. The portraits are arranged in two rows: 'YOUR' on top and 'STORY' on the bottom. The portraits include a young man with dark hair, a young woman with long brown hair, a young man with a beard and goatee, a young woman with dark hair, a young woman with glasses, a young man with a beard, a young man with a beard and glasses, a young woman with dark hair, and a young woman with a flower in her hair.



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## Editor's Note

I recently purchased the book *Humans* by Brandon Stanton. Stanton is the author of the famous book, *Humans of New York: Stories*, which is composed of pictures and short stories of people he has interviewed on the streets of New York. I loved *Humans of New York: Stories* so much that I purchased *Humans* last week, a similar book that documents pictures and stories from people around the world. *Humans* became an instant #1 New York Times bestseller, with the Washington Post even calling it "One of the most influential art projects of the decade."

Brandon Stanton's work touches the reader's heart and soul because he tells stories. Personal stories. Relatable stories. He documents struggles, victories, sorrows, joys, fears, love, loss, and more.

As a writer and editor myself, one of my favorite subjects is people's stories. I would argue that nothing can penetrate the heart more deeply than a personal story.

Ellen White describes it this way: "Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 347, emphasis added).

Your story—in other words, your testimony and life experiences—is the most powerful witnessing tool.

You don't need a fancy degree, a successful ministry, or a thriving business to touch someone's life. You only need courage and vulnerability to share your story with those who need to hear it.

Nothing is more powerful than your story.

It has been an honor to read through hundreds of stories over the years shared by the ASI family. My hope is that this selection of stories shared in *Our Story* will not only resonate with you and touch your heart, but will inspire you to share yours.

If you would like to share your story with the ASI family, feel free to email me at [editor@asiministries.org](mailto:editor@asiministries.org).



Blessings,  
Kristi Jensen, Editor

## What's Inside?

INSIDE  
ASI  
**YOUR STORY**

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# Introducing Next Year's Theme: Revived to Witness

by Andi Hunsaker

Our world has been radically changed in the last 20 months, brought to its knees by a virus measuring a little less than 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  (micrometers) in diameter (1 inch = 25400  $\mu\text{m}$ ). We have seen political upheavals that have threatened basic civility and common courtesies. Sad to say, this attitude and divisiveness has even penetrated our church, splitting some—many over a nearly weightless piece of fabric, a mask. One of my favourite quotes comes to mind from *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 12: “Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts.” Could it be that even we, ASI members, have gotten caught up in this virus of incivility and divisiveness and are in great need of transformed hearts? The

good news is that despite this, God still bestows upon us His supreme regard. This should give us a hope and a desire for what I call the three R’s: repentance, revival, and reformation. We are to be a theater of His grace and a spectacle to the world of His ability to transform our hearts. In October 2021, the ASI executive committee met for a three-day retreat for the purpose of identifying a theme and focus for the next two years. Through what I believe was divine inspiration, a theme was settled on, “Revived to Witness,” with a subtitle of “United. Transformed. Sent.” This came out of a revisiting of the book *Madison, God’s Beautiful Farm*. We discovered that what made Sutherland and Magan tick was a firm grasp of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We all recognized our need for that “upper room” experience, which was preceded by a deep heart searching that led to repentance, revival, reformation, and humility. The preceding event to the upper room was the appearance

of Jesus to His disciples after the resurrection. He spent 40 days with them in which He rehearsed again the story of Jesus. Luke 24:44-49 says: *Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.* I find this interesting. The disciples were with Jesus for three and a half years and He had to go over the gospel

with them again. They were daily with Him but they did not get it. Could that be our problem today, even for ASI members? What was lacking in the twelve disciples? They had been out “doing the work.” But they had missed Jesus. In verse 49, it says “tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” What was that power? Paul puts it this way in 1 Corinthians 1:18: “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” They had to be transformed by the power of the cross. They were given a mandate in Luke 24:47 to preach repentance. But in order to preach repentance, they would have to experience repentance and humility themselves. The message of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to the last church in Revelation 3:14-21, the Laodicean church, is one of repentance. We are comfortable with revival and reformation. But repentance is, to most of us, abhorrent. We need not fear, for God says in Hebrews 12:6 that whom He loves, he chastens. Praise God. The following passages from Ellen White are very helpful to me. She says, “A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer” (*Christian Service*, p. 189).

