



St. Luke's College
Social - Pastoral Formation center
Edin, Myitkyina



Graduated Students' Testimonial
2014 - 2016



OVERVIEW

St. Luke's school network with different groups and conducted for the external and internal center learning. The School conducted exposure, field trip, Sunday apostolic work, joint prayer services and sharing with different denominations for peace and unity. Within this two years, first and second year (81) students involved in this program. The program allows the students to visit to a place outside the regular classroom - designed to achieve cross learning, skill and gave opportunity for learning through networking. The major aims are

- Cultural exposure to different places
- Cross learning experience with the other centers of learning
- Direct exposure to faith communities of different culture
- Testing the socio pastoral training skills with communities
- Exposure to the curriculum and pedagogy of other centers
- Understanding the socio pastoral needs of the community through discussion.
- Communication of the Word, catechetical message to faith communities.

METHODS

- Face to face interaction with students and staff of other institutes
- Maintaining log books, journals and personal reflection papers
- Group sharing and discussion among the students every day.
- Exposure to other cultural expressions – drama, dance and the dresses
- Understanding through communication with communities
- Testing the skills learned in the institute through hands on experience in the field.
- In depth discussions with the staff of the various institutes.
- Developing inter personal skills through listening etc.



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I have expanded a great understanding and feel happy to study at St. Luke college. Within this two years gained a lot. I came from IDP camp. My people are living a risky life without any guidance. I hope I can become now a light to my people. I have some inspiration to work with the youth in my place. I got some skill to work with the youth as they are future leaders of the community. Many youth are on the road and no proper training and education. I think, this ministry is urgent ministry for me. I see my school as a flower garden. She is giving light and nourishing her students in many ways. The flowers and fruits formed in St. Luke's garden are going to decorate the whole world for the glory of God.



Joseph NHkum Tang Gun

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Vocation is to serve the people. Jesus called his Apostles to follow him. That means to serve. I was called by Jesus to serve his people as a catechist. My formation and training experience at St. Luke's College has had a profound impact on my life and mission work. The formation program certainly helped me on how to care for my faith community. Two years socio-pastoral formation program at St. Luke's College is short. After my studies, I will work with my community in the town areas. I am happy the school provides us with modern technology to use and learn. I learned some skills of computer at St. Luke's college. I also learned social communication skill. I improved and gained maturity in my interpersonal communication skills. St. Luke's College is a peaceful house. We could grow our life, spiritual as well as our faith, fill with knowledge, and improve our skills. I would like to thank God, to all the staff and donors for this program.

Joseph Shamyen Sin Wa Naw



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I came from a remote area called Ndung zup village. I have broadened my knowledge and formation here at the St. Luke's College. I experienced a unique learning inside and outside the school. Reflecting on my exposure, it was remarkable and unforgettable. Sharing and discussion with the students from different institutes gave me more knowledge and improved our skill. I realized it is important to learn together through theory and practical. Library is also helpful to increase our knowledge. When I go back home, my ministry is for the children's education. We have one mission school opened by the Church. Only up to 1st grade. I will try my best to improve our school. We have schools opened by other denominations. But, we need our own school for the children to learn Christian values, faith education and formation in the school.



Pawlu Hpauroi Brang Nan

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The Love of God is abundant. Within these two years God blessed me with wisdom to study different subjects, increase my knowledge and improve my skills. At St. Luke's College, I could improve my spiritual life. I also broadened my knowledge of our culture and history. I had many difficulties during these two years. In time of difficulties, formation teams offered me spiritual guidance so that I could overcome all the difficulties. All the subjects, knowledge and skills provided at St. Luke's school not only benefited my life but also it will also help my ministry work in leading faith community in their spiritual life.

Mark Hpau Pawng Htoi Lar



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I had wanted to be a servant of God since I was a non-catholic Christian. I lost my faith and spiritual life and lived without knowing the way to God. However, God had blessed me and I became a catholic Christian. I found and came to know God and yet I became a servant of God. For all the subjects, knowledge and skills that I learned, I would like to give thanks to St. Luke's College. I believe all of my fellow students would feel the same and use them effectively in their ministry work. I would recommend to continue this program to produce good community faith leaders providing latest and advanced subjects, methods, skills and knowledge. I am certain that in my ministry work, I will practice and use all the skills and knowledge I have gained as much as I can.



