

Blame it on the 30+ years of vocational ministry, but my eyes roll up and I have to fight a gag reflex when I see the proliferation of flavor-of-the-month discipleship programs on the market today. Cranky, aren't I?

DISCIPLESHIP

... a *Shared* journey

by Don Matsune

I just scanned the 260+ occurrences in the Gospels of the Greek word math-jts, a learner, translated a "disciple". Three categories are immediately apparent. First, are the almost 20 references to disciples of John, and the Pharisees. Then, there are the surprisingly few passages in which Jesus is quoted by John, which are the tests of true discipleship:

- 8:31 holding to Jesus teaching
- 13:35 loving one another
- 15:8 living fruitful lives

Well over 200 uses of the word "mathjts", simply identify one or more of his followers, in various activities with Him.

They were coming to Jesus, following Him, having dinner with Him, visiting people with Him, walking through grain fields with Him, with Him in boats, leaving the temple with Him, on the Mount of Transfiguration with Him, in the Garden of Gethsemane with Him. You get the idea. They simply hung out a lot with Jesus.



And it was in those settings that He taught them, they questioned Him and even argued with Him, they heard Him teaching others, they saw Him raising a ruler's dead daughter, they participated in the miraculous feeding of the multitudes, they were criticized and ridiculed by Pharisees, they scolded some children and in turn were rebuked by Jesus, they failed when trying to heal a boy, they saw Him transfigured, they fell asleep in His presence and then deserted Him.

And my point, you ask?

My mind goes back to the days immediately after I invited Christ into my life while a student living on campus at UBC. Bill, who introduced me to Jesus, came by to visit. He read a chapter of the New Testament with me. Then he explained what it meant to him, and asked how I thought it might apply to me.

Then he asked me what he could pray for me, and he invited me to pray with him. A couple of days later, he invited me to sit in while he talked to another student about Christ.

Somewhere along the way, Bill found

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Don Matsune

NAVIGATORS
Church Partnering
Ministry

Don, a Nisei, grew up in Calgary and came to faith as a student at UBC. He joined the staff of the Navigators in 1972. He and his wife Gael have ministered on university campuses from Calgary to Wolfville, NS., recently completing a 3-year term in London, ON, where Don set up the Navigators People Resources Group to address Staff Care, Staff Development and Personnel Services. They now reside in Calgary and are serving in the Church Partnering context. Their 3 adult children, AJ, Jeff and Heather, live in Winnipeg, Calgary and Ottawa respectively.

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Pastor Yoshi and Makiko
with daughter Noa

Report from the Lethbridge Ministry

(Lethbridge Japanese Christian Fellowship), Lethbridge, Alberta
by Pastor Yoshi Nakao

Praise the Lord!

Through your prayers and gifts of love for us, the Lord has done many wonderful things in Lethbridge. We continue to be deeply blessed of God as we have been recipients of such generous love and support from many Christians across Canada. Many who do not even know us! It has spurred me on to pray for our Japanese Canadians.

We have had special worship services with the Japanese students from Prairie Bible College in Three Hills, Alberta. All who attended, such as the new family from Japan were deeply moved and encouraged by their worshipful music. This family now also joins us for the

Editor's Note: An update from the CJM treasurer in early April reports that the Nakao's monthly support level has gained somewhat since our last notification to you. However, the shortfall remains at a critical level of \$490.00 per month. Your prayers are and financial support are urgently needed.

afternoon tea club and went ice fishing with us this month. Recently, together with one of the men who attends our afternoon club, we started a "KENDO Club". My wife, Makiko and I, now attend the Alpha course at First Baptist Church. After we finish this course, I would like to share this study with our church members.

We had four new members attend our last Men's breakfast. They were men I met at the Fukuoka Kenjinkai. Then again, another man who moved here from Japan to start his own business also came. These are middle aged men who need the Lord in their lives. Do pray for us as we seek to minister the Word, both by our lives and activities.

Praise the Lord, our afternoon Tea club is growing! With a new lady in February, there were 11 people including the children. Through my wife's

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Nori & Blanche Kanashiro

... from the General Director
Nori Kanashiro

In the turbulent world in which we are living, may each of our anchors hold firmly on the solid rock, Christ Jesus.