“I tell you that there must be a thorough revival among us. There must be a converted ministry. There must be confessions, repentance, and conversions. Many who are preaching the Word need the transforming grace of Christ in their hearts. They should let nothing stand in the way of their making thorough work before it shall be forever too late” (*Last Day Events*, p. 189). “The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer, and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife” (*Christian Service*, p. 42). “A revival and a reformation must take place under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from the spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend” (*Christian Service*, p. 42). “Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would, ere this, have come to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God” (*Christian Service*, p. 86). Our aim this year is one of soul searching, which we pray will lead to repentance, revival, reformation, and humility. It is my prayer that as we look at each of the words in this theme we will ponder the following Bible passages on our knees. Revival and Repentance. Consider Job. “There was a man in the land of

Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil” (Job 1:1). God Himself said this: “Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?*” (Job 1:8). Yet in Job 42, after his terrible ordeal, Job says, “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:5, 6). United. Consider these words from the lips of Jesus in John 17 from His farewell speech as He is facing an imminent death on the cross, “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are in Me*, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me” (John 17:20-23). Did you catch it? He says, if there is no unity, the world will not know that God sent Jesus. This is heavy. Transformed. The apostle Paul tells us how we are transformed: “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18). And this from the writer of Hebrews: “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hos-



tility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls" (Hebrews 12:2, 3). Consider looking unto Jesus. This is how we are transformed.

Sent. Isaiah is one of the greatest examples in the Bible of one who recognized his own need and sinfulness. It was not until he saw the Lord high and lifted up that he repented and agreed to be sent (Isaiah 6:1-8).

It is my prayer that we all enter into a new and deeper relationship with the Lord in true humility of heart and let the Lord go down to the depths of our souls to do the work needed so we will not be distracted by small things. I pray that the cross of Christ will loom so large in our hearts and minds and so captivate our thoughts and attention that the things that threaten to divide us will fade in the shadow of the cross.



Andi Hunsaker and her husband, Bob, are both physicians and graduates of Loma Linda University School of Medicine. They make their home in Sudbury, Massachusetts. Andi practices medicine full-time at a major teaching hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. She is a regular Sabbath School teacher in her home church in Stoneham, Massachusetts, and has a passion for the Word of God.

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# ASI Picture Rolls Inspire Translator's Decision for Christ

by Angy Plata

“Hey Angy, can you find someone to translate the picture rolls for us?” My supervisor at ASAP Ministries asked me. ASI had generously provided us with New Beginnings Picture Rolls, which we planned to distribute at our annual missionary training to the 30+ ASAP church planters in the closed country where I live in Southeast Asia. Since most of our missionaries serve in rural areas, often with very limited technology, we knew these picture rolls would help them tremendously in their ministry. As I prayerfully considered who to ask to translate, the perfect person came to mind.

I had known Lina for seven years. I first met her in 2014 while volunteering as an English teacher. Almost immediately, I knew she was very different from other young people in this country. She was inquisitive and deep thinking. As

we became closer friends, I started telling her about God, Someone she had never really heard of before. Lina had a troubled relationship with her parents and a yearning to be loved. We started weekly Bible studies, and the more she heard about God's love, the more she soaked it in. I was witnessing her life change before my eyes and I couldn't have been more in awe of how God was working.

That's why I was shocked when, a few months later, Lina completely distanced herself from me, our Christian friend group, and God. Little by little, we lost contact with her as she stopped responding to messages and invitations to socialize. She had met another friend who introduced her to a different lifestyle than the one my friends and I were living.

For the next few years, my heart was so burdened for Lina. This country, where less than 2 percent of the population is Christian, is steeped in spiritual darkness and evil spirits. I knew that

Satan was working hard to destroy the seed of hope that had been planted in her heart. In 2018, I was no longer an English teacher, but working for ASAP as their field special projects coordinator. Through a series of providential events, Lina and I reconnected in 2019. It took some time to establish a close friendship again, but God redeemed the time that had been lost.

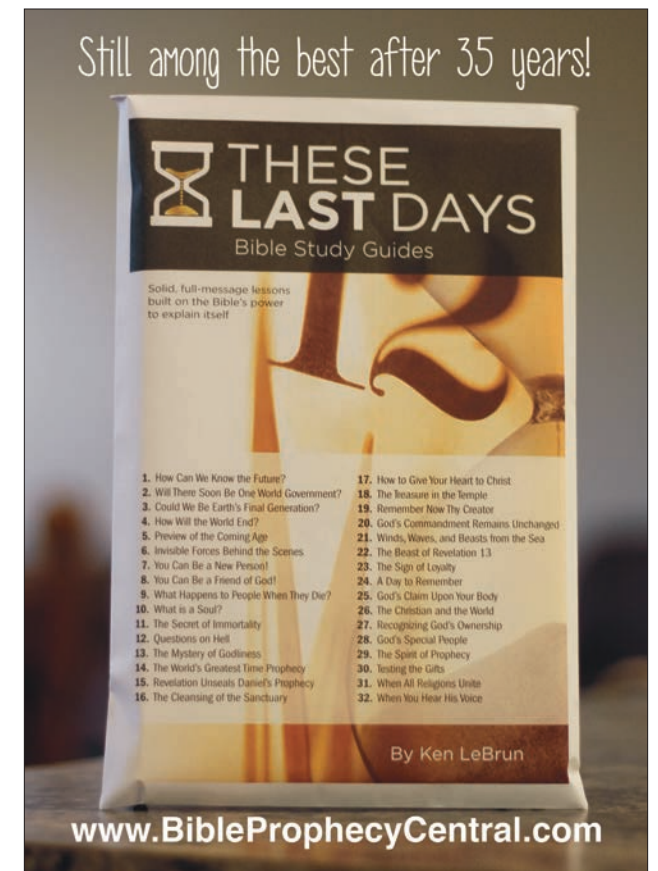
Once again, Lina began to show interest in spiritual things. She started attending the weekly vespers that my friends from Oon Jai Foundation and I host, and she became a familiar face at church. I sensed there was still something holding her back from surrendering to God, so when the opportunity came for someone to translate the ASI Picture Rolls, I knew she was the person to ask.

