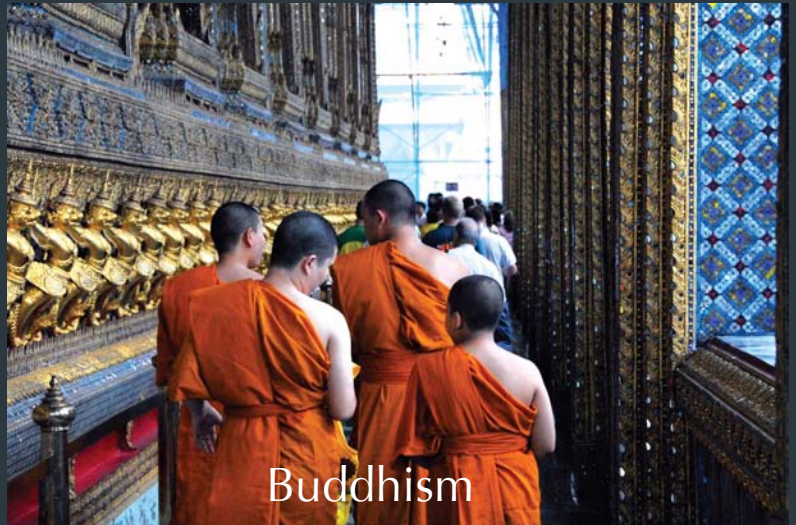


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Mission to the Big Four



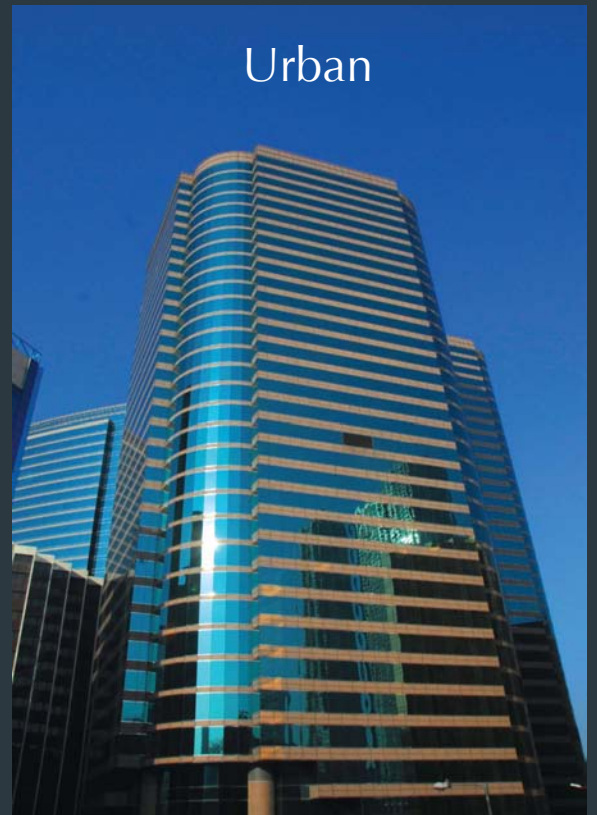
Islam



Buddhism



Chinese

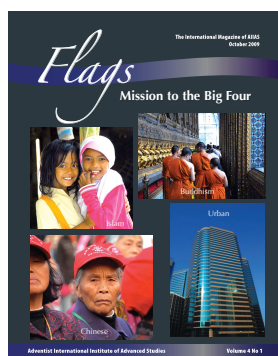


Urban

Flags

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Cover Design by **James H. Park**



Flags, October 2009 – Vol. 4 No. 1

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Flags is the semi-annual international magazine for alumni and friends of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS), a graduate-level educational institution of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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About the Cover

These photos were taken by Pastor Jim Park, PhD to show the mission opportunities in the 10/40 Window. The Islam picture was taken in Bandung, Indonesia; the Buddhist picture in Bangkok, Thailand; the Chinese picture in Beijing, China and the Urban picture in Hong Kong.

Plans are underway for the October 17, 2009 Grand Opening of our new auditorium. This is slated to be held during the AIIAS graduation Baccalaureate service.

The most visible features of the new building are the large windows, the raised red roof with three spires at the entrance and the textured pebbled wall finish.

The 12 beautifully designed grillwork art pieces along the back wall of the auditorium highlight the regions served by AIIAS. Along the sides, the window grills depict the days of creation while providing security for the building. The artists have done an outstanding job and the welders have demonstrated a high level of skill.

It is so exciting to see our dreams finally becoming reality. We have been blessed with some very generous donations, both in the smaller but sacrificial gifts of our students, staff, faculty and local church members, as well as the significant gifts from our major donors.



A welder works to complete the artistically-made security grills in time for the inauguration.

AIIAS Auditorium Nears Completion

By Stephen Guptill



There will be parts of the new building that have not yet been completed in October because of a lack of funding. The lower classrooms, the media room and the kitchen in the function hall will be completed later. The five classrooms upstairs will be completed by the opening date. We continue to seek funding for the classroom chairs, white boards, office furniture and media room equipment.

We praise God for this beautiful new facility. It will provide a much better place to worship God, as well as more adequately meeting the educational needs of AIIAS.

