

Organizational Documents

Prayer Trainer Program Overview

The Prayer Trainer's Manual
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Alive Publications
An Outreach of Alive Ministries
PO Box 1245
Kannapolis, NC 28082
1-855-842-5483

www.alivepublications.org

Introduction

Congratulations!

You have taken the first step to becoming a Prayer Trainer in the Project Pray network. In my estimation, there may be no greater role of all the opportunities for Christian service, than to fan the flames of prayer and prayer ministry, other than the act of actually praying. Nothing takes the place of prayer – and in our training, we dare not forget that people learn to pray and learn most about prayer by its practice.

Project Pray is an extension of Alive Ministries – a Bible, family and leadership ministry led by P. Douglas Small, who says he ‘backed into the prayer movement.’ The Prayer Trainers Network is expressly designed to serve congregations who have joined the ‘Praying Church Movement.’* There are seven markers to the churches in this movement. And at the heart of those markers are ‘four dimensions’ to the prayer ministry of the congregation. We train with that framework in mind.

Prayer Trainers who work in the network do so as volunteers. As they say, the ‘pay is lousy, but the rewards are out of this world.’ Still yet, the great reward will be watching prayer leaders ‘get it,’ and grow as a result of your consistent affirmation, your pointing them to resources, and encouraging them to ‘stay at it.’ All of us know, we are working in an atmosphere of stealth and deathly spiritual warfare. It is like an anesthesia, leaving even intercessors groggy. Once we cross a certain threshold and enough pastors and people are awakened to the critical importance of prayer, and its joy and fulfillment, there is no stopping a national spiritual awakening.

Welcome to the journey.

* Go to www.projectpray.org or www.praycog.org for more information.

Steps in the Process

STEP ONE: REVIEW THE MATERIALS

1. *The Praying Church Resource Guide**
 - A. Peruse it.
 - B. Read carefully sections 1-3, review sections 8-9.
2. Peruse the *Praying Church Handbook* – enough to know where you can find serious materials on prayer. Volume I was released in May, 2013; Volume II was released, January, 2014. Two more volumes are anticipated over the next year.
3. Peruse the *Praying Church Made Simple!* The model there, in many cases, perhaps most, will be more applicable, more flexible for use in small-to-medium size churches.
4. Peruse *Prayer – the Heartbeat of the Church*, along with its DVD, *Resource Guide*, and *Devotional Guide*. This is great basic materials. We have utilized some of this material in resources for your first-year quarterly gatherings.
5. Survey the book, *Transforming Your Church into a House of Prayer*; and the DVD series as well. Watch these videos. It has a companion disk with power points and other printable items.
6. **Now you are ready to devour this manual for Prayer Trainers.**
 - A. There are four sections in this manual:
 - a. Introductory materials.
 - b. Prayer Training Materials (Mentoring)
 - c. Learning Team Materials.
 - d. Quarterly Prayer Leaders Continuing Education Resource [PLCE] materials, with prayer experience resources, and supplemental materials.

STEP TWO: MEET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE A PRAYER TRAINER

1. Read the Manual – and certify that you have done so.
 - A. Review/Study the Prayer Training Materials (PLCE/Mentoring).
 - a. Watch the videos.
 - b. Take the quizzes.
 - c. Assure yourself that you know the material.
 - B. Review the Learning Team Materials and the PLCE materials.
2. Visit the websites – www.praycog.org and www.projectpray.org and become familiar with the resources on the sites, learn to navigate these sites.

* All these resources are available from Alive Publications – www.alivepublications.org.

STEP THREE: SUBMISSION OF COMPLETION NOTICE

1. Submit your notice of completion of the training.
2. Include a reference letter by a pastor/spiritual leader [not merely a peer or friend]. This should be someone who is aware of your desire to be a prayer trainer and commends you to that role. It may be the anchor congregation in the prayer training process that you are launching.
3. You will receive a call – telephone interview from Project Pray (or a representative of the ministry).
4. You will receive confirmation of your completion process.
5. And you are off and running!