Lina had the time and could use the money, so she agreed to translate. One month ago, we were having a testimony night for vespers. Lina spoke of her first experience with God seven years

ago and how much she regretted walking away from Him. She recounted how God had led her journey, and then she began to share how translating the ASI Picture Rolls had impacted her. “When I got to the chapter on heaven, it was beautiful,” she said. “It was as if a Voice was reading the chapter to me. The lesson became more than just pictures and words and I felt like I was actually there. And I wanted it. I wanted it for my family. I wanted it for everyone I knew.”

Now my friend and I are giving Lina baptismal studies using the ASI Picture Rolls as a guide. For so long she held back from giving her life to God, but now she has counted the cost and finally decided that she wants to spend eternity with Jesus.

Angy Plata writes from Southeast Asia, where she has lived since 2011 and currently serves as the field special projects coordinator for ASAP Ministries.



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# Spreading His Word Through Stories

by Esther Espinoza

“Another story,” I requested with heavy eyelids as Mum rocked me back and forth on her wicker chair.

Growing up, books and stories were particularly important. Due to the civil war I experienced during my childhood, I grew up suffering from severe anxiety and a panic disorder.

Books transported me to a calm world where I didn't have to deal with the scars of trauma.

As I grew older, I discovered the school library. I had never seen a room filled with so many options! By grade four, I was reading books like *Anne of Green Gables*, *Jane Eyre*, *The Narnia Chronicles*, and more.

During my high school years, I delved into books that weren't very Christian. Stories of ghosts, haunted houses, spirits, and murder mysteries kept me enthralled.

I read my bible and still prayed, but each night under my covers I would be

absorbed in a scary book.

Reading was no longer the only thing I was doing—I started writing stories in the same genre. I daydreamed of becoming a published author.

One afternoon, when I complained to Mum about another rejected manuscript, she told me God's truth that deeply impacted my mind. That night the battle began.

I felt God gently whisper to write stories for His glory while the enemy yelled that I had no business writing for God. Besides, wasn't I in his territory?

For a week, I wrestled and fought. Finally, one Sabbath morning I fell on my knees uttering, “I surrender.” Instantly, an indescribable peace washed over me.

I knew God was calling me to spread His word, but I wasn't sure how.

Then one day, He impressed me to start a story podcast for kids. I was terrified! I didn't know where to begin. I had doubts. Podcasts are done by doctors, nutritionists, pastors, entrepre-

neurs; what would I offer?

Nevertheless, the conviction and the small voice persisted for me to take this path. Reluctantly but a little excited, I listened to God's voice and started writing the stories. I wanted the stories to be Christian and have sound effects. I wanted children to be inspired and learn to love Jesus.

As I gathered everything I needed, my younger sister Steph offered to help me host and take the character of Poppy, a little friend who had a craft glitter box filled with goodies for the kids to discover. I also invited my little niece to be my co-host.

In 2018, I launched the podcast “*Car Ride Stories for \*GIGI Kids\**”

In our first month, we had 25 downloads and were thrilled! It has been three years since we aired our first episode and God is blessing us immensely.

We've had over 125,000 downloads and we are reaching kids worldwide. We get emails from our little listeners and their parents from Canada, Austria, the USA, Dominican Republic, En-

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(Mum - USA)

*"My daughter is listening to the stories over and over again and she has started asking questions that indicate she's getting the spiritual message! We are so blessed! Thank you!"* (Mum of 5-year-old - Austria)

*"Thank you so much for this podcast! It's so faith building and thought provoking! You guys are so sweet, and I love the music you play!"* (USA)

If you have dreams or passions that God has placed on your heart, I encourage you to pursue them. Time on this earth is short and God wants His word to spread. We can be His hands and feet during these hard times.

Even if you're afraid, do it anyway.

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Esther Espinoza is the co-founder of 5 Sisters Ministry, a ministry dedicated to helping children and teen girls connect with God and learn about His Word in a simple, yet meaningful, way. Esther lives in Brisbane, Australia with her family, and has recently entered full-time ministry.