John Tsum Hka Brang Htoi

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Experience is the best teacher. I experienced a lot at College which I can't buy. First remarkable experience was that this college is very homely and gives the warmth of a family atmosphere. I am happy with the staff and students. We are like a family. We came from different areas and cultures. I learned a lot from these differences. During the formation, I liked especially Personal development course and the process which challenged me and made me grow. I came to know myself more. I also experienced how God is working in my life during these two years. Challenges also helped me to grow through the grace of God. When I go back, I will focus my ministry on youth. Many youth are spoiled because of drugs. Drugs are the biggest problem in Kachin state. I will work with them and change their lives with the Word of God. I thank St. Luke's College, which energized me spiritually as well as socio-pastoral formation. I always thank and pray for all those involved in this program. I like to suggest the school to have more class rooms for the students according to their level. So that each person can learn more.

Veronica Maran Htoi Seng



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My two -year program at St. Luke's College was an empowering program for my growth. I always thank God for this great opportunity. I came from Je yang IDP camp near China. Before I came to St. Luke's College, I was deeply moved by the condition of my people. I saw and experienced how many children were left on the road, with no proper school and religious teaching. Civil war made all these tragedies. I worried a lot about them. I wanted to do something for my people. Fortunately I could reach this school. At St. Luke's College, I tried hard with all the ability I had. Sometimes, I also came across many difficulties. I sailed through all the challenges through God's Grace.

I am growing day by day in many ways. I see changes happening in me. My inner life is fortified through daily Eucharist and Word of God. I love it. My attitudes change slowly and my confidence is stronger now. The school changed my life slowly and steadily. Before, I dare not stand in front of the people and talk. Now I can stand and even preach. I trust myself and can lead the people. I develop my practical knowledge a lot by working with the community. My inner strength comes through good faith and strong socio-pastoral formation. My dream is to go back and work at the IDP(Internally Displaced People) camp, especially teaching the children catechism, encouraging their education. We also need protection of our Land rights. If possible, I would like to even open an orphanage school and want to save the Kachin ethnic children's lives. I believe I am equipped to do all these through the training I am undergoing.



Theresa Lazing Bawk Nan

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In my life, I never thought of being a catechist. Studying at St. Luke's College was miraculous blessing of God for me. I learned a lot of subjects, knowledge and skills. My faith became more solid. I gained social communication skills. Here at St. Luke's, I received the real light of Jesus Christ and it transformed my bad habits into better ways of life. I myself also felt inner peace and happiness. I gained knowledge and leadership skills on community organizing and be a witness of the light of Jesus through living a better way of life as well as mission work.

Patrick Nkawng Zau Mun



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My life saw a big change after I came to St. Luke's. I profit a lot from this school. It broadened my knowledge, especially I grow in my faith and improved my relationship with God and others. I am happy and thank all the staff for showing us a good example and helping in many ways. I'll take the model of the school and apply when I go back. I will work with the children and youth. I saw many youth are spoiling themselves and they need someone to show the way. Drug issue is the main problem in my place. I'll help them to escape from there and work with the elders in the village. I would like to suggest the school to improve the class room, divide the level and need more infrastructures.



Anthony Dinghkang La Ra

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I studied two years at St. Luke's. Many things I learned; I like most Meditation on the Word of God, learning the Bible, how to apply in our daily life, how to preach, teaching method of catechism, Social teachings of the Church and value education. What I learned at the school in theory and put into practice outside made my study more effective. It has helped me to be prepared for my future. My field trip experience was good learning. It inspired a lot for my future and further studies. I came from IDP camp. I learned how to work with the IDP people. During the school time, joining with peace and unity services with different denominations and other Christians was a support. Actually, among the Christians, I see division and disunity. We need to arrange many meetings with the brother Christians in our school. I am interested to work with the youth and children. I was a Youth leader before I joined St. Luke's College. The youth need guidance.

Elizabeth Maran Hka Awng Ja



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I had a chance to study with students from different places. This enlarged my outlook. At St. Luke's College I found good learning opportunity of socio-pastoral theory and practical. My formation and learning here encouraged my commitment to faith community in our places. I have decided to commit myself to work with my community at my village. I come from a very remote village. I know there are many things to do with my community. They need good leaders. What I learned at St. Luke's improved my life and my knowledge. I am growing, spiritually, mentally, and physically. I am happy St. Luke's is upgrading itself into a higher learning level for all our community.