STEP FOUR: BEGINNING THE PROCESS

1. The role of Prayer Trainer [PT] is not *positional*, but *relational*. That is, your ability to train will be contingent on open doors created by your own credibility augmented by the fact that you completed our training, agree to use our materials and facilitate learning by prayer leaders and teams in the spirit of servant.
2. Once you complete the training, you are free to pursue opportunities to serve.
3. There are three venues for prayer training ministry

A. *The first, and most likely place to begin, is your own congregation.* Assuming that your pastor was aware of your desire to complete this training and saw a role in your service to the church - that should be an open door. Begin with training sessions for those in that congregation who are interested in seeing a prayer ministry develop or grow.

If he is using the 'Praying Church Made Simple' model, he will begin a monthly gathering of potential prayer leaders. Offer to assist him in that role.

B. *The second option is to present yourself to the State Prayer Team/Coordinator of your denomination,* and offer training for churches in that denominational stream. With approval, call pastors. Set up an information meeting. Share the support materials. You want typically 3-12 churches in the process, 4-7 are ideal. Each brings their prayer leaders to the meeting, quarterly. In the intervening months, you make contact with the leaders and encourage them – first as a follow-up of the previous month, then as a preparation and encouragement to stay in the process for the coming quarterly gathering.

C. *The third option is to present yourself to pastors in your the city/county and offer training for churches of various denominations.* This can be a really enriching option. It can also be tricky, since different theologies and liturgies are at the table. But patience and grace can overcome differences and end up expanding our prayer practices. At the heart, all churches and Christians share similar struggles with prayer and prayer ministry. This model works on the strength of the integrity of prayer trainer. If pastors believe in you, see the prayer materials, want training for themselves and their leaders, you are off and running. Again, you typically want 3-12 churches in the process, 4-7 are ideal. And you proceed as noted above.

The city-wide, multi-denominational option is a great companion to the idea of a

city-wide prayer council (PC²LN), a joint project of the National Prayer Committee and the Mission America Coalition. See: www.pc2ln.org. Get the book, *Community Prayer Networks*, by P. Douglas Small.

STEP FIVE: ADVANCE AS A TRAINER

1. LEVELS

A. *Level One – You have completed the training. You are now a CERTIFIED TRAINER.*

- a. You may begin work with your own local congregation and their prayer team, with the approval of the pastor, of course.
- b. You may pursue other training venues.
- c. If existing PLCE efforts are underway in your area, volunteer to serve as an assistant trainer in those groups. Our goal is collaboration, rather than competition.
- d. Begin your own effort with at least three congregations (whether in a denominational or interdenominational stream). In either case, you will need consent, either from the denominational offices of the churches you are serving, and/or their prayer leadership team; or if in an eclectic arrangement, from the pastors whose prayer teams are participating.

B. *Level Two – You are actively training. ACTIVE TRAINER.*

- a. You are now training prayer leaders as a quasi-representative of Project Pray. You are not an employee or staff member, but functioning independently, yet collaboratively within our prayer training ideology and network.
- b. The training may be in a congregation; in a denominational prayer group; or an interdenominational PLCE group.
- c. Once you have had at least two quarterly meetings, you may apply for Level II recognition: Active Trainer. You will need to complete a report and request that status.

C. *Level Three – For those who are offering training outside your own congregation. LEAD TRAINER.*

- a. You are actively training outside your congregation with at least three congregations participating.
- b. You have sponsored two other Prayer Trainers who have completed Level I and are now CERTIFIED.
- c. One of them has served as an assistant PT for two or more Quarterly sessions.
- d. One of them becomes a PREMIER MEMBER of the PRAYING CHURCH MOVEMENT.
- e. You are a PREMIER MEMBER OF THE PRAYING CHURCH MOVEMENT.

2. Benefits.

- A. Prayer Trainers are NOT PAID. This is a ministry. You are free to raise support, but NOT TO CHARGE for the meetings.

