

CONTACT

We're 'sew' grateful!

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CAM International, founded in 1915 by William Burton and James Salter, ministers in DR Congo, Zambia, Ethiopia, Mozambique and the African diaspora.



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WE'RE 'SEW' GRATEFUL!

At Nyangombe, tailoring graduates are given their own sewing machine to enable them to earn income for their families (See pages 14-16)

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Design: beatroot.media

Printed by: Yeomans

CONTACT is supplied free on request from the Preston office. It is funded by donations, not subscriptions. (See page 16)





TRAVELLING TOGETHER: TEAMWORK IN MISSION

by Kym Delport

‘He who travels fastest travels alone; he who travels farthest travels in company.’

– African proverb

Teamwork is at the heart of everything we do in CAM International. As you read through this issue of Contact, you’ll notice how often the theme of teamwork emerges - people joining forces to accomplish vital tasks. At Nyangombe, the mission team worked with local technicians and international manufacturers to resolve a significant power issue. In Mozambique, education is being delivered through the generosity and prayers of supporters from around the world. Daniel Habtey and Dave Garrard are meeting our partners in Ethiopia to witness the ongoing growth of the church there. Meanwhile, Robin shares how she has rejoiced with Zambian women whose lives have been transformed through the joint efforts of missionaries and local educators. These stories remind us that, united in purpose, we can achieve far more than we ever could alone.

Jesus in the driver's seat

As a Christian organisation, the most important member of our team is the Lord! Whether we’re navigating complex challenges, sharing the gospel, building relationships, or delivering aid to communities in need, He is with us, underpinning the whole operation, the backbone of our success. It’s wonderful to know He is at the wheel throughout the journey.

Collaboration

For a mission charity like ours, based in the UK but actively working in Africa, collaboration isn’t just a concept - it’s a vital force that shapes our projects, empowers communities, and drives positive change.



▲ Thumbs up for a great school team in Mozambique!

At the core of any successful mission is the recognition that we are all working towards a common purpose. For us at CAM, that purpose is ... to share the love of Jesus ... to send people to inspire and empower ... to equip others with life skills ... to transform communities. Every CAM team member plays a crucial role.

Each member brings something invaluable. Trustees provide strategic direction and keep the charity aligned with its mission. Missionaries carry out the practical work, engaging with local communities and offering direct support. Supporters provide the prayer, resources and encouragement needed to drive our initiatives. Local partners bring essential cultural knowledge and insight. The admin team serves as a central hub, ensuring smooth communication and efficient resource management.

Communication

When team members are spread across different continents, as ours are, effective communication becomes essential, especially when multiple languages are involved. I am especially grateful

for reliable translation apps which make cross-cultural collaboration much easier!

Contact and Newslink* help keep everyone updated on what is happening at Nyangombe Christian Training Centre in Zambia, Baruk Education Centre in Mozambique, Lwamba hospital in DRC, Daniel's leadership courses run from the UK, and with church planters in Ethiopia. [** If you wish to sign up to Newslink, our weekly prayer newsletter, please send your email address to the office*].

However, effective communication goes beyond sharing updates - it's about building relationships, trust, and understanding. In Africa, we work closely with local partners who understand their community's needs. By listening and respecting their input, our projects remain relevant and culturally sensitive.

Trust

Trust is built over time through consistency, honesty, and mutual respect. CAM's work often takes place in challenging environments, and we



▲ Working together on the Lwamba hydro project



▲ Zambia mechanics collaborating!



▲ Celebrating the results of working together with online students

rely on each other's expertise and judgement to navigate logistical challenges and deliver sustainable, effective solutions.

Flexibility and adaptability

In mission work, things don't always go according to plan! Political instability, supply shortages, and unexpected setbacks can derail even the best-laid strategies. A strong team doesn't fall apart when things go wrong – it pulls together, prays hard, solves problems, and stays focused. Often, when we look back, we see how God was guiding us through it all.

Rewards

Working together not only extends our reach and impact, but it also creates a supportive, meaningful environment for everyone involved. Collaborating with others, especially across cultures, offers personal growth, greater empathy, and a deeper awareness of the world's challenges.