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# Ultimate Workout Answers Prayers in the Navajo Nation

by Julie Lee

When Nancy Crosby, the Native Ministries coordinator for the Nevada Utah

Conference, walked onto the Kayenta Seventh-day Adventist Church property on a sunny day in July, it was like being jolted awake from a long sleep. For the past 14 months, the Navajo Nation in Kayenta, Arizona, had been under rigid COVID-19 restrictions; no one had been allowed to gather together. Now, the church was bustling with 77 volunteers on Ultimate Workout, Maranatha Volunteers International's annual mission trip for teenagers. To Crosby, the sight, noise, and energy of so many people startled her in the best possible way.

"When I came there the first time and I saw all those kids—I can't even describe it. It was just so beautiful," says Crosby.

Crosby had been praying for this moment for years. After the devastating closure of their Monument Valley Mission School, she dreamed of opening a new school in Kayenta. She shared her idea with Maranatha, and the organization made an initial site visit, but Kayenta had no funding in

place to move forward.

Then, in early 2021, Maranatha was searching for a new location for the upcoming Ultimate Workout trip. It had originally been planned for Peru but was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. As an alternative, Maranatha began looking for sites in the United States. Kayenta—with its culture, needs, and rural landscapes—was a great option for a mission trip. The only problem was the school project still needed financial backing, which Maranatha does not provide for North American projects. Then, the first of many miracles happened. A longtime donor offered to fund the Kayenta school project.

On July 15, after a whirlwind of planning, teens from all over the world arrived in Kayenta. Using the church property as a home base, the volunteers spent the next ten days constructing the walls of the school, running a health education program, coordinating a Vacation Bible School, erecting a greenhouse, and completing a variety of tasks at 13 homes, such as painting, gardening, and fence-building.

On Sabbaths, the volunteers worshipped with the Kayenta church members, singing hymns in Navajo

and praise songs in English. During the last worship service, Kayenta church members shared their gratitude with the teens.

"Your work, your effort, what you did here is making a really big impact for generations to come ... if you could just look ahead and see all the children that are going to go to school here, and the staff that will be impacted. I can't describe for you what will happen," said Lorayne Whitehorse, member of the Kayenta church and community leader. "As you go forward, know that we appreciate all the effort that you put into this community, and we just love you to pieces. Thank you so much."

Crosby says the project energized the members, even piquing new interest in those who had stopped coming to church. When they saw the activity around town, they started coming by to inquire about the latest Sabbath School quarterlies. Current church members plan on using the information collected from the health education booth to reach out to Kayenta residents and invite them to church programming.

But it wasn't just the local community that was impacted. The daily, communal time with God and joyful service for others transformed the

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young volunteers. After an intensive period of worship, working, and bonding, the Ultimate Workout experience culminated in a beautiful agape feast, foot-washing service, and Communion to open the Sabbath on Friday evening. The next afternoon, 17 teens gave their hearts to Jesus during a baptism ceremony set against the stunning red rock backdrop at the San Juan River in Mexican Hat, Utah.

“Maranatha’s mission is to build people, and we do that through the construction of urgently-needed buildings. I can certainly say we have accomplished our mission for this project,” says Lisandro Staut, director of volunteer projects at Maranatha. “People’s lives were built—the local people, volunteers, and each one of us—as we all experienced spiritual, physical, and mental growth, thanks to the work of God in Kayenta.”



Julie Z. Lee is vice president of Marketing at Maranatha Volunteers International, where she has worked for 14 years. She loves sharing the stories of how communities are being changed in profound ways through service in the name of Jesus Christ.



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# Mission Trip to Soquel Camp Conference

by Ostap Dzyndra

**N**estled in a valley surrounded by lush green hills and picturesque blue skies with dotted white clouds lies

Soquel Camp Conference. This is the mission site the Lord led a team of nine Build and Restore International volunteers to serve during the third week of August, 2021.

It is always a joyful delight to see the miracle of young people choosing to turn aside from frivolous worldly pleasures and remember their Creator in the days of their youth, as they respond to the call to co-labor in His vineyard (*Ecclesiastes 12:1*). This particular mission trip was no exception as several young people shared in the work to restore two auditoriums and five pre-selected meeting rooms at the conference center. These are no ordinary rooms. Knees will kneel in humble submission to God in these rooms, messages of salvation will be

proclaimed in these rooms, decisions will be made for Christ in these rooms, and souls will be won for the Kingdom in these rooms!