- B. In order to assist you – you can receive discounts from Alive Publications materials.
 - a. Level I – 15% discount (Personal Use).
 - b. Level II – 25% discount (Personal Use).
 - c. Level III – 45% discount (on non-discounted items; or 45% of the standard retail price).
 - i. If you choose, you may resale items at the Quarterly Meetings, etc. But you must resale items at or near retail prices (all discounts must be approved by Alive Publications).
 - ii. You are listed on the Project Pray website as a PT.
 - iii. You must, however, be a PREMIER MEMBER of the Praying Church Movement.
- 3. On-Going Connections
 - A. There is a national call for trainers, once a quarter in anticipation of the next quarter’s PLCE meeting. All trainers are expected to be on one of the calls.
 - B. Podcasts.
 - C. Video Training Conferences.
 - D. As Project Pray Training Materials come online, you are welcome to become a contributor.
- 4. You must maintain a positive relationship with prayer teams you are training, with pastors and with denominational or para-church organizations that are sponsoring the training.
- 5. You must complete periodic upgrade training to continue as a PLCE trainer.
 - A. From time to time, there may be podcasts and video training conferences.
 - B. The idea of on-going PLCE is novel. We expect it to be dynamic process, and subject to change as we learn from the global prayer movement, adapt new approaches, refine our efforts to assist pastors and prayer leaders make their congregations ‘houses of prayer for the nations.’
- 6. You must have a passing score on the trainer evaluation forms distributed periodically.
- 7. You must respect pastoral leadership and doctrinal differences when in a multi-denominational context.

Primary Materials

- *The Prayer Trainers Manual* \$99.00
- *The Praying Church Resource Guide* \$99.00
- *The Praying Church Made Simple* and corollary materials \$20.00

Secondary Materials

- *Transforming Your Church into a House of Prayer* (along with the DVD set) \$40.00
- *Prayer – the Heartbeat of the Church* (set). \$25.00
- *The Praying Church Handbook* (Volume I, II; Volumes III, IV to follow). \$99.00

Auxiliary Materials

- *Prayer – as Entertaining God* \$15.00
DVD/CD \$20.00
- *Wet Eyes and Caring Hands* \$20.00
- *Intercession – the Uncomfortable Middle* \$12.99

Options

1. BECOME A PREMIER MEMBER OF THE PRAYING CHURCH MOVEMENT – Make a 2-year commitment. And the Primary and Secondary Materials are FREE. Auxiliary Materials may be purchased at a DISCOUNT.
2. Sign up for COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIP – FREE. And purchase the materials you desire.

Defining the Network

What is the Prayer Trainer's Network?

The Prayer Trainers Network is a group of believers, teachers and trainers, who have been gone through the Project Pray training to offer *Prayer Leaders Continuing Education* [PLCE] to their own prayer leadership team or a cluster of congregations in their movement or geographic area. In some cases, they may have been identified by the State Prayer Coordinator of a given denomination and authorized to provide some aspect of prayer ministry training, subject to their certification with Project Pray.

What Do Prayer Trainers Do?

Prayer trainers offer their services to congregations – for preaching/teaching, prayer seminars and workshops, consultation and more. They alert Project Pray regarding resources they have produced which are available electronically, in print or some other media form. In addition, they qualify themselves with various state or district denominational leaders.

How Are They Compensated?

In many cases, prayer trainers serve on the staff of a local church or are gainfully employed, and offer their services to local congregations for a free-will offering. In other cases, they may assess a fee for their services or require travel reimbursement. We ask that each trainer declare that status, and negotiate with each church regarding remuneration.

In their role in the *Prayer Leaders Continuing Education* network, there is no direct compensation.

What is the Primary Purpose of the Network?

The modern prayer movement is relatively young. Bible colleges and seminaries do not yet offer training in the area of prayer leadership. We find most churches are struggling with even basic prayer concepts, with prayer organization and more. By identifying prayer trainers, who affirm the goals of the *Praying Church Movement*, and have a balanced and holistic approach to prayer, we can aid our churches immeasurably. So, the goal is to identify credible teachers and trainers who can aid pastors and congregational prayer leaders.

In addition, congregations that are a part of the Praying Church Movement may be gathered quarterly for on-going Prayer Leaders Continuing Education. The curriculum is provided by Project Pray.

How Do I Get Referrals?

Once approved, a denominational Prayer Coordinator may be able to recommend you to pastors and churches within the district. Other state coordinators may also learn of your services and contact you as well. With approval, you may connect directly with pastors and prayer leaders. You may, in some cases, be asked to serve as a member of the State Prayer Training Team. Remember to always be sensitive to the larger goals of the State and National Prayer initiatives of the group

with which you serve. Be a team player. Promote prayer ideas and initiatives.