Teamwork fosters a sense of shared accomplishment. Together, we witness lives transformed: people giving their lives to Jesus, God's Word shared,

hospitals supplied with electricity, livelihoods improved, and communities empowered to shape their own futures. These moments, made possible by teamwork, remind us why we do what we do.

Conclusion

Teamwork is more than just a buzzword - it's the foundation of everything we do at CAM. Thank you for the part you play in this team. We're excited to continue this meaningful work together.



▲ Kym with the Lubumbashi Bible School team

AN UNEXPECTED TRIAL



by Gordon McKillop

Sometimes the river is unkind! ▲

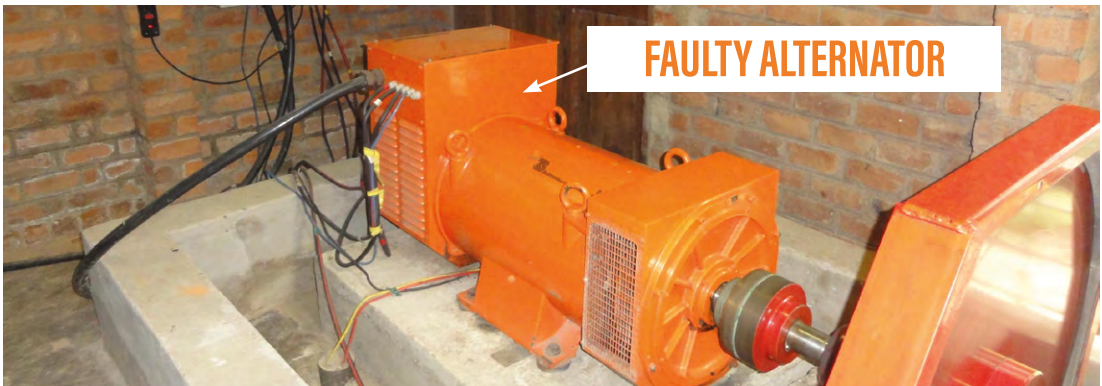
240 years ago, a Scottish poet penned the words, *‘the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley.’* It is an oft quoted general truth about the unpredictable nature of life.

Day one

One Monday, at five past two in the morning, a night watchman came to the bedroom window to report that the electricity had gone off. I looked around the house and observed that this power outage was quite different from past outages, as mostly our room lights and standby lights retained a diminished glow, but this time there was nothing. It was clear that our turbine, which has run for over 30 years, had a major problem. Sleep did not return as I thought through all the possibilities until dawn.

In my own quiet times in the morning, I have been studying the letter of James and reflecting on how he encourages his readers to respond to the life’s trials. As I began to think through the implications of the power outage, I realised that a ‘trial’ was looming. Whilst it did not compare with the trials of physical persecution about which James was writing, it was, for us at Nyangombe, a time of testing.

We had 140 visitors attending a ladies’ Bible school and a literacy course. They needed water to wash and cook, but power is needed to drive the water pumps. Provisions worth £2,000, stored in freezers, were in danger of spoiling. How do we keep this expensive food frozen? How do we keep lights on for Bible schools? How do we cater for this large group without power? James



▲ Hydro alternator at fault

encourages us to seek wisdom from the Lord, asking in faith and trusting that He is in control.

With the Lord's help, we were able to coordinate the entire team to get a large diesel generator working to serve the Bible school grid, get lights on after dark for a few hours, pump some water, and keep the deep freezers freezing. Diesel to run the generator was expensive, using 50 litres for three hours of lighting, so we knew we would have to look to the Lord for this additional expense.

Day two

A group of 250 visited to use one of our large meeting halls. They also needed water and asked for the generator to be run for the duration of their meeting, saying that they would reimburse us for the diesel used. We agreed, but the replacement diesel has not yet been forthcoming! During this time, a technician from the Zambian Power Company visited, but we had no wiring diagrams, so were still at a loss to know what to do with the hydro.

Day three

The plan for our frozen food was to remove a total of 540kgs (1,200 lbs) of meat from multiple large freezers and our cold room, then transport it over 60 miles to Sakeji mission school. There they will use it to feed students and support the school's 100-year celebrations in July. At six in the morning, we loaded the frozen meat into the Land Cruiser and the four quarters of another large animal into a trailer, and set off. We took two butchers with us so that the quarters of the animal could be cut up, bagged and put into the freezer rooms. My relief to see this meat saved from spoiling was enormous.