The theme of this issue is "Discipleship". From time to time, we will focus in on some common topic that is relevant to each of our churches. As we share how we are meeting or are being challenged in those areas, I am sure we can benefit by each others experiences.

Due to the overwhelming success of the Summer Youth Ministry last year, plans for the summer of 2003 are under way with the Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto being one of the host churches. Please note the article below for further information. □

SYM 2003

SUMMER YOUTH MINISTRY

by Nori Kanashiro

Riding on the high from last years Summer Youth Ministry, the local church coordinating committee at the Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto is planning to host four summer workers from Calgary and/or Edmonton for a three week ministry period in July, 2003.

The purpose of the Summer Youth Ministry is:

1. To give opportunity for Christian service.
2. To develop spiritual maturity while gaining leadership skills.
3. To promote evangelism.
4. Fellowship with others across Canada.

Criteria for acceptance are as follows:

1. To have a positive and vibrant testimony for Jesus Christ.
2. To trust the Lord for the supply of financial and other real needs related to yourself and the ministry.
3. To work in a team setting as required by the ministry.
4. To have a clear understanding of the Gospel and prepared to lead the unsaved to Christ.
5. Must be 14 years of age (before April 1, 2003).

Each applicant will be challenged to look to the Lord to raise their own prayer and financial support.

For further information, please see your pastor or contact:

Nori Kanashiro
(CJM) Summer Youth Ministry 2003
Tel: (416) 321-5831 Email: nbkan@sympatico.ca



CALGARY JAPANESE GOSPEL CHURCH

DISCIPLESHIP in the *Spirit*

by Daniel Komori

Hi, my name is Dan Komori and I'd like to share an aspect of how the College and Career at Calgary Japanese Gospel Church are currently engaged in discipleship.

As you can tell by the title, we, as a group are learning about Christian spirituality (the life we experienced in the Spirit of God). We gather every other week at the church to learn and discuss concepts and ideas, but we most importantly practise some things concerning our life with God. A large theme is to simply understand how to hear God's voice (which isn't so simple).

One example of what we do is engaging regularly in an ancient practice called Lectio Divina (Holy Reading) in which we meditate on God's Word and allow it to sink past our rational brain and into the deep seat of our hearts. It is easy to learn and know Christian doctrine and biblical truths, but to listen to the "still small voice" requires much discipline and perseverance. Yet, it is amazing how God's Word can so quickly reveal and heal

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NOS - "Needing Our Shepherd"

by John Komori

Discipleship is one of the focuses within the NOS group. Apart from the bible studies and activities we have every month, there are several other ways in which we are seeking to make disciples out of our youth. First, there is a small group named "The CORE" which, at the moment, consists of Goro H., Erina S., and Grace I. The counselors and CORE meet every month to plan, pray, do leadership studies, as well as discuss issues and concerns within the NOS group. We also have them take a leadership role within the youth, giving them responsibilities to help organize a lot of our activities.

We have had the luxury (blessing) of having a relatively small number of youth in our group. As a result, the counselors have been able to divide the youth up amongst them, so that each counselor can build a relationship with every member. This is more of a one-on-one discipleship process. We try to do this through a variety of different ways: calling to see how they are doing, going for coffee, a movie, or just hanging out doing an activity. Through this process, our vision is that each youth will be touched individually and be given the opportunity to ask questions about the Christian journey and to be prayed over. □

From Pastor to People

RELATIONSHIPS

by Rev. Edward Yoshida
Wesley Chapel - Toronto, Ontario



Pastor Edward Yoshida

First of all, the pastor/missionary must be "called." Called by God and convicted by God, that his life is to be offered in a full-time service to Him. Although there are many "professional pastors" who chose the ministry as their career, each pastor must have a strong sense of this divine calling.

Secondly, the pastor is a leader/teacher. He is to be respected, regardless of one's agreement with him. While it is incumbent upon the pastor to "feed the flock," (John 21) the people must be careful not to "roast their pastor" over Sunday dinner.