You may present the PLCE model to pastors and their prayer leaders inside a given denominational stream or in a geographic area with various congregations.

How Do I Become a Recognized Trainer/Teacher?

Each potential trainer/teacher is asked to send the following to Project Pray or to your denominational prayer coordinator:

1. A *resume* focused on prayer training and teaching, related ministry work, etc. The resume should list areas in which you are qualified to teach, examples of topics, etc. If you have any credentials or teaching certifications, other accomplishments, please note those.
2. Apart from the resume', create a *brief bio* with a *photo* that could be used in promotion. Include contact information, any ministry website, phone and email address, along with your preference on how pastors and prayer leaders are to connect with you?
3. Include *references* – the note of the pastor of your home church, places where you have taught or presented materials.
4. If you desire to offer seminars or workshops in addition to your service with Project Pray and the PLCE effort, send *samples* of teaching materials you have produced. This may include books or published articles, DVDs or CDs that you make available.
5. Financial - You need to note that your services apart from the PLCE process, are available on a donation or free-will offering basis, or for a set-fee. And you should note your time frames for availability.

What is My Obligation as a Recognized Trainer/Teacher?

You must be a premier member of the Praying Church Movement.

You must subscribe, in principle, to the *Seven Markers of a Praying Church*, and if you work within a denomination, you must respect that denomination, work with the State Prayer Team and the Coordinator as an adjunct member of the team, assist pastors and churches as called upon to do so, be ethical and noble in attitude and action.

You must complete the basic training. And on-going training in the PLCE as it is made available. Most training, after the initial training, is by webinars.

You must follow-through with any group you launch into the PLCE program; or continue until there is a replacement found.

You must not use the PLCE system to launch your own independent effort.

What are the Areas in Which Training is Needed?

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Personal Prayer | Prayer Walking |
| Prayer as a Spiritual Discipline | Prayer Missions |
| The Power of a Couple's Prayer | Prayer Ambassador Teams |
| The Family Altar | Spiritual Mapping |
| Blessing our Children – in Prayer | Prayer Support for the City |
| The Children's Global Prayer Movement | Effective Youth Prayer Efforts |
| The 24-7-365 Prayer Effort | Prayer and the Nearby College Campus |
| Establishing a Personal Prayer Room | The Prayer Box Ministry |
| Creating a Church Prayer Room | The Prayer Station Ministry |
| Effective Prayer Resources | Effective Prayer Chains |
| The Praying Church | Solemn Assembly |
| Intercessory Prayer | Enriching Personal Prayer |
| Intercession – the Priestly and Prophetic Dimension | Prayer-Care-Cause Groups |
| Mobilizing Intercessors | When Prayer is Out of Balance! |
| Praying for the Nation | Praying for the Lost |
| Praying for the Peace of Jerusalem | Models for Prayer |
| Structuring an Effective Prayer Meeting | Praying Scripture |
| Prayer and Evangelism | |

Purpose and Phases

The purpose of the Prayer Trainers/Prayer Leaders Continuing Education (PLCE) program is simple.

Mission: To create a context that engages prayer leadership teams of congregations in a mutual experience of encouragement and learning on their journey of bringing prayer to the heart of all they do! To embrace the Seven Markers of a Praying Church, in them the 4-dimensional model for prayer ministries: 1) Praying homes; 2) Pervasive prayer in all of church life, every ministry a praying ministry; 3) To engage and nurture healthy intercessors; 4) To turn prayer outward – a mission field near and far, a prayed-for community and city, nation and world. And that accomplished by using the “prayer-care-share” theology!

Vision: A network of congregations that are intentionally, systematically, and yet in a tempered way, growing praying churches in collaboration with other congregations with a similar vision, all to infuse a new spirit of personal and corporate spiritual vigor into the lives of members, families, staff and leaders, and intercessors – all to see Christ incarnated and proclaimed to a watching world; and to see this unwrap, not only in an isolated church, but in the context of community.

