

# The Connection

Volume 7, Issue 2, February 2009

## *from Pastor Mike...*

*We are affectively (I trust) now engaging this New Year! Many of our resolutions have already begun to fade and a more realistic approach is now setting in. By now you have already discovered that your energy level is starting to get tapped out. I came across a very important article that brings not only inspiration to me but some practical help in putting necessary margin into my life so that I can enjoy the adventure that Christ has for me this year. Without margin in our lives it is difficult to hear the voice of God or to be able and willing to respond to his voice. As you read this article, ask yourself this question "Do I allow time for margin in my life and schedule and if not why not" and "How can I begin to place margin in my life this year, in my schedule so that I can experience the four benefits of margin? May each of us find a little more margin in our lives this year.*

*Pastor Mike*

## **Four Benefits of Putting Margin in Your Life**

by Rick Warren

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

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*continued on page 5*

## Be HIS—A Valentine's Devotional

by LauraLee Shaw

I'll never forget receiving the candy hearts on Valentine's Day when I was in middle school. You know, the ones that taste a little bit like Pepto-Bismol? My friends and I would tear our little bitty envelopes open to see which hearts someone put inside with the generic card. Reading into every phrase, we fantasized of that special someone spending tireless efforts to make sure he delivered the perfect message and emotion to each of us. It was dreamy.

It didn't take me too many years to realize that the boys' mamas probably just threw them in an envelope for them, OR worst case scenario, picked out the girl SHE wanted for him to like via pepto-heart-a-grams. So much for dreamy.

I realized that the Lord has written His message on my heart. It is forever inscribed and perfectly perfect, which is a beautiful truth. But when others look at my heart, so often I have covered up His words with my own unintentional messages.

Sometimes my heart begs, "Be mine," when it really should cry out, "Be His." Often it shouts out, "Love me," when God begs me to "Love them" or "Love Him" instead. The mixed messages my heart delivers to others can leave them with mixed feelings about the heart of God.

*continued on page 2*



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Luke 6:45b says, “for out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.” It’s saying that the ‘stuff’ we stuff into our minds gets stored in the treasury of our hearts, and eventually it begins to flow out of the heart via tunnel of the mouth. Then it is spread to others, and “round and round it goes, where it stops?”

When I complain frequently, I have probably listened to a bunch of complaints. As I throw out a zinger in the name of humor, I realize I have maybe seen a few too many sit-coms. During those moments of pouring out flattery to others, could it be that I have enjoyed the empty, false praise that I have indeed received myself? What ‘line’ do others see displayed on the tablet of your life?

All the static this world has to offer us can cloud the message he has carved on our hearts:

*“I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”* Hebrews 8:10b

Do you see His Valentine’s message for us?

BE MINE

Make HIM our True Love. Let’s not mix His message with overflow from the world’s waste. Instead, let’s spread His Word, the Word that He has written front and center in bold letters on our hearts -- the Word that we have fallen in love with so that we could keep from sin and love others God’s way.

Sometimes we just need to be reminded. I know I do. The way we spend our time matters. The people we allow to rub off on us are important. The shows we watch and the websites we visit and the novels we read have an effect on us. Pray about it, allow the Lord to lead and guide you into the perfect balance of freedom and works. It is then, and only then that our hearts (the new ones He gave us when we became a Christian) will show the world that we are His.



## MEN AT WORK

by Bob Stewart Jr.

We would like to thank our Church Family for the donations over the holidays, with your help we delivered over 800 pounds of food to the Christian Aid Center!

Men’s Ministries are meeting every other Tuesday at 6:00 in the Fireside room. We need YOU, to help plan, communicate, and just get involved. The Men’s Breakfast will be Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 am, and our guest speaker will be the “Frank and Ernie Show.” They have a video for us to watch.

Please Join us, We need your input!