The restorative missions work involved refurbishing each room with brand-new durable and cosmetically appealing waterproof flooring. The old carpeted flooring had waxed old as evidenced by the difficult task it was to remove, so much so that a side-by-side utility vehicle had to be used to aid in the carpet removal. This portion of the work was tedious as, little by little, piece by piece, the glue that loyally cemented the carpet to the floor was broken asunder. It is at such times during mission trips that spiritual lessons often read in scripture take heart and hold. Through the exercise of patient, dutiful labor and endurance, the desired favorable reward is realized. Had the laboring missionaries chosen to forsake the side-by-side machine and abandon the laborious work, their

desired goal of beautiful new flooring would not have become reality. So, we too in this laborious work of character perfection must allow the free working of the Holy Spirit to break up the fallow grounds of our stony hearts, little by little, piece by piece, patiently enduring the process so that we may, at the last, behold our precious Savior face to face! (*2 Corinthians 3:18, 1 Corinthians 13:12*)

A much-favored part of mission trips is when the miraculous happenings take place that our Heavenly Father orchestrates to encourage everyone of His presence among them. He simultaneously also encourages those who later hear about these miracles to move forward in faith toward the task that He calls them to undertake. One such miracle happened during this particular Soquel Camp Conference mission trip. Suddenly the concrete grinding machine stopped working and despite repeated attempts, it would not turn back on. Build and Restore founder

## From the Heart of a Father!




Photo: Lemuel Vega from Christmas Behind Bars hands out Bibles and gift packages to inmates.

**In 2016, our oldest son was sentenced to time in prison. While there, Christmas Behind Bars Outreach Ministry visited the prison, and handed out gift packages to the several thousand inmates. Our son was so happy to receive the items in the gift package. Christmas Behind Bars made sure he was given a Bible of his own. This made such a difference in his life. He has put his faith in Jesus, who is working him though his struggles. As God works in his life, he is beginning to understand what God wants him to do, and that God wants his trust. He says he is excited to see what God is going to do when he gets out! We are so thankful for the ministry of Christmas Behind Bars!**

**Your donations help this ministry deliver gift packages all throughout the year.**  
(all donations are tax deductible)

**By Credit Card:** Call 260-827-8855 **By Mail:** Christmas Behind Bars, PO Box 474, Bluffton, IN 46714  
**Online:** [ChristmasBehindBars.org/donate](http://ChristmasBehindBars.org/donate)



Ostap soon became very nervous and worried, as the grinding machine belongs to his dad. He consulted with his uncle, who was present at the mission site, on what to do, but to his dismay, his uncle did not have the answer. It was then that a thought came to Ostap to pray and seek Jesus' help. Surely He would know the answer. And so he prayed. The next thought that came to his mind after saying "Amen" was to check the machine's wire connection. This was a strange thought to him, as he was sure he had checked them already. But as he looked, he saw a wire connection that he had not checked earlier. Lo and behold, that was the wire connection that had not been fully plugged in. After securing the plug, the grinding machine instantly began to work! I am reminded of James 1:5, where our Savior invites us to

come and seek wisdom from Him and assures us that He will give wisdom generously to all who ask in faith without doubting. Friend, whatever the perplexity, bring it to Jesus, in faith ask for His wisdom on matters great and small, and God will delight to answer you!

Before the project began, Ostap had concerns that he would not have enough volunteers. A day before the mission would start, one volunteer called to say that he and his son would be able to come and serve three days on the mission project. As soon as they left, another volunteer called and said that they would be able to come and serve for the remaining two days. Praise God, He had provided for His work! God truly blessed the work of their hands, and all the work was accomplished two days ahead of sched-

ule. Yes, "Tis so sweet to Trust in Jesus!"

So whatever the mission, service, or station the Lord is calling you to, may you go forward in faith, remembering that "all His biddings are enablings" (*Christ Object Lessons*, p. 333, emphasis supplied)!



Ostap Dzyndra went on his first international mission trip to Mexico in 2006. He was hooked, and continues to travel around the world on different international mission trips. Today, Ostap has the same passion and burden for those who are hurting, hungry, ill, and helpless. As the needs of many arise and difficult challenges are ahead of us, we seek to do God's will in Building and Restoring people through compassionate acts of service.



# Blessing of a Failed Flight

by Klaus Reinprecht

A Heidi's Health Kitchen Production

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How often do we struggle to understand the events God permits in our lives? Mostly, we're left to cling to His promise that, "to those who love God, all things are for the best." We live life in faith, knowing that even if we don't understand present circumstances, one day, all will become clear.

But sometimes, God draws back the curtain and gives us a glimpse into His divine workings.

One Thursday winter morning, I got in my car to head to the airport, having accepted a spontaneous invitation to an Eastern country to discuss a health project. The luggage was stowed, but the car wouldn't start. I got in a second car, but it also stuttered and went silent. Luckily, I was able to use my mother's car so I made it to the train

station on time.

In Vienna, the train to the airport failed to arrive. It had been canceled, and no replacement was provided. I waited for another train. When I finally made it to my gate at the airport, I sat down in relief. Shortly thereafter, boarding began—or so I thought. Rather than announcing boarding, an airline employee informed us that the flight had been canceled due to bad weather conditions at our destination. All passengers were welcomed to rebook their flight. What a series of events!