Day four

Back at Nyangombe, with one burden lifted and thankful hearts that a major crisis had been averted, we took time to thank the Lord and ask Him to guide us in our next step. The use of a small generator allowed us time to consult with the turbine manufacturer who sent through drawings of the hydro alternator. This was helpful

but all in German! We looked at the diagrams and saw that a set of diodes was part of the excitation circuit. When looking at the diodes, I recognised them and later found replacements stored in our container from 25 years ago!

Today, we have lights and power again! Our faith in the Lord has been strengthened once more, as His wisdom enters into and helps us throughout the normal ups and downs of our lives.



▲ Maintenance work



▲ Examining the alternator



MISSION TRIP TO ETHIOPIA

by Daniel Habtey

Daniel preaching ▲

It has been quite some time since I last made a mission trip to Ethiopia, primarily because the circumstances there have been challenging. During this time I received a couple of invitations to visit, but I chose to wait until the situation settled. However, upon reflection, I've come to realise the importance of seizing every opportunity to share the gospel, even in the midst of hardship and uncertainty.

Facing trials

The Bible reminds us in Ephesians 5:16 that we should be careful, and make sure that we are 'making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.' This powerful verse resonates now more than ever as we are called to act boldly in the face of difficult situations and, occasionally, hostile receptions.

Indeed, we know that going into difficult circumstances can be daunting for many reasons—there is a significant lack of knowledge and understanding, a pervasive sense of uncertainty, and often a great sense of fear. Yet, in the midst of it all, there exists a unique opportunity to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. This message brings joy, peace, and salvation to everyone who believes, offering hope in the darkest of circumstances. As Jesus promised in John 6:47:

'Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.' - John 6:47

Active evangelism

When I reflect on my life, I remember that I was lonely, hopeless, and in the depths of despair. Now, I consider myself the happiest person in the world. I was deeply moved by the joy and peace of the gospel during my darkest season. This is because someone shared the gospel with me, and a group of people prayed for me from their homes and others gave generously. This is teamwork for the kingdom of God.

Therefore, let us not shy away from our calling; rather, let us embrace it wholeheartedly. In times of turmoil, our words can be a balm to the weary and a beacon of hope to the lost. Every conversation we engage in, every relationship we build, and every act of love we show, can be a stepping stone towards spreading the transformative power of the gospel. So, while we pray for peace and stability, let's also commit ourselves to actively sharing the message of hope that can change lives, both near and far.

Promising opportunities

I'm planning to meet with Dave Garrard in Addis Ababa, with the hope of connecting with church planters affiliated with the PAOC (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada) and witnessing the ongoing growth of the church. I'm excited to explore the potential for the future of the church in this vibrant region.



▲ Dave Garrard with a group of church planters

This is also a wonderful opportunity to meet with Eritrean congregations based in Ethiopia, more than 20 in number. Time and God permitting, I'm hoping to be able to visit at least one of them. This journey promises to be both enriching and inspiring as I engage with the incredible work being done in these communities.

A dear friend of mine, who is a devoted missionary in Ethiopia, is planning to take me to the southern region of the country where a wonderful opportunity awaits to evangelise among an unreached people group. This area is quite arid and suffers from a severe lack of drinking water. However, with God's guidance, I am eager to visit and engage in meaningful missionary work, bringing hope and support to those in need.



▲ The church in Ethiopia is growing

Encouragement

Finally, as Christians, it is important to remind ourselves of the encouraging words that God, through the apostle Paul, gives us in 2 Timothy 4:2 – *'Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.'* Thank you for your continuing prayers and generous support! May God bless you richly.

Your prayers for CAM missionaries working in challenging areas are greatly appreciated.

Daniel wrote this before he left on his two-week trip in June. In the next issue, we hope to bring you his follow-up report.



▲ Ready to go whenever God calls



by Wanderley and Rosaria da Silva

Construction of well-built classrooms ▲

Over the past few years, we have gone on a journey of faith, dedication, and transformation through the educational work we have developed in our community. The dream of seeing children, young people, and adults having access to quality education has gradually materialised thanks to the joint efforts of many collaborators, volunteers and friends.