*How did Jesus make disciples? He used a small group approach. He took twelve very common guys and poured his life into theirs. Christ taught by examples and short stories. He connected with his followers in both attitude and action. They had real fellowship with the Master who modeled the perfect fellowship with God the Father. A disciple is:*

- A leader in training
- A person who is following Christ
- One who is endeavoring to become more like Jesus
- One who is committed to the mission of Christ
- A person who disciples using the method Christ used ... building relationships

*In speaking to the Father, Jesus told us, “I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me” John 17:22-23.*

*by Jim Grassi*



## *From Your* Administrative Pastor

These thoughts are adapted from an email newsletter that I get from Christian musician and author, John Fischer...

*For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made His light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.*

2 Corinthians 4:6

Taking everything down and packing Christmas away for another year can be a difficult part of our holiday ritual. It seems like every year, the house never looked better, or the tree was never so perfect, and it all becomes so empty when it's gone. Like the guy on a "car-talk" radio program I heard recently who explained the hole in his dashboard left by someone who "borrowed his car stereo without asking" as "nothing but torn wires and sadness." I thought it was such an apt description that I jotted it down, and now I'm feeling a little like our house is all about torn wires and sadness.

There is a sadness or a depression that can set in after major events in our lives. We struggle with getting back to normal. What can help us move on?

*continued on page 10*

### **Newsletter Deadline**

If you have an upcoming event you'd like to promote, faith story or poem you'd like to share, or anything else that pertains to the life of the people of Blue Mountain Community Church, please consider writing a small article (300 words or less) and submitting it to the newsletter. The deadline for articles is the second Wednesday of each month. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.



## *Celebrate Recovery*

by Gary Stewart

I didn't grow up in a Christian home and when I first started seeking recovery I turned to Narcotics Anonymous. I knew someone who attended and had stayed away from drugs for over a year and thought if it worked for them it might work for me. I didn't feel comfortable there, but I didn't want to go back to my old behavior so I kept going.

I started working the 12 steps. After doing my first step I realized all the dangerous and near death situations I had been in. I knew someone had been protecting me and that is when I gave my life to the Lord and Jesus became my higher power.

I listened to people in meetings share about their higher power; this one woman would say her higher power was Jesus Christ and got flack from the group for saying that. Being new to recovery and a new Christian I wouldn't name my higher power in the meeting, but at coffee afterward we would all talk and knew who the believers were.

For years I attended N.A. as a believer, went to church and Bible studies, and progressed in my recovery. Then Pastor Mike came to me with this program called Celebrate Recovery and asked me what I thought about it. I was blown away and said I knew some others who would be interested. About six months later we started C.R. at our church. What is great about C.R. is that we can talk about Jesus, what he is doing in our lives, where we fall short, and be open. At C.R. I work to recover from **all** my hurts, habits, and hang-ups - not just the drug addiction that got me into recovery in the first place. It is forward looking, not focused on the past. On the road to recovery we are changed when we accept God's grace and forgiveness to solve our life problems.

# Ner city

by Pastor Brent

## Is Good Enough Truly 'Good Enough?'

When couples are asked how their relationship is going many times the response is simply "Oh, it's good enough." Additionally, when it comes to addressing troubles, most couples either argue and fight through the stress of it all or they don't address what's going on and let things get even worse. In these situations why is it that 'good enough' becomes the mentality? Here are a few possibilities.

- **Complacency:** One or both individuals would rather take the position of "Things could be worse, so why make a big deal of it? It might blow up in our faces."
- **Ignorance:** There may be issues lingering over the couple that are felt to be taboo or hands-off. It's just too uncomfortable to talk about this or that. "If we ignore it maybe it'll miraculously take care of itself!"
- **Naivety:** Maybe the couple did not have any pre-marriage counseling, or they haven't read any books on communication. They simply lack the tools needed to address relationship health concerns.

One suggestion is for couples to have a regular health check-up! You know, similar to going in for an annual medical check-up with your doctor. Go on a date over dinner, coffee, etc. and openly discuss these three questions together.