Specific Purposes for the Prayer Leaders Continuing Education Group:

1. Create a context for mutual learning for both pastors and prayer leaders for the purpose of the application of prayer in the context of the local church.
2. Explore primary resources created by Project Pray – *The Praying Church Resource Guide* (loose-leaf, 3-ring binder of resources), the *Praying Church Made Simple* resource; the *Praying Church Handbook* (4-Volume Perfect-Bound book), *Transforming Your Church into a House of Prayer*.
3. Resource one another. Make one another successful in prayer ministry efforts.
4. Establish a teaming environment – everyone wants to help leaders from sister churches succeed in their effort to create a culture of prayer in the congregation.
5. Refuse to let anyone ‘fall off the wagon.’ Become the ‘brother’s keeper of one another.’ The attitude – “We are not successful unless all are successful. We want to impact a denomination, a city, a nation, a world.”
6. Each church sets their own goals, advances at their own pace with members of the group assisting the other. Varied goals are unwrapped at different paces. Some will race forward. Some will see initial growth, then set-backs. This is a marathon.
7. Collaborate. Provide candid but edifying feedback – “Iron sharpens iron!” Pray together. Weep together. Rejoice together.

The Phases

The phases we outline in the *Church Prayer Leader's Resource Guide*:

1. **Doing Prayer** – Project prayer activities. Each church chooses its own activities.
2. **Envisioning Prayer** – Find potential prayer leaders. Stretch their vision and theology. Get them into the same room and onto the same team.
3. **Learning about Prayer, and Leading Prayer** – Create a teachable culture among your leaders, a learning process. Videos are available on the web-site. Reproducible handouts are in the Resource Guide.
4. **Planning - Projecting a Multi-Year Plan** – Tether the zeal of the potential prayer team. Insist first, on learning, not apart from doing. You need a long-term plan. A systematic plan. Not pieces, not little prayer ideas, but something strategic.
5. **Creating a Leadership Team** – With a multi-year plan, first year activities are now underway. Your discovery team becomes your prayer leadership team.
6. **Persistence** - Continue to explore. Learn. Encourage one another.
7. **Coaching** - At some point, mentoring may give way to coaching.

Praying Church Made Simple Phases

The phases we outline in the *Praying Church Made Simple* are -

1. **Doing Prayer** – Start a Prayer Meeting. Optional: Project additional prayer activities. Each church chooses its own activities.
2. **Create a 'Learning Team' that explores prayer, prayer ideas and Leading Prayer** – Create a teachable culture among a handful of leaders, a learning process. Videos are available on the web-site. Reproducible handouts are in the Resource Guide.
3. **Personal** – Practice personal prayer. Emphasize the importance of daily, grace-based, time with the Lord.

Be persistent. Continue to explore. Learn. Encourage one another.

The Process Overview

The PLCE groups will consist of 3-12 churches that meet with a Prayer Trainer [PT] (a Mentor/Learning Facilitator).

1. Month One – Nation-wide Vision Call. All churches invited to participate.

Face-to-face meeting of congregational prayer learning teams and a Prayer Trainer in PLCE groups

2. Month Two – PLCE Connections in Quads/Triads¹
3. Month Three – PT connects with key congregational prayer leaders (one-on-one).
 - National PT Call
 - State PT [may] connect
 - Triad/Quad Leaders [may] connect

¹ This is an optional idea, however, SOME TYPE OF FOLLOW-UP is CRITICAL. It may take another form, but for success, it MUST Happen. The focus on leaders meeting, face-to-face or by conference call is a gentle attempt to insure that some action has taken place followig the last face-to-face meeting. If the group is large, the division into quads/triads makes a great deal of sense. Those leaders then become more intense partners in the process, and another relational layer is added to the effort. Teaming makes all the difference. Also, with a larger group, this is a great chance to use assistant Prayer Trainers.

Prayer Leaders Continuing Education
Quarterly Meeting: Orientation Material 1001
Getting Started with Prayer Ministry

ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

6:00 PM **Informal sign-in**

6:30 PM **Prayer time and opening**

Explain: Tonight is the ORIENTATION, and it is a bit heavy in content.

We are defining our course – the seven markers of a praying church, the four-dimensions, and the three first steps. So hang on.

6:45 PM **TRAINING**

VIDEO ONE: Orientation – An Overview (7:59)

6:55 PM **TALK-IT-OVER/TAKE-IT-HOME Table Time**

(Use the Discussion Guide)

Note: The ideal setting is around tables to enable discussion groups.

Appoint a table facilitator. Use the distributed participant guide, but move the process along ... Below is the list of questions each table is considering.