Improving facilities and infrastructure

One of the most visible milestones of our progress has been the construction of new classrooms and spaces suitable for primary education. Where there were previously only simple and improvised structures, we now have well-ventilated and covered classrooms, ready to welcome our pupils. However, we still have some important work to do to ensure that these rooms are fully equipped and functional. We need suitable school desks for the children, tables and chairs for the teachers, blackboards, cabinets, and teaching materials. These resources are essential to provide a dignified and efficient learning environment. Each item represents more than just a piece of furniture – it's a direct investment in the education of future generations.

Literacy: opening new doors

Our adult literacy programme has been a great source of joy. Many men and women, who did not have the opportunity to attend school as children, are now learning to read and write. Seeing their faces light up when they write their own name for the first time, or when they are able to read a verse from the Bible, is something that cannot be described in words. Literacy has opened doors to new possibilities, strengthened self-esteem, and given a voice to those who previously felt invisible.



▲ Primary pupils hard at work



▲ Happy pre-school children

Early childhood education

The pre-school, for children aged three to five, has been a fertile field of love, care, and teaching. More than just preparing them for primary school, we seek to teach Christian, social and emotional values from the earliest years. Children learn through play, praise and living together in a safe and stimulating environment.



▲ Technology training for young people

Computer course: connecting with the future

We recently started a basic computer course aimed especially at teenagers and young people in the community. Many of them have never used or even had contact with a computer. Now, they

are learning to type, use essential programs, and navigate the internet responsibly. The course has awakened new talents and broadened horizons, showing that technology, when used well, can be a powerful tool for inclusion and development.

Bible school: a solid foundation

Every Saturday morning, we have the privilege of gathering a dedicated group of students for Bible school. There are 22 students of different ages who come eager to learn more about the Word of God. The classes are precious moments of teaching, fellowship, and spiritual growth. This work has yielded visible fruit, with students developing their faith, strengthening their walk with Christ, and preparing themselves to better serve their families, churches, and communities. The Word has been sown with love, and we believe that it will yield a good crop.

Each step we have taken so far is the result of work, prayer, and partnership. There is still much to do, but we praise God for each life impacted, and for each story being rewritten thanks to education. We remain steadfast, believing that true transformation begins with teaching, but goes beyond it – reaching the heart and preparing lives to serve God and the community with wisdom and love.



▲ Wanderley with dedicated Bible school students



HYDRO POWER OUTAGE FROM A WIFE'S PERSPECTIVE!

by Sybil McKillop

There was a knock at the bedroom window on Monday 12 May, soon after two in the morning. Before we had a chance to guess who it was, a voice said, 'Tata Gordon, the electricity has gone off.' Gordon didn't get up immediately to investigate, as he instinctively knew it was too serious to fix in the dark. He couldn't get any more sleep that night, as thoughts of 'What if...? What if...?' kept going through his mind.

Time-honoured techniques

In the pre-dawn light, shortly after five, Gordon sat up and said, 'This is serious. We need to pray for the Lord's wisdom,' which we took time to do before he left to check the turbine. No coffee in bed that morning for me! Instead, I got up, looked for a babula (charcoal stove) and charcoal, ignited the charcoal (easier said than done!), found an old pot and boiled some water for a cuppa. In Congo, using a babula had been a way of life for us, but it had been many years since we'd had to use them to make our meals. It was after nine before the first cup of coffee was enjoyed that morning! Later, our colleague, Henry, offered the use of one of his babulas, along with a sack of charcoal. One of the men put it at the back door on the ground in typical local fashion.

Lunch was re-heated leftovers from the day before. A visitor from Canada was with us for a week, which made making meals even more difficult and me more nervous! I knew I could serve Gordon whatever I could, and he would understand, but it is different with a visitor! However, he graciously accepted whatever he was offered. His motto seemed to be 'simple is good'. Meals were simple, all-in-one-pot types of food during the four days of power outage.