1. On a scale from 1-10 (ten being full), how much are you feeling love & support from your mate overall?
2. Of the points received, were did they come from? Ex: 6 pts because he's really good with the kids...7 pts because she always asks me how my day was...etc.
3. Of the points lacking, how might they be gained? So if your mate gave you a 5 out of 10, what was it that caused a 5 pt deficiency?

**IMPORTANT:** Remember, these are your mate's feelings...not necessarily facts! Consider praying and asking Christ to guide you through this process...and get a clean bill of health in your marriage today.



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Here are four immediate benefits you'll receive by building margin into your life:

**1. Peace of mind.** When you're not always hurrying and worrying, you have time to think, time to relax, time to enjoy life. We had a bird come into the building one evening before service. He started singing, and it was just like we'd been given an invitation: "Just relax. Everybody except those sitting directly under the bird, relax."

**2. Better health.** Unrelenting stress harms our bodies. We all know that, yet we let it continue day after day after day. Many times we only build margin in our lives after the heart attack almost happens or does happen, or the blood pressure skyrockets. Why do we wait until our health plummets before we make this decision? Why not realize that we need to build some margin into our lives now? The truth is your body needs downtime in order to heal. Race cars make pit stops occasionally in order to get repaired. You can't fix anything going 200 miles an hour. Yet, we try to repair ourselves while we're still racing through life. Margin builds in time for better health.

**3. Stronger relationships.** Lack of margin is one big reason for the collapse of the American family today. When we don't make relationships a priority and make time for each other, our relationships suffer. Relationships take time; and margin provides the time to sit and talk, to listen and enjoy one another, and to provide the comfort we each need.

**4. Usefulness in ministry.** When you're overloaded by activity, you can only think of yourself. You're in survival mode, just trying to make it through another day. But being available to God for his use makes all the difference in this world.

When you have no margin in your life and God taps you on the shoulder, saying, "I'd like you to do this for me," your first response isn't joy. Your first response is, "Oh, no! Another thing to do! Sorry, God – I'd like to do that, but I'm just too busy."

We end up resenting the great opportunities God brings into our lives. But when you have margin, you're available for God to use.

You don't have to live on overload. You don't have to live in survival mode. Begin today to build a buffer around your schedule. Then enjoy the benefits of margin and see what God does next!



## **REJUVENATION UPDATE**

by Larry Wachtel

I'm pleased to announce that workers installing the new sprinkler system should be on site next month. This work is required by the city to insure we have adequate fire protection for the additional square footage the new building will add to our campus. It will also insure our church and congregation has adequate protection in the event of a fire.

Preliminary bids for the new addition have been received from two of the four contractors we've contacted, and the other two should have their proposals to us soon. The latest information we have, which would include the installation of the sprinkler system (in everything except the main sanctuary, the narthex and the area behind the stage) asbestos abatement in the area to be demolished, temporary offices, and the actual construction of the new building is now estimated at \$1.5M.

*continued on page 8*

- 1 Jamie Nachtigall
- Elissa Stites
- Nick Swisher
- 2 Peter Erb
- Kraig Kushar
- 3 Alex Carias
- Scott Haen
- Rose Paul
- Levi Sands
- Evelyn Wallace
- 5 Bob Conwell
- Amanda Gorze
- Walter Zier
- 6 Cassandra Sept
- 7 Rachael Adkins
- Rebecca Mize
- Phillip Somers
- 8 Willis Goodwin
- Marilyn Groom
- Abby Larreau
- Jessica McDaniels
- Adam Voss
- 9 Rick Grubb
- Leanne Howard
- 10 Samantha Cobb
- Dan Kilmer
- 11 Irene Buttice
- Aaron Grubb
- 12 Kathy Wood
- 13 Emily Larreau
- 14 Phyllis Branscum
- Linda Joshlin
- 16 Laine McMillan
- Joseph Watson
- 17 Davin Sands
- Jack Sands
- 18 Joshua Branscum
- 20 Terry Burner
- Zachery Harris
- Sarah Wood