On the train ride home two hours later, I sat looking at my new plane ticket scheduled for the following day. I prayed, claiming God's promise: "Lord, to those who love You, all things are for the best, so You certainly have a plan with this situation."

The next day's flight went as scheduled. I sat next to the chairman of the Planning Committee for the Olympic Games. He had also been scheduled to fly the previous day and found it very odd that the flight had been cancelled. All other flights to his destination had gone as scheduled.

I arrived safely at my destination and was picked up by my contact person. We used the nearly three hour drive to talk about the health project. The team that had been assembled to work on the project had made an appointment with the city's municipality for the day I was supposed to arrive. The CEO and other city council members had spent their Friday afternoon patiently waiting for me.

The municipality was delighted that a European was interested in



the development of their city and they asked me to briefly introduce myself. Incidentally, I mentioned the success of a cerebral palsy project in Tajikistan, which I had been allowed to initiate. Suddenly, the Communist Chief Officer, the "head of the city," turned to me with tears in her eyes and in a quavering voice, told the story of her beloved nine-month-old granddaughter, who had suffered massive brain damage from a congenital defect.

The members of the city council left the room to give the Chief Officer, myself, and the translator our privacy. "Can you give me a glimmer of hope?" she asked. I showed her photos of the progress of the children in Central Asia. A tentative smile showed me that she was beginning to have hope. She was so thankful that we had come.

She explained to me that she had

been unable to attend the original meeting, scheduled for the day before. She pointed upwards and said, "I know why you didn't come yesterday; God wanted us to meet, so He permitted the entire flight to be cancelled so we could meet each other."

I was able to pray with her, and entrusted the well-being of her granddaughter to the Lord. I believe her heart was touched.

The passenger sitting next to me on my return flight home was none other than the chairman of the Planning Committee for the Olympic Games. What are the chances of sitting beside the same person on the same return flight? Insanely small. Coincidence? I think not.

○ Missing...



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**By Credit Card:** Call 260-827-8835  
**By Mail:** Christmas Behind Bars, PO Box 474, Bluffton, IN 46714

Recently, we received a phone call from a mother who wanted to volunteer for this ministry. Curious, we asked her why, and she told us that her son was in a county jail in 2019 facing double murder charges. **While there, he received a gift package from Christmas Behind Bars.** He began reading the devotional materials and Bible, **and he gave his life to Christ.** He spent 2 years in the county jail before being sentenced to 60 years for his crimes. He is serving his time in an Indiana maximum security prison psych ward. **He has continued his walk with Christ, and he told his mother that every time he gets a new cell-mate, God sends someone who does not know the Lord, and he has the opportunity to share the gospel with him.** His mother said that he is the happiest he has ever been in life.

We don't know who sponsored his gift package in that small county jail in 2019, but their sponsorship has made a tremendous difference in this young man's life, and possibly the lives of many other inmates who come into contact with him.

**Your sponsorship makes all the difference. Without you, this ministry couldn't go and share the Gospel with prisoners. How many lives are you willing to touch? Please donate today so we can continue to deliver gift packages and Bibles to prisoners all throughout the year.**

*Journal Prompt - How can you share your story with those who need to hear it?*

Lined writing area for the journal prompt.



# Resource Hall for Pastors at CALLED Pastors' Family Convention

by Brad Forbes

One of the most popular features of the CALLED Pastors' Family Convention, June 19-22, 2022 in Lexington, Kentucky, is the Resource Hall. The convention, which takes place about every five years, is the premier gathering place for pastors from all over the North American Division. Pastors and their families come to be refreshed, renewed, and equipped with the latest resources for their congregations. Much of the equipping takes place in the Resource Hall, where pastors and resource producers connect around the latest tools for ministry.

Lexington was selected for the 2022 CALLED Pastors' Family Convention because it is conveniently located within a day's drive of 75 percent of the United States. It is also accessible by major airlines.

This year the Resource Hall floor space has been vastly expanded to allow new resource producers to show

their latest products. Even so, vendors will be selected from those who have the most relevant resources for pastors. A recent survey suggests that pastors are particularly interested in tools for:

- Hybrid Meeting Technology
- Hybrid Meeting Technology
- Discipleship
- Evangelism
- Digital Advertising
- Social Media
- Mental Health
- Social Justice
- Community Engagement
- Church Planting
- Church Revitalization

Attendance at the 2015 convention exceeded 5,000. Some are expecting even more in 2022. Pastors have primary decision-making ability on most purchases and high influence in everything else. Pastors crave relevant resources. One of the primary reasons pastors attend CALLED is to connect with vendors who can supply solutions to their needs.