Pawlu Npyet La Rip

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I am a musician. In my life I never expected or thought of becoming a catechist. I really felt God's love and called in my life. Our school offers a comprehensive program. Classroom teaching was enriched by an exposure program. Travelling in a group itself is a great learning experience. I got to learn about the different cultures. St. Luke's College facilitated faith and culture studies. My theoretical learning at St. Luke's and practical field work, exposure to different places helped my growth in understanding of unity in diversity of society, culture, religions. Seeing, experiencing and learning such different things, I am inspired to do many new things. During my second year, I came across many difficulties at home. But God is good to me and He gave me strength to overcome such things through my daily work and prayer. I thank St. Luke's staff and donors for providing this study program.

John Magawng Tu Ja



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Studies at St. Luke's College made my faith more solid. I learned about liturgy and rites of the Catholic Church as well as the history of the church. Through formation and learning the Word of God, I reflected myself and I came to realize that I had to change myself first. I came to know myself better. From exposure trip, field trips, I was inspired by the missionaries, priests, catechists who even gave their life for the evangelization of Catholic Church. It also strengthened my commitment and dedication as a faith community leader. From pastoral experience, I learned different livelihoods of the community in different villages, and different leadership skills of catechists in the villages in their ministry work. In my ministry, I shall try to integrate the Word of God and our culture, create unity and solidarity among communities. I shall be a model community leader.



Thomas Laza Naw Di

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I had lived my life drinking alcohol, beer and using drugs. People in my community had looked down on me as an alcoholic or a drugs user and they did not like me. It upset me. I got an opportunity to study here at St. Luke's College and I started reflecting as I studied about the Word of God, Bible and through formation. After many reflections, I realized that God's Love, compassion and forgiveness are more enormous than all the evil I had committed. After studying many subjects and learning many skills at St. Luke's College, I learned that being a catechist (community faith leader) is building a community of faith, peace and development without discrimination of rich or poor, white or black, educated or uneducated.

Patrick Sumlut Seng Dan



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Time flew very first in the St. Luke's College. Now is the time for work in a real situation. I learned leadership skills here in St. Luke's College. I learned a lot from my exposure trip, field trip with the community, and apostolic work. As a catechist, it is important to know both spiritual and physical needs - even political science. I will work with the marginalized people in my place because many companies are coming to my place and our people are uneducated and cheated by the rich. It is a great challenge. I also learned computer skills in St. Luke's. I thank God and all the staff, Bishops for providing this program for the faith community leaders.



Peter Nsen Bum Hkrang

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I am happy and thank St. Luke's College for opening my eyes and heart. I learned and found a lot of new things which I didn't know before. I grow in my spiritual life, praying, reflecting and meditation with the Word of God. It is God's Blessing to study at St Luke's College. I am going back home soon. My people need me. I'll stay with them and work. I am interested in the ministry of youth and teaching catechism. Music is also my skill and I will teach them. The college is like a mother, feeding, teaching, and guiding me during my two years formation.

Joseph Hting Raw La Tawng



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When I reflect on my two years program at St. Luke's College, I could say the school tries to instill an integral human development program, responding to the needs of the head, heart and hand. Initially everything looked frightening because of my limitation in education. I often prayed and discerned this call and at last I decided to attend. I came from Baptist background. My parents are Baptists. But they are good to me and allowed me to practice my faith. The school gave me skills or how to organize the community, peace building and conflict management and teaching catechism. When I go back home, my focus is to work with other denominations for peace. It was wonderful time at St. Luke's College and the best formation I got for my people. I thank to my parish priest, St. Luke's College staff and all our benefactors.



Patrick Hpulum Zau Doi

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St. Luke's is like a Sun giving light to all. This light I have to carry as a witness to my community. My faith community needs good leaders. In the past we don't have catechists or community leaders in my village. I came to St. Luke's College for my faith community. I tried my best. I learned here how to lead the community, teaching catechism, Word of God and others. I will commit myself to open a nursery school in my village, teach catechism, open woman association group. I thank St. Luke's College for giving us light.

Elizabeth La Mai Hkawn Mai



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I arrived at St. Luke's College with lots of questions and worries. By the time the school had started, I felt happiness because I came to know my fellow students, and worked with together them. In my daily meditation, holy mass, reading and reflecting on the word of God made me closer to God. I learned many things both pastoral and social skills. St. Luke's College enhanced my knowledge and skills, changed my attitudes and brought me peace. I appreciate and thank all the staff and Donors for supporting this program.