Thirdly, the pastor must be faithful & dependable. A missionary, who had agreed to meet a volunteer layman for an appointment failed to appear. He had to be reminded by another that apology was crucial. Each pastor/missionary serves with the words of our Lord: "well done thou good and faithful servant" ringing in his ears each moment of his life.

Fourthly, the pastor loves and cares for his people. This means that he is sensitive to special needs, fair to each in his congregation and tolerant of peculiar members. He does not forget that "love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8)

The laity/members of the church should also be called of God to their occupation, subject to their gifts, skills & education. There is no second standard of commitment for lay Christians in the early church. It was essentially a lay movement.

Finally, church work/ministry is teamwork. If the pastor of a church is considered a coach, other members of the congregation must play their roles. Churches that have only 10-15% of the membership donating 90% of the offerings and doing 90% of the ministry cannot expect to grow & impact their community. With all their shortcomings Moses & Paul were models of the ministry. What they had in common was the strong sense of their calling & commitment. This kept them from job fatigue. □



Pastor & Mrs. Ed Yoshida
with daughter Esther

Wesley Chapel Japanese Congregation (Toronto)

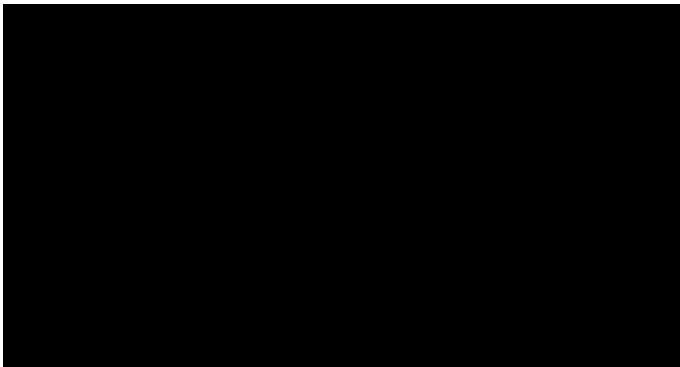
Discipleship at Wesley Chapel

by Pastor Edward Yoshida

Discipleship training at Wesley Chapel Japanese Church features two cell groups. They are both active and growing.

The first of these meets semi-monthly in Niagara Falls at the Takeshita home. Christians and non-Christians gather for these meetings led by Cliff Schieffer & Edward Yoshida. Frequently believers invite their unbelieving friends to the meeting. At the last meeting, Katsura-san, having had her baby just 5 days earlier, invited her friend for dinner and brought her to the group. She then asked the leader to bless the baby in front of those gathered. The image and impression that she left on others was very powerful. She became a model of discipleship.

At each meeting, a culturally acceptable custom in Japan of self-introduction, follows the singing of a few choruses. However, the "self-introduction" usually becomes an occasion for a short experience-sharing moment. They become powerful tools of the Holy Spirit. The tone is set for the Bible study to follow. Frequently, an invited guest has asked to speak one-to-one with a leader or seasoned



Niagara Falls Study and Fellowship Group

Christian. When a decision for Christ is made, a glow on their face becomes evident and invariably they will join the group for discipleship and fellowship. When such results are witnessed, others are impressed. One gentleman remarked: SUGOI. Those who accept Christ are followed up by leaders in their local cell group. Spiritual energy generated by such discipleship-in-action creates an appetite for more, and we find that these local lay persons forming prayer circles and attending local churches on their own. Thus the 5th Anniversary Celebration of the Niagara Falls cell group coming up on May 3rd includes a One-Day Bible School and an Evening Friendship Service. Three pastors/leaders from Toronto and New York state are involved in these events.