- 22 John Bender
- 24 Kaeldra Caton
- Marcia Napier
- 25 Paula Hoppen
- 27 Claudia Huntley
- Polly Josifek
- Jackie Kuljis
- Darlene Mings
- Rich Young
- 28 Gail Johnson
- Erika Swenson

- 7 *Dan & Deborah Minteer*
- 14 *Mark & Mary Ellen Farr*
- Bill & Mary Luisi*
- 20 *Bill & Christene Thrasher*
- 21 *Steve & Rebecca Mize*
- 22 *Don & Lee Lynch*
- 28 *Mike & Kriss Pettyjohn*

# *Birthdays &*



# *Anniversaries*

## *Special Days*

- 2 Groundhog Day**
- 14 Valentine's Day**
- 16 Presidents' Day**



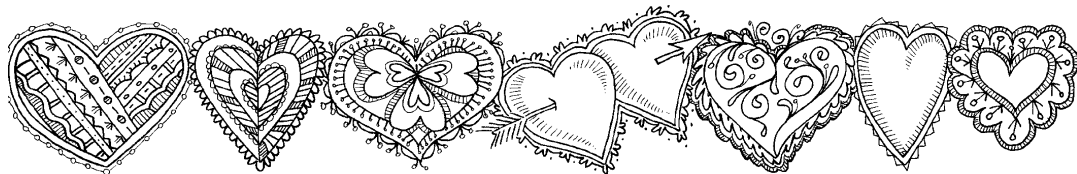
## *Monthly Events*

- 5 SAMS\* 10:00 AM  
Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- 6 **Marriage Retreat**
- 7 Prayer Partner Breakfast 8:00 AM  
Concert 6:00 PM
- 9 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM  
Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 10 Quilter's Guild 6:30 PM
- 11 Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM
- 12 MOPS \* 9:00 AM  
Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 13 **High School Winter Camp**
- 14 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM
- 17 The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 19 SAMS\* 10:00 AM  
CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM  
Missions Commission Meeting 7:00 PM  
Building & Grounds Commission 6:45 PM
- 26 MOPS \* 9:00 AM

\* SAMS- Senior Adult Ministries  
MOPS- Mothers of Preschoolers

## *Weekly Events*

- Sunday**  
Middle School Group 6:00 PM  
Financial Peace University 6:00 PM
- Tuesday**  
Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM  
Boy Scouts 7:00 PM
- Wednesday**  
Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM  
Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM  
High School Group 7:00 PM
- Thursday**  
Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM
- Friday**  
Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM  
Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM





## *Women's Ministry*

by Cailey Dumler

Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the busyness of life? Are there not enough hours in a day...and if there were would it be enough? It is imperative that we as women support each other through the trials of daily living. We must realize that we are not alone.

Be looking for upcoming events that will encourage you as a wife, mom, daughter, sister, and friend. As you are encouraged, allow God to use you and the gifts He has given you. As we place God in the driver's seat, we will find that He provides all we need to accomplish His will. Our "to do" pile will appear less overwhelming when it becomes His 'to do' pile. If we give God our first part of our day, He will prove to be faithful throughout the day. As we read His Word daily, He will speak to our hearts and guide us through each and every day.

*"You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart."*

1 Peter 1:22 (NLT)

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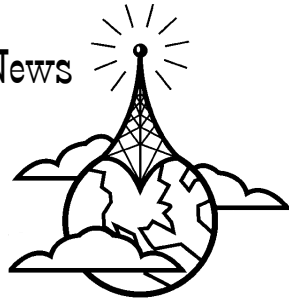
The difference in this number and the \$1.15M that I presented at our June business meeting is in the cost of the sprinkler system, the asbestos abatement, the cost of renting temporary office facilities, and Randy Grudzinski's offer to construct the building for as little profit as he could afford. Unfortunately, Randy's company has been affected by the economic slowdown like so many others and he's been forced to do some downsizing. He's asked that we take his original offer off the table, and not be considered for the construction of the new building, though he very well may do some or all of the demolition and excavation. If you see Randy at church, join me in personally thanking him for all of his help over the last year or so. He's been a true Godsend in his expertise and generosity.