▲ Cooking with a babula

Diagnosing the problem

The local leadership decided to try and find another electrical engineer in the area who might be able to help, and to see if, together with Gordon, they could find a way forward. Two men came along from ZESCO (Zambian Electricity Supply Company). They offered what advice they could but ended up rechecking what Gordon and his men had already tested.

Gordon doesn't talk much when he is pre-occupied with a problem, and the upcoming Bible schools and youth camps without water and electricity were weighing on his mind. A small generator was hooked up to his office, and I could hear him calling people in the UK, South Africa, and finally Germany. On the fourth day, the original supplier of our hydro sent a schematic drawing which enabled the men to better investigate and diagnose possible problems. The German engineer also pointed towards likely faulty components. The engineer from ZESCO joined Gordon again and they were guided by the drawings to a set of diodes which could be the problem.



▲ Gordon and others examining part of the hydro

God's perfect provision

When Gordon saw the set of diodes, they looked familiar! He recalled that Les White was working with diodes when we came to Nyangombe in July 1999. Four of these were put in a safe place by Gordon in case they were ever needed, but neither Gordon nor Les knew exactly what the diodes were for. A quick search in a parts container revealed the dusty diodes. Gordon went to the hydro and after fitting these spares, which had been squirrelled away for 26 years, power was back on again. Wonderful!

One cannot help but marvel that these diodes, which were kept for so long, were needed for

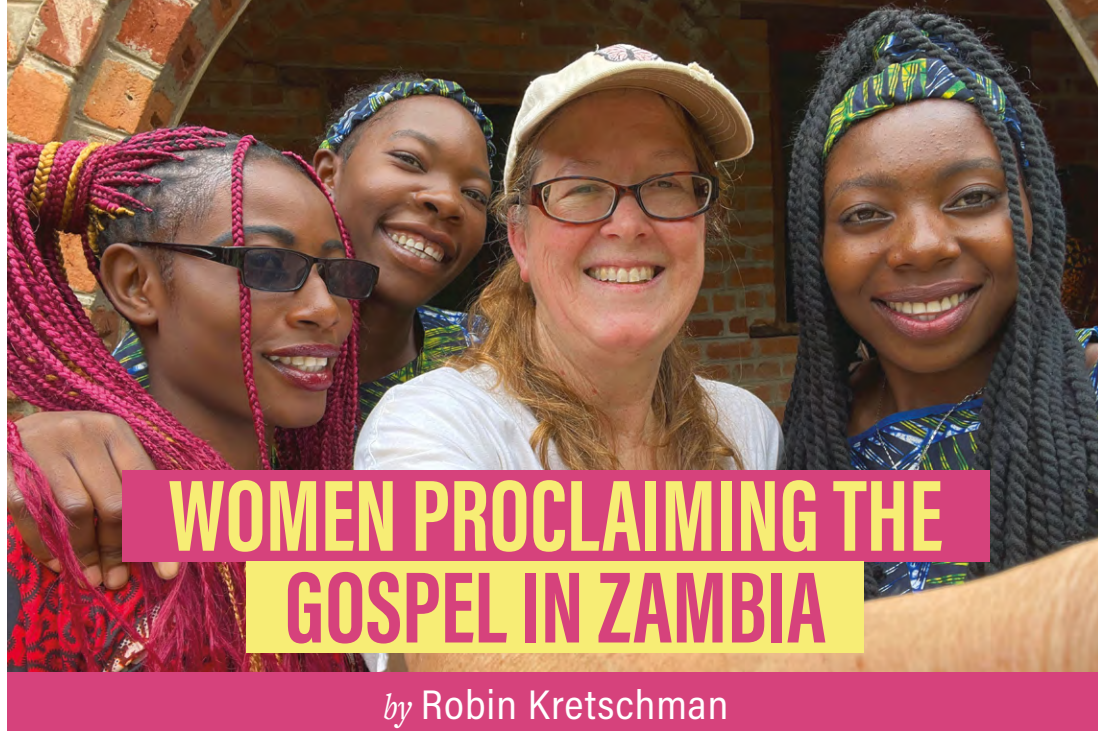
just this time. One thinks, 'I will never take the electricity for granted ever again.'