1. The Praying Church movement is a group of churches who enter a process to bring prayer to the heart of all they do! They use the ‘Seven Markers’ as a standard, inside that are the ‘four dimensions’ that begin with the ‘Three Simple Steps’ [Praying Church Made Simple]. Is everyone familiar with this language?
2. At your church, is all, or most of your prayer energy turned inward?
3. In this model, the four dimensions are two pairs, each called a ‘world’ of prayer: At-home prayer partnered with pervasive prayer in the church; and intercessory prayer paired with prayer evangelism. Can you see the rationale of these pairings?
4. The goal of these meetings is to create a learning context that engages prayer leadership teams in a mutual experience of encouragement and learning on their journey to bring prayer to the heart of all they do! How can we make this process successful?
5. Review the five initial stages of the Prayer Leadership team [Doing Prayer; Dreaming about Prayer Ministry possibilities; Learning about prayer and prayer ministry/Getting Educated; Projecting an informed plan; Executing - beginning the process].

7:10-7:20 PM **VIDEO TWO: Orientation – Committing to the Process (8:39)**

7:20 PM **TALK-IT-OVER/TAKE-IT-HOME Table Time**

(Use the Discussion Guide)

1. Talk about the ‘Learning-Doing’ dialectic. Learn – then do; do, and discover what you need to learn or relearn!
2. Are you surprised with the statistic that almost half the people who attend church do not feel ‘close’ to God, and are, in that sense, hungry for God, perhaps asking the church to do what only a daily, personal relationship with God can do? What implication does that have for your prayer effort?
3. The goal, is not prayer programs – but to change the ‘culture’ of the church. And that is possible only by changing the daily habits of the people? How do you help that process along?
4. Discuss the five reasons prayer ministry leadership teams fail. [1. Failure to be a prayer-learning team who pray together, and lead by example; 2. Failure to become unified, functioning team; 3. Pursuit of pieces of prayer without a holistic approach, each passionate about some aspect of prayer, but not the whole; 4. Lack of a clear long-term vision of revival and mission out of personal transformation; 5. Failure to remain humble, to constantly partner humility and prayer.]
5. Quickly review the five tips for your journey:
 - a. Keep the ‘Big Picture’ in mind.
 - b. Constantly assess – where are we in the process?
 - c. Celebrate small victories.
 - d. Strategically plan – don’t allow little pieces and programs to replace your strategy.
 - e. Exploit the power of the sequential.

7:35-7:45 PM **VIDEO THREE: Reviewing the Seven Markers (10:08)**

7:45 PM **TALK-IT-OVER/TAKE-IT-HOME Table Time**

(Use the Discussion Guide)

1. Review the Seven Markers (See the handout sheet).
2. Discuss the terms ‘transformational’ prayer, and ‘pervasive’ prayer.
3. Identify the ‘four dimensions’.
4. Identify the 1st three important steps (The Praying Church Made Simple model).
5. Review the innovation diffusion model – the immediate goal: 15-20% engaged in a prayer process.

8:00 PM **TALK-IT-OVER/TAKE-IT-HOME Table Summaries**

Take a moment and have someone from each table share their most significant insight.

8:20 PM

TOOL TIME

REVIEW: Resource Materials for the Coming Quarter

This is dated material and prior to each quarterly PLCE meeting, you will want to check the website for the latest projections of upcoming prayer resources and events.

There may be reproducible handouts and in some cases videos.

This is also the point at which you can introduce a short 'Prayer Exercise.' There are prayer exercise videos in the back of this section, some with handouts.

8:30 PM

Prayer Time

Head home.

Prayer Leaders Continuing Education

Quarterly Meeting: Orientation Material 1001

Getting Started with Prayer Ministry

ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

- 6:00 PM **Sign-in/Register**
- Find a table. At times, your group may be asked to sit with prayer leaders from other churches – for enrichment.
- 6:30 PM **Prayer time and opening**
- Welcome by Prayer Trainer
- 6:45 PM **TRAINING**
- VIDEO ONE: Orientation – An Overview (7:59)
- 6:55 PM **TALK-IT-OVER/TAKE-IT-HOME Table Time**
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8:20 PM **TOOL TIME**

8:30 PM **Prayer Time**

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