Now for the hard part. At our January 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Elders meeting, I presented these latest figures to the board. Pastor Dan had contacted our bank about the possibility of financing approximately \$1M and reported that our monthly mortgage payment would be approximately \$10,000. It was agreed our congregation simply cannot afford to make this additional monthly payment. For this reason, once the sprinkler system is installed, Rejuvenation will be put on hold pending the accrual of additional monies in the Building Fund.

Thank you so much for your prayers, contributions and support for this much needed project. We WILL be building the new wing – we just need to save up more money before we start. Please continue to pray for, and give to, the Rejuvenation Project.

## Faith Promise News

by Vic Phillips



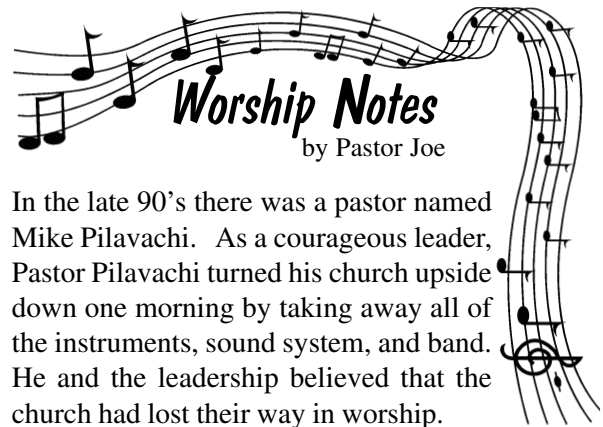
Out of sight, out of mind. That's what happens to many Christian mission endeavors. In the United States we have minimal persecution of Christians. Sure, we have the ACLU and atheists that hammer at us. But it is nothing compared to what many Christians in other countries face.

I encourage you to go to the Voice of the Martyrs web site ([www.vom.org](http://www.vom.org)) to learn of the Christians in other countries that are beaten, tortured, jailed and killed just because they are Christians. This web site has many current reports of Christian persecution. They also have links to several other related web sites that expand the information.

Visit [www.PrisonerAlert.com](http://www.PrisonerAlert.com). They have pictures and stories of Christians who are in prison for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Choose one prisoner, print out his or her picture and story and include him or her in your daily prayers. I did this for an Indonesian pastor, Abraham Bentor. Later the site reported that he had been released from prison. According to the report about ten thousand people had been praying for him. What a thrill to see an answer to prayer.

You can also send letters of encouragement. The web translates the letter for you.

As Christians, we need to expand our horizons of ministry and this is one way to do that.



In the late 90's there was a pastor named Mike Pilavachi. As a courageous leader, Pastor Pilavachi turned his church upside down one morning by taking away all of the instruments, sound system, and band. He and the leadership believed that the church had lost their way in worship.

Worship is not a "Spectator Sport." However, many in his church had become consumers and were simply taking what the music was giving and not really bringing anything to the table. In his story, he asked his congregation something very interesting... *"When you come through the doors on a Sunday, what are you bringing as your offering to God?"* He encouraged the church to not simply come and sing someone else's old songs or just enjoy the new ones, he challenged them to write their own. Not songs meant for recording albums, but songs that were an honest praise and worship from the heart of God's children. Out of this experience came the well-known song by Matt Redman, "The Heart of Worship."

What is your attitude when you come to church on Sundays? Many times we are looking for something that will bless us, and forgetting that it is our job to do the worshipping. David, who knew a thing or two about worship, penned a great psalm that can guide us,

*"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."* Psalm 100:4

When you come on Sunday, bring to God an offering of praise, don't wait for something to come to you! Worship well today!

*continued from page 3*

First, we can remember that we take the risen Christ of Christmas with us into the New Year. On Christmas, we focus so much on a baby in a manger that we sometimes forget the baby grew into a man who conquered death once and for all and now sits at the right hand of God the Father where He intercedes for us constantly. That means you and I have continuous representation at the highest level. All these decorations celebrated His birth, but walking into whatever our lives hold for us this year is a celebration of resurrection and of power. We will never walk alone.