The other cell group in Toronto runs generally the same, except, that these members are ladies only. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. There is a greater caring & sharing among these ladies because they come from the same area and have more opportunities to contact one another between cell group meetings. Since many of these ladies are tied to the church, their leadership has developed and some are already taking their place as officers and volunteers in worship Service. Discipleship training is exciting & rewarding at Wesley Chapel. □

NorthEast Nikkei Christian Conference

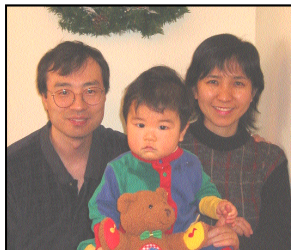
(Please see ad on page 8 for additional information)

The guest speaker for this annual three day Conference is Rev. Eiji Yonemura of Otsu, Kumamoto, Japan. His wife is expected to accompany him. Rev. Yonemura came to know the Lord through the ministry of Eulalia Spoor, a veteran missionary still working in Takamori in Japan. He is the senior pastor in one of the largest evangelical church in that region. Christians from Rochester, Buffalo, Detroit and southwestern Ontario will once again enjoy a deep spiritual weekend.

CJM MISSION STATEMENT

As God envisions and enables, CJM works in cooperation with its membership and affiliated church groups, to encourage, promote and actively engage in endeavors deemed to further the cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the Nikkei population in Canada.

- adopted by the membership, AGM June 1, 2002



Pastor Ray & Minako
with son Sean, age 1.

Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto

DISCIPLESHIP ... a Heart Transformation

by Pastor Ray Ebisuzaki www.jgct.com

First, I'd like to thank CJM for encouraging church leaders to reflect on and communicate how discipleship is being done in our churches.

Discipleship occurs at JGCT mainly in 4 ways:

1. Small groups: Young Peoples', College & Career's, Ladies', Men's, Monday Night Bible Study, Prayer Groups, Sunday School.
2. Personal Relationships: mentoring.
3. Camp.
4. Sunday Service.

My personal evaluation of discipleship at JGCT: Evaluating discipleship & spiritual growth is difficult, but this would be my intuitive evaluation: significant discipleship is occurring (especially in the small groups and at camp) but considerably better discipleship could be done, i.e., there is much room for improvement.

Ways to make improvements:

- a. Become clearer in my own mind on the process of discipleship & spiritual formation. I believe an exceptional resource for this is "Renovation of the

Heart" by Dallas Willard (2002) - it challenges many of our previous ideas on how our hearts are changed/ transformed.

- b. Be an example of heart transformation.
- c. Educate church leaders & the church regarding the transformation of the heart.
- d. Ask the leaders of different groups how they would evaluate discipleship in their groups.
- e. Work together with these leaders to see discipleship happen: e.g., make discipleship goals, plans to reach those goals, and then pray & work to reach the goals.
- f. Have more leaders or members trained in counselling.
- g. Encourage mentoring. □



JGCT Ladies Study Group led by Marianne Kunihiro

(continued from page 1)

out that I ran a semi-professional sign shop on campus, and that on the eve of the university's open house, I had to work all night to get signs done for the next day. He and a friend came to the shop with me and tried to help, if only by getting coffee. Both had to work the next morning, and Bill had a young family at home, but they would not leave until 2:30 a.m., I pretended to be done and let them drop me off at my residence. Sacrificial involvement. The theological term is love.

Being a disciple is not a course or a program so much as it is a guided experience and a shared journey. Discipling others is simply sharing in that journey on a day-to-day basis. May the Holy Spirit energize and enable us to do simply that. □

DONATIONS

to the

GENERAL FUND

or to a specific project
such as the

LETHBRIDGE MINISTRY

(Pastor Yoshi Nakao)

may be sent to the CJM treasurer

Mr. Tomo Adachi

#307 - 220 Woodridge Cres.,
Nepean, ON K2B 8G1



Pastor Tetsuya & Mari
Fukusaku with children
Shinya & Yuya

VANCOUVER JAPANESE GOSPEL CHURCH

by Pastor Tetsuya Fukusaku

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are happy to report that the Lord has been blessing the ministry of the Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church. As a Bible centered, evangelical church, we seek to convey God's will through the preaching of the Gospel and making his disciples. We seek also to love God and our neighbors by worshiping Him, fellowship and ministry to one another.

Our church has started new activities, such as the senior friendship group, which meets once every other month following the Sunday service. The Barnabas groups, (men in their 30's and 40's) and Mary's group, (ladies who have small children). These new groups have been functioning well, especially for welcoming newcomers who often seek out their own age groups.