Nothing is better than one-on-one, face-to-face communication between pastors and vendors. The Resource Hall is conveniently located adjacent to the Rupp Arena so attendees can easily find vendors. The schedule allows for a lot of "downtime" from programming so pastors will have quality time to visit the booths without having to miss out on a meeting. There are a variety of size configurations and placement of booths in the Resource Hall.

Use this QR code to find out more about the convention:



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

Brad Forbes is president of AdventSource, the official leadership resource center for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, and facilitator for the Resource Hall for the Pastors' Family CALLED Convention.

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#### SLUM RESCUE

- **THERE ARE OVER 40,000 SLUM AREAS THROUGHOUT INDIA.** 8 Million children under the age of 6 live in slums. Operation Child Rescue operates the Vizark slum preschool which offers rescue and rehabilitation. The school offers a safe place where women can place their child in preschool, learn a trade, and receive continued education in the dangers of trafficking.

#### BABY RESCUE

- **31 MILLION ORPHAN CHILDREN ESTIMATED.** Operation Child Rescue operates a rescue center for abandoned babies and children, some of whom are dropped off on doorsteps, at hospitals, and police departments.

#### ORPHAN RESCUE

- **ORPHAN CHILDREN ARE ON THE RISE DUE TO THE PANDEMIC.** Poverty and high death rates among parents during the pandemic has caused the orphan problem to grow. Child Impact International operates Sunrise Home, a rural orphanage, which houses over 100 children, many of whom are COVID orphans.

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# Recipes

by Kristina's Kitchen

## Almond "Graham Cracker" Crust

1 ½ c. almond meal or almond flour  
 ¼ t. salt  
 ½ t. cinnamon  
 2-3 T. coconut oil, melted  
 2-3 T. maple syrup

PREHEAT oven to 400F.

MIX dry ingredients together.

ADD oil and mix again.

ADD maple syrup until desired texture.

PRESS into a greased 9-inch or 9 ½ inch pie pan.

BAKE at 350F for 10-15 minutes or until golden around edges.

COOL completely before using.

## Pumpkin Pudding

15 oz. canned Pumpkin OR  
 1 ¾ c. cooked squash or pumpkin  
 13 oz. coconut cream OR  
 1 2/3 c. coconut milk or nut cream  
 3 T. cornstarch  
 1 t. lemon juice  
 ½ t. salt  
 6 T. maple syrup  
 1 t. cinnamon or coriander  
 ¼ t. cardamom powder  
 ¼ t. ginger powder

BLEND all ingredients together until smooth.

POUR into kettle and cook on medium heat, stirring constantly. Use a pot lid as a shield—it spits!

BOIL thoroughly for 2 minutes.

POUR over chopped nuts or onto a cooled Almond "Graham Cracker" Crust.


CHILL several hours or overnight.

REFRIGERATE until ready to serve.

Did you enjoy these recipes? Come learn more at our free monthly classes held the third Tuesday of every month, 6:00pm, at Kristina's Kitchen (next to the courthouse in Whitley City, Kentucky).

If you can't come in person, watch us on Facebook Live! [facebook.com/kristinaskitchenky](https://www.facebook.com/kristinaskitchenky)

For more recipes, check out our website! [www.kristinaskitchen.org](http://www.kristinaskitchen.org)  
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 Kristina McFeeters is the owner of Kristina's Kitchen, a plant based restaurant in Whitley City, Kentucky. Her passion is sharing Jesus through food with the people in the poverty region of Eastern Kentucky Appalachia.



# Rear-ended by a Semi

by Karen Phillips

It had been a great ASI International Convention in Orlando, Florida. My son, husband, and I finished taking down our booth and carried everything back to our hotel room. While my husband and I were supposed to fly back to Omaha the next morning, I realized there was no way I was going to let my son, Rob, drive 830 miles by himself back to Red River Outpost in Kentucky. I was convinced that as a mother it was my job to go along and keep him awake. So, much to my husband's amazement, I crawled into my son's Metro Geo and tried to find space for my two suitcases amongst his camping gear, two coolers of food, purchases from ASI, and tools. With our seats pushed as far forward as they would go, I knew it was going to be an interesting trip. And oh, did I mention—no air conditioning! But I

was sure it was my motherly duty to accompany him on this "adventure." We headed out Sunday morning and drove up through Florida and Georgia. As I promised, when Rob stated that he was feeling sleepy, we sang hymns, read from *Christ's Object Lessons*, talked about everything past, present, and future, and made needed pit stops. He refused to let me do any of the driving, as the car rattled when it was pushed to its limit. It was the second week in August and very hot. But with the windows open and managing a top speed of 65 mph, it was bearable. We drove all the way up to the Tennessee state line and were able to spend the night at Wildwood Lifestyle Center. We spent the night in one of the old girls' dorms. In the morning, Bill, a guy from the farm, gave us an extensive tour of the grounds. We were