Second, possibly leave something up — some little reminder of the season. Maybe an ornament on a mantle, or the wreath on the door. In areas of New England and especially Pennsylvania, many homeowners leave a single light in their windows throughout the winter. The light Christ has brought into our lives has forever dispelled the darkness. Nothing will ever be the same. Maybe it would be good to leave a little light on around the house that wasn't there before, just to remember what remains from Christmas.

The whole point of His birth into our torn world was to show the lengths He would go to in order to get to us. And now He is here. That is the point.



We might take down Christmas, but Christ remains in our lives, and no one can ever take Him away!

## blue mountain community church student ministries

by Pastor Ike

sunday school: 9am ezekiel

msm: sunday 6pm-7:30pm

hsm: wednesday 7:pm-8:30pm

hsm boys homegroup thursdays  
8:15pm @ jared burns house

hsm girls homegroup mondays  
7:00pm @ andrea pellicers house

hsm&msm:

- benefit concert 2/7/09 @ 7pm \$10

- hsm winter camp @lake cle elum  
2/13-2/16

cost \$45. \$\$ and registration form due  
on sunday the 15th of feb. (limit 12)

- msm winter camp @ lake cleelum  
3/5-3/7

cost \$40 \$\$ and registration form due  
on sunday the 1st of march (limit 12)

- hsm dare 2 share in seattle  
3/20&3/21

- hsm&msm service day &  
mud football 4/1

- hsm movie game & sushi 4/25

- hsm&msm service day &  
bowling 5/23

## Jesus The Big Loser

*by Annie Glasel*

My Lord Jesus is a loser. Let me count the ways.

1. His mother was an unwed teenager.
  2. His stepfather was a poor carpenter.
  3. He had no education.
  4. He never had any money. He didn't own any property. He didn't plan for retirement and He died penniless.
  5. He didn't have a wife or any sons.
  6. He was rejected by his hometown.
  7. He helped people who then reviled him.
  8. He started with a large following of thousands, ended up with 12.
  9. One of his 12 "friends" betrayed him; the other eleven abandoned him at his hour of most need.
  10. He never had a real job with a title in a company.
  11. He was tried for a crime he did not commit and found guilty.
  12. He died a painful, shameful criminal's death and no one came to his defense or rescue. Not even God.
  13. Even today, His teachings are rejected or mocked by most of the world.
  14. Finally, 100% of his followers are sinners. Some of them are embarrassments to the name of Jesus while others are just mean and hateful.
- Yes, that's right. If you were to look at Lord Jesus through the world's view, He would be a big loser.

Today, as I look down upon my own measly achievements as a college-graduate, a mother, a wife, and a once-upon-a-time-contender, I feel like a big loser. Let me re-phrase that, I am a big loser — according to the world's standard.

At least I am in good company, with Jesus.

I don't need education, money, career or even a good attitude to be in Jesus' good company. To be counted a success in His eyes, I need not achieve, compete nor even be good at anything.

All He asks of me is to love him as much as I can, AFTER He's loved me and showed himself true.

I find this amazing. Jesus is the King of kings, Lord of lords, maker of heaven and earth, the great I Am. I can be the biggest over-educated under-achiever of all time and still be loved by Him. Better yet, I can be so unworthy and yet still be called His friend.

That in itself is reason enough to shout "Praise the Lord!" Even for a "loser" like me.



“Create  
in me a  
**clean heart,**  
O God,  
and put a  
new **and right**  
 **spirit**  
within me.”  
Psalm 51:10

*Our Ministry Team*

Senior Pastor — Mike Hinrichsen  
Administrative Pastor — Dan Huntley  
Associate Pastor of Family Life — Brent Dumler  
Student Ministries Pastor — Isaac Freeman  
Worship and Arts Pastor — Joe Webb

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