In the English section, Talk Time and youth activities have been carried out on a regular basis and many youth and ESL students have enjoyed the activities. We are looking forward to the coming Easter service. Ms. Seiko Kaneko is preparing to be baptized on that day.

There are also other people who have been involved in Bible studies for some time, we pray that they will soon make a decision to follow the Lord.

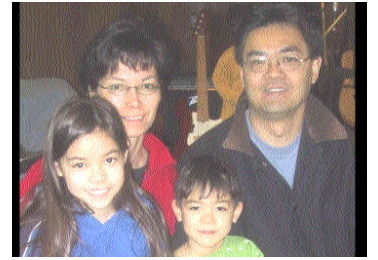
Currently, we have about 70 people attending our Sunday service and it is very encouraging to see more than half of them attending Sunday School classes as well. Sunday School is organized from infant class to the adults in both Japanese and English languages.

PLEASE PRAY FOR US THAT WE WILL GLORIFY OUR LORD. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU TOO. ☐



Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church

New Secretary



Tina & Brady Sakon with
daughter Taylor and son Jake

CJM is happy to welcome Tina Sakon of the Calgary Japanese Gospel Church to her new role as the Secretary of CJM. She follows Machiko Budai who has served in this capacity for 24 years. Machiko continues as our Membership Secretary.

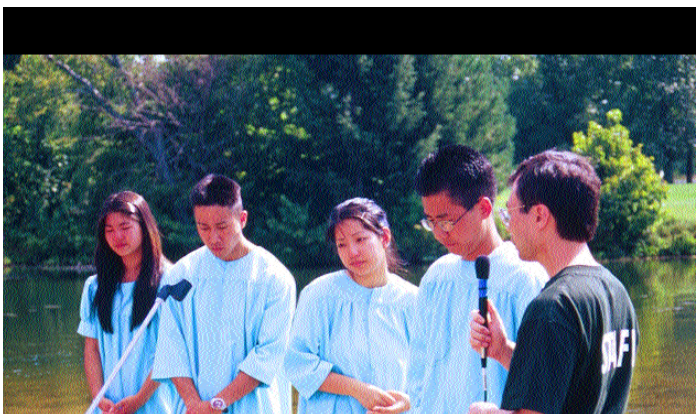
Hello, my name is Tina Sakon. I was born in Calgary, and have lived here all my life. My husband is Brady Sakon and we have been blessed with two children, a daughter, Taylor, who is 8 years old and a son, Jake, who is 5 years old. I graduated in 1984 from the University of Calgary with a nursing degree and have spent the majority of my career working with children or teaching. I am currently at home with my children. I became a Christian when I was very young at the CJM Bow Valley Camp in Canmore, Alberta. We attend the Calgary Japanese Gospel Church and are involved in various activities such as teaching preschool Sunday school, leading the family fellowship group, and scheduling the church's events and meetings. Ron Dirks is the pastor of our church. ☐

(continued from page 3)

our hearts in continual acts of renewal, when we simply provide the proper soil on which his Word can take root. (Mark 4:1-20). To build a life in which we can hear God's voice will indeed require much discipline, effort, struggles, and perseverance. May God continue to open people's hearts, and help us to become more receptive to the Spirit who guides us into all truth.

The church today needs more believers who truly know the Lord intimately, and are aware of the Spirit who is continually giving guidance and who desperately seeks to speak words of healing and renewal.

If nobody has trained their ears, who will hear what the Spirit says to the churches? ☐



Pastor Ray Ebisuzaki of Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto about to conduct a Baptismal Service at Camp 2002.

(Continued from page 2)

pregnancy she made new friends. There are 3 Japanese ladies who are expecting this summer. We will keep in touch with them. A Kid's Club will be started in March. Some of our mothers are having difficulty coping with their children in the Canadian play school, mainly due to the language barrier. We are sharing these problems and getting together with the Japanese moms and their children.

As we invite new friends to our home for fellowship, the Lord is teaching us patience. We are learning that the principles of church planting is to plant the seed and the fruits will follow.