Learning to trust

One nice thing was Gordon saying how he also worried about me! He thought, bless him, '*How will Sybil cope during the cold season if there is no electric heater?*' Dramatic situations bring out the best in us, don't you think? We certainly learn to trust the Lord, who knows the end from the beginning, and our faith increases. On reflection, it is good for all of us to go through situations where we must totally depend on the Lord. Thank you for praying for us.



▲ Keeping warm in winter!



Robin with joyful tailoring graduates ▲

In the villages of Zambia, women hold a place of great influence. They care for children, manage households, and tend to fields and gardens. In these roles, they have the opportunity to reflect the love of Christ, sharing His grace with others in both word and action. As women encounter the transformative love of Jesus, they find freedom from fear, and joy in the Lord. This past year, many women made first-time commitments to Christ, deepened their relationship with God, and learned valuable life skills through dedicated time at the Nyangombe Christian Training Centre.

Demonstrating God's love through life skills

Tailoring programme

Under the guidance of Mr. Crispin Mbanza, women at Nyangombe are trained in dressmaking and fashion design. Upon successful completion, including a skills assessment, each graduate receives a manual sewing machine. This gift enables them to earn income for their families by creating and selling clothes, bags, and other items. These earnings help provide food and education for their children.

In addition to vocational training, participants

are immersed in God's Word through morning devotions, evening meetings, and Sunday worship. The overarching goal of the tailoring programme is to build up and encourage women in their faith, helping them grow in the knowledge and love of Christ. Our prayer is that their time at Nyangombe not only equips them with a trade/skill for life but also transforms their lives through Jesus.



▲ Learning to read, starting with vowels

Literacy classes

In Zambia's remote Northwestern Province, many women have had little or no access to formal education. Although very intelligent, about half of those attending Bible school sessions are unable to read or write in their native language. This gap has opened a powerful opportunity for outreach.

Led by experienced Christian educators and guided by Judith, wife of the Nyangombe Bible school principal, the literacy programme has reached hundreds of women over the past 25 years. This year's students celebrated their achievements with joy. One woman, proudly holding her notes in one hand and her Bible in the other, declared, *'I can read!'*



▲ Women's conference – in Lunda, 'Muzañalu' means Joy!

Growing in faith and teaching others

Women's Bible school

This year, over 140 women attended Bible school sessions held alongside the literacy programme, filling the campus with energy and enthusiasm. It was a time of fellowship, spiritual growth, and learning about God's love. Women who could read were paired with those still learning, helping each other memorise Scripture verses about God's love, obedience to His commands, complete joy in the Lord, and the importance of sharing the gospel.

On the last night, one of the ladies shared that those who can read become counsellors and

confidantes to many women in their village. More women are led to the Lord in this relational, village context than in churches.

Training women Bible teachers

In a culture historically controlled by fear, the message of Jesus is truly good news. In September, women training to be Bible teachers gathered to learn new teaching methods including group discussions, games, narratives, and topical lessons. Many of the sessions centred on the theme: 'Fear not, for the Lord is with you.' Small group activities helped participants identify personal fears and connect them with the promises found in Scripture – that God is our salvation, our strength, and our refuge.

This was a powerful time of seeking God, building trust in Him, and learning to share faith more effectively using evangelism tools.



▲ Tools for Sunday school teachers

Equipping Sunday school teachers

Forty Sunday school teachers from 25 churches also came together for training, with a combined outreach to 1,557 children across the region. The session theme was Proverbs 22:6: 'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.' Each student demonstrated competency at the end of their training by teaching a lesson using what they had learned.



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▲ Women teaching Sunday School



▲ The joy of the Lord!

Both the women who teach other women and those who teach children are reaching people we may never personally encounter—and their impact is profound.

Transforming lives through the gospel

Jesus disciplined others who then went on to disciple more. Each of us knows the love of Jesus because someone shared it with us. At

Nyangombe, every message and every class is designed to point people to Christ and allow His love to transform lives.

Please pray with us that the women who attend will be changed by the love of Jesus—and that they will return to their homes, their villages, and their spheres of influence ready to share His love with others.

PDF version

Please note that the **Contact Magazine** is also available as a PDF version. This may be useful for those who travel, or who would benefit from enlarging the print on the computer. If so, please send an email to the CAM office and we will put your name on the PDF mailing list.

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