Francis Lalawng La Htoi

St. Luke's College

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Firstly, I would like to thank God for his calling and blessing to study at St. Luke's College. I could correct and change my life as I studied basic Theology and got a much deeper understanding of God. I had made a decision to labor in the Mission of God as a worthy servant. St. Luke's College provided me not only the knowledge of God, but also many other learnings and skills. I got many experiences, insight and learned many things. Today, in our catholic church, many youth are slumbering, under cold war (Drugs), wandering with the pleasure of the world. I will use all the knowledge, skills, insight and experiences I gained for them. I will try to lead them to come closer to God, to know the purpose of God and to have

Peter Latau Naw Ja



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I remember one of the professors said that as a socio-pastoral worker we must hold a news-paper in one hand and a bible in another hand. It is true for me because of my experience with my people in the war area. It is important to know my context and how to apply the Word of God in our real situation. I got many skills and formation at St. Luke's College. I learned not only theoretical things but also combination of practical things how to work in the real situation through my exposure, apostolic work and field trip. During the classes I also learned group works, discussion and sharing. I learned also from my friends. It would be very good If St. Luke's can accept many youth from the village, train them and give formation, I hope we will get many community leaders for the community and the Church. At St. Luke's I had a wonderful experience!



Elizabeth Nhkum Seng Hkawn

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Before, I never thought to study at St. Luke's College. I thought that a catechist is just for facilitating prayers even though my father is a catechist. I got to study at St. Luke's College since my family and faith community encouraged and supported me. In the first Semester, I had to struggle with my study, the rules, regulations and formation of the school as I have never experienced any kind of formation. Later, I could overcome my struggle and could follow the formation, rules and regulation. I learned social and communication skills. I came to know that a catechist plays very a important role in the community and I learned all the knowledge and skills that make a good catechist, here at St. Luke's College.

Stephen Chyau Hpa Gun Awng



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I would like to give thanks to God firstly for my vocation and then to all the staff, Priest, Sisters, lecturers at St. Luke's College. By the time I joined St. Luke's college, I just passed Matriculation exam and I just became catholic believer as well. I did not know much about the Catholic faith, teachings, prayers and Catholic Church. During these two years, I learned many things and it enhanced my skills and capacity. Studying here at St. Luke's College, I came to know more about Catholic Church, faith and teachings, the Word of God and social life of human being. For me, I acknowledge this school like a very clean and beautiful stream. If you ask me why, because the stream helps the people in many different ways such as farming, preparing daily food and yet water is one of the most essential things for the people. Like the stream, I strongly feel that St. Luke's College is a place which benefits all the people and is a "must" place for our Catholic church in Kachin state.



Cecillia Vaxae Lum Nan

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When I contemplate St. Luke's College, I feel it like safe and clean tap water. Because, as the tap water always flows, the blessings of God always flow through St. Luke's College. Besides, we can also fetch much knowledge, skills and capacity to be a good Catechist as much as we can from this ever flowing tap of water and yet we can also share this with our communities. St. Luke's College delivered many different ways of knowing God like tap water. It is my important responsibility to use this knowledge effectively in my ministry work without dropping any pieces. Moreover, I learned that the human being lives with community and it is important to interconnect always with the community so that we can learn from one another to build community of faith, peace and development.

Micheal Gum Sha Awng Nu



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I learned many things during my two year studies here at St. Luke's College. Studying at St. Luke's made me reflect on my life. All the subjects I learned encouraged me to stand bravely and strongly in my future. It also enhanced my knowledge and skills, deepened my faith, alerted my heart and soul to pray each time, prepared me to live my life in a good way or decently and taught me to lead community of faith through showing love, and respecting each other. I learned many subject in many different ways and methods. "Pray and work" ("Ora et labora") motto which I heard every day in my studies reminds me to offer all my work to God through prayers each day. I will try to be a person who shows love, helps others, prays for people, and leads people into good things.



Cecillia Nlum Bawk Ja

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I imagine: St. Luke's College is like a big tree giving shade and good fruits to all those who come and study. Yes, I improved my relationship and increased my knowledge here. St. Luke's has changed my life. I am Kachin but I stayed with a Shan community, who are Buddhists. When I go back I will work with them and share my faith. I will build peace with them and help in their livelihood.

Micheal Lahpai Zau Ba



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Within 2014 – 2016 academic year, I learned many subjects, knowledge, and skills. I realized that these things were very important for my life and I will use and practice them in my whole life. Value Education subject broadened my social skills, harmonizing skills with different people and community. I came to know the life of Jesus Christ and felt closer to Him through learning Synoptic Gospel. I also learned that I can evangelize other community through creating peace among faith community. I am convinced that the Word of God is greater than all knowledge and education and I will live my life by the Word of God.