Please keep praying for the CJM ministry in Lethbridge. We thank you all who continually support us financially and in prayer. May God bless abundantly. ☐

CONGRATULATION

to Yoshi, Makiko & Noa Nakao
(CJM workers in Lethbridge, Alberta)
on the arrival of a new daughter and sister
ANGELA INORI
on March 25, 2003

----- cut along dotted line -----

Canadian Japanese Ministry (CJM) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ P.C. _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Individual Membership \$10.00 per year

☐ I wish to apply for the year _____.

☐ Please send me the Constitution and Bylaws and other information

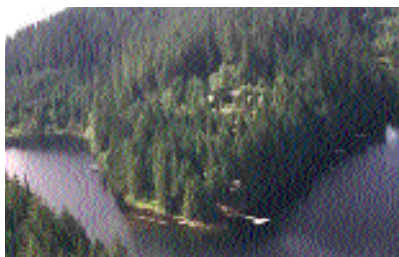
Please send application to:

Mrs. Machiko Budai
7451 Francis Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 1A1

LOON LAKE 2003 Conference & AGM

May 31 - June 1, 2003
at
LOON LAKE
Outdoor Education Centre
Maple Ridge, B.C.

Conference Theme:
"Running the Race
Marked Out for Us" (Heb. 12:1)



*Come apart and rest awhile
among West Coast forest and
pristine Loon Lake!*

Ministry of the Word:
Pastors of CJM affiliated churches

Registration:

Fri. May 30, 3:00 pm.

Cost: \$135.00 (full weekend)
\$25.00 (One day & one night)

*Overnight bedding required
- except for those flying in.*

For more information:
Contact: Mrs. Machiko Budai
(604) 227-3925
Email: kuroy@shaw.ca

SYM 2003

designed for YOUTH ...
- Christian service
- Spiritual growth
- Fellowship & Friends

See page 2 for more details

Brief NEWS from the Churches

Edmonton Japanese Christian Church:

This year marks our 25th year as the Edmonton Japanese Christian Church which was started by the late Philip Hatano in 1978. We are thankful for God's faithfulness and His continuing hand upon this church. Pray with us as we seek to continue God's ministry and vision for this church in the future. We are also continuing to seek a Japanese department pastor.

Pastor Yuri Nakano will be graduating from Taylor Seminary in Edmonton with a Master of Divinity Degree in May.

Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church:

On Sat. evening, April 26, we plan to show the JESUS video (English with Japanese subtitles) as a post-Easter evangelistic outreach. Our hope and prayer is to reach a significant number of English, ESL and Japanese speaking contacts. Simultaneously, we will be showing the "Story of JESUS for the Children" in the lower auditorium.

New Westminster Evangelical Free Church:

Our Christian education and Evangelism Committees are busy formulating an 'ESL for evangelism' outreach into our multi-ethnic community to begin something in April. The same Christian Ed. Committee is also looking ahead to host a number of

'Spaghetti Dinners' to raise sponsorship funds for Bible camps this summer for children and young people not able to pay their own way.

Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto:

After spending seven years of faithful and fruitful ministry in the Nichigo department of the Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto, Pastor Yuzuru Yano and his wife, Midori, will return to Japan on the 25th of June, 2003. Pray with us for a servant of God's choosing to lead the Japanese-speaking ministry in our church. Their daughter, Tomo, began her one year mission venture, as staff with YWAM on the island of Maui, Hawaii.

The annual JGCT summer camp is scheduled for August 24 - 30, 2003. This camp represents a major outreach to our community and discipleship ministry for youth in the church. Approx. 120 campers and staff will gather on the shores of the Trent Canal at Fair Glen Youth Camp approx. one hour drive NE from Toronto. Camp 2003 will be the 49th consecutive year we have held this annual event at this location. □

17th Annual North East NIKKEI CHRISTIAN Conference

August 2-4, 2003

at
Crieff Hills Conference Centre
Puslinch, Ontario (South of Guelph)

Speaker:

Rev. Eiji Yonemura
Otsu, Kumamoto-ken, Japan

Theme: "NEW LIFE, NEW LIFESTYLE"

Cost: \$150.00

(Registration before July 1, 20% reduction)

For further information and registration:

Rev. Edward Yoshida
Tele: (416) 425-6760
Email: esyoshida@look.ca

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