even able to go up the mountain to see where Pastor W. D. Frazee, the founder of Wildwood, had lived. As we continued to travel, I became exceptionally nervous as we drove through big cities, because our car was very small. I just closed my eyes and prayed that Jesus would take control of the wheel and direct Rob when to go and when to stop. Then one afternoon we found ourselves taking the wrong exit headed to Knoxville instead of Lexington. Rob looked out the window and nodded to a semi-driver, thinking it was okay to merge. All of a sudden, we felt a huge crash and heard a loud WHAM. I looked at Rob and exclaimed, "What was that?" He said, "I think we were just rear-ended by a semi!" The semi pushed us for a good 30-40 feet. The entire car was vibrating and Rob was trying to steer it over to the side of



the road. We were able to pull over as did the semi. Praise the Lord we were OK and there was only a small dent in the hatch. The car was still drivable and the trunk still opened and closed! A miracle! The semi-truck driver's cab was so high and our car was so small, he claimed that he never saw us. This event put us way behind in our travel time but we didn't care. Still shaking a bit, we waited on the side of the road for the police to come and file the report. We were both astonished that we were not killed, or that our vehicle was not totaled. How could we have possibly survived without a scratch in a wrestling match between a 1.3 liter Geo Metro and a semi-truck pulling a tanker? We believe that it was a miracle and praised God for His protective powers and His love for us. There are several spiritual lessons I learned from this experience:

- We need to listen to the Holy Spirit's prompting and be spontaneous with our plans, especially when it means helping someone. I am so glad I was impressed to go with my son and keep him awake. What might have happened if he had fallen asleep at the wheel? It was important that I was with Rob when this accident occurred and that I was at his side to pray with him and discuss all the important insurance matters together. *"But the Lord is faithful who will establish you and guard you against the evil one"* (2 Thessalonians 3:3).
- The Lord will keep us safe when we keep our eyes on Him. Just before this happened, I was in prayer that the Lord would protect and guide us through interstate traffic. God led me to do this ahead of time. He knew what was going


to happen. *"The Lord your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes"* (Deuteronomy 1:30).

- When we look out for others, God is there looking out for us. *"But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head"* (Psalm 3:3).
- When danger seems imminent, God is our Protector! *"The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing"* (Zephaniah 3:17).
- Miracles still happen in this day and age, for we serve the God of miracles!

Have you found yourself rear-ended by events in life? As we navigate our way in the prophetic end times, we will find ourselves in unexpected, perilous situations. Satan, like a roaring lion, seeks to devour us. We need to remember: "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us and His teaching in our past history" (Last Day Events, p. 72).

This memory of how the Lord saved us on that interstate in Knoxville will be forever implanted in my mind. HE IS MIGHTY TO SAVE!

I finished my trip by flying back to Omaha from Lexington on Wednesday. I was grateful to be home safely and again praised God for His protection and love.

 Karen is happily remarried to her husband, John, and they have four children and two grandchildren. Along with a full-time job as an HR Manager, she works together with John in their ministry, HeReturns, and also as an officer in ASI Mid-America. Her passion is proclaiming the Lord's great restoration power and being an instrument in the Lord's end-time work of saving souls.



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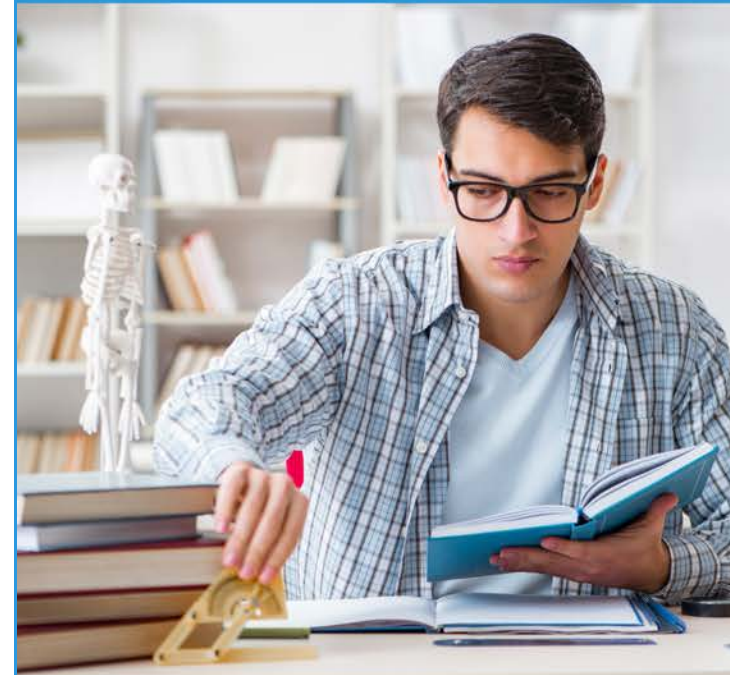


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