Augustine Myu San Awng

St. Luke's College

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For two years, I studied many subjects increasing my knowledge and skills at St. Luke's College. I studied about the Word of God, Church history, Bible, our Culture and social communication skills. All these knowledge and skills changed my mind, my social life, deepened my faith, and enriched my spirituality. After two-years study at St. Luke's College, I came to know more about the Word of God as well as other religions. I was more interested in learning about Children and methods of teaching children and learning about family life because in our community, most of the problem or issues are based on families.

Teresa Pau Sang Tawn Ja



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First and foremost I would like to thank God for giving me the opportunity to study at St. Luke's Socio-Pastoral formation center. Now I have finished my studies. I came to know liturgy, and human development, human rights and child rights. I am happy to know the richness of our Catholic liturgy. I'll apply all this to my community. I will respect human dignity and rights. Our Kachin ethnic people are suppressed by the army for a long time. I'll work for my people. I am happy St. Luke's is producing many leaders of the Church. I pray that this program continue forever. Many people benefit from our learning.



Columban Auhkye Seng Du

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Before I joined St. Luke's College I rarely prayed and read the bible. But at St. Luke's formation center I improved my spiritual life. Daily meditation on the word of God and Eucharistic adoration changed my life. I came from the place called Laiza. It is the place controlled by Kachin Independent Army. It is also a war area. After my school, I will help the soldiers for their spiritual life; to receive Sacraments, teaching them catechism and how to care for their lives. I received some skill on teaching catechism, pastoral care, and how to organize to work in unity and peace together with other denominations. The program was unbelievably strengthening for me and I gained much.

Lucia Nalaw Seng Lu



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My purpose of learning at St. Luke's College was to know deeply about the Catholic Church, liturgy and faith. And I learned more than what I had intended. I studied Sacraments, church history, catechism and Bible very well. I gained knowledge of different means of spiritual exercises such as daily meditation, holy mass, bible sharing, reading and reflecting on the word of God. I also learned different religions, liturgy and rituals. It is important to understand different religions and give respect to these religions. In my ministry work, I will work to improve spirituality of faith community through teaching catechism especially children and youth, facilitating prayer services and Bible sharing. I will also work to promote the social life of the community by conducting awareness training, helping to attend awareness training and vocational training focusing on Youths. Besides, I will always study and expand my knowledge and skills as a grass roots community faith leader.



Peter Lagyawm Ying Ting

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The calling as catechist is a vocation. God called me to commit myself as a catechist though I am nothing. I develop myself during these two years. Whatever I learned and trained, I hope I can share with my community. I like the subjects: liturgy, Church History, Word of God, Social teaching of the Church, Catechism and pedagogy. I like to learn more in detail. But time is short and many subjects to learn. When I go back I will work with children, open a nursery school and teach catechism and value education. These children are the hop for our community in th future.

Jacinta Lashi Hkawn Mai



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After finishing my studies at St. Luke's College, I see in myself good development spiritually, socially, and pastorally. I also feel that I still need to learn a lot for my community. Franciscan Spirituality what I learned at the school inspired me a lot and I'll share and work with my community. I will start with the small things that is planting trees in my village with my faith community. What I studied here at St. Luke's is not for myself alone. It is for all and I have responsibility to share it. When I go back I will focus my ministry on the nursery school. In my village we need proper school for the children. I'll start my work with the children.



Francis Lahpai Gun La

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Two years just passed. I trust, I grew in the spiritual life and in relationships. My daily meditation, holy mass, reading and reflecting on the word of God, and sharing with my friends has changed my life a lot. I am with my family. I came here to become a catechist. Yes, I found lots of challenges during my formation. But my daily prayer and reflection made me more mature. As a catechist, it is not enough to know how to pray alone; it is important to work with the faith community. As our State has so many problems, I think we have to know and have skills in many areas. When I go back I will focus my service on family. In my village alone we have many family problems. Some of the family live without receiving Sacraments. Some are facing drug problems in the family. I will listen to them and help as much as I can. As the school is upgrading in many levels, I would like to suggest St. Luke's College to train many youth to become socio-pastoral workers as a catechist for the community. We have not enough priests, we need lay formation for our community. I thank St. Luke's staff and all those who are helping in this program. For me St. Luke's College is like a garden for the Kachin ethnic people. I have grown up in this garden – in spirituality, faith, life and thinking. I gained many skills and knowledge to solve social evil in my areas.

Columban Wohtawng Hkawng Lum



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