"Once you touch the people that live on the waters of Manila Bay and see how they smile and are happy, you feel miserable when you remember the times you felt deprived when, living comfortably in the USA, you missed some little thing" (LLU Student).

The LLU School of Public Health Global Health Department (GHD), has selected Peru and the Philippines as settings to establish their field laboratory for the Integrated Community Development (ICD) course. To do so, the GHD has created partnerships with the Universidad Peruana Union of Lima and with the AIIAS DPH. In 2004, the first partnership was established with AIIAS. Since the ICD class is also part of the DPH curriculum for the AIIAS MPH program, the opportunity has been fortuitous, allowing both graduate schools to hold their laboratory together. The students from both schools can fulfill the field experience requirements of the class, form new relationships, and establish academic, cultural, and social links.

The established plan is that students from the GHD and the DPH are provided with theoretical and fundamental knowledge about how communities develop in the weeks leading up to the laboratory. They also receive cultural training in order to help them adapt to the change in culture and environment.

In July, the two groups come together for the annual lab under the guidance of their instructors. They spend time visiting the main NGOs of the Philippines, the Department of Health in Manila, the local health authorities, ADRA and some local hospitals. From these institutions, the students learn about the most



LLU students during the farewell party



Public Health students from AIIAS and LLU

Loma Linda University Global Health and AIIAS Public Health Students Join Forces

By Cesar Galvez

important health issues in the country and observe the way they work in underserved communities. Students spend the majority of their time working directly with the people from the different barangays in a project of integrated development under the direction of the leaders and supervisors of one or more NGOs. They end each work day with an important debriefing meeting.

In 2009, the GHD group was carefully planned and effectively supervised by Dr. Sharon Rushing and Dr. Ron Mataya. The DPH coordinator for assisting Dr. Rushing with appointments, contacts, transportation, and multiple tasks was Ms. Jeneth Cortez, an AIIAS student in Nutrition. Altogether, the 16 GHD students from LLU spent 2 1/2 weeks in the Philippines.

The experience of this year demonstrated that faculty and students from different cultural backgrounds, and even from different religious preferences, can come together and meet the mission of service and the goal of academic excellence in an environment of communication, cultural understanding, and Christian love. The students who participated in the field projects benefited as much as those that were served. 

AIAS Receives Large Grant for 10/40 Mission

James Park and David Tasker

Central to the mission and focus of AIAS is the preparation of people to fulfill the mission of the church. No greater mission challenge exists in the world today than the multitudes of unreached people groups who live in the 10/40 Window. The 10/40 Window is a term coined by Christian mission strategist Luis Bush in 1990 to refer to those regions of the eastern hemisphere located between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator. Roughly two-thirds of the world's population live in the 10/40 Window and this region is populated by the most disadvantaged people with the least access to Christian influences.

In 1993, noted church growth consultant Lyle Schaller reflected that Hinduism, Islam, and the culture of modern cities are three great areas of our world which the churches have not really penetrated. All three of these are found in abundance in the 10/40 Window. To these three great areas might be added the widespread influence of Buddhism within the region.

In the past, the three barriers of cultural understanding, government restrictions and geographical remoteness have been very difficult for the Christian

Church to overcome in reaching the 10/40 Window. Traditional institutional methods and evangelistic approaches that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has used in other parts of the world are either highly restricted or less than effective in many countries within the region. Despite these challenges, the church is urged to go and make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19), a commission that is not restricted to any time or place and is promised the Lord's authority and presence (Matt 28:18, 22).

In order to meet this challenge, AIAS has gone through a year-long process to apply for special E-Tithe funds being distributed by the General Conference to various entities throughout the world field. After a number of proposals were worked on by AIAS president Stephen Guptill, the Seminary Dean, the Office of Advancement and others, a grant of \$700,000 was approved which will be spent over the next five years. These funds will be used to educate front line workers in the 10/40 Window to better understand how to reach out to Buddhists, Muslims, Urban areas and the Chinese people. (These four areas of ministry have given rise to the term "Big 4 Project" to encompass the education envisioned).

Because of its location on the doorstep of Asia, AIAS is uniquely positioned to fill an important role in researching, developing, and implementing key strategies and materials to reach the Big 4 in the 10/40 Window. Its highly qualified faculty, growing library, and, above all, its network of relationships with both Adventist and non-Adventist leaders has already given it influence within the region. AIAS has contributed to efforts to reach the Big 4 within the 10/40 Window through a long-term and active role in education and personnel development that has influenced leaders and increased the understanding of these people groups and those who work to reach them.

The plan focuses on educating sixty pastors and workers and the development of contextualized outreach materials for the 10/40 Window. These sixty pastors and workers will be divided into three groups of twenty. The first group will be drawn from the Islamic areas of Indonesia, Malaysia and Southern Philippines and will study Islam and Urban issues within that context.

The second group will be selected from the Buddhist countries of Thailand, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan and Korea, and will focus on Buddhism and Urban issues within that unique area. The third group will be chosen to study the unique challenges in ministering to the Chinese people.

The approved budget has been allocated to accommodate the students and give them top quality books and resources as part of their training. The proposal also calls for AIAS to contract top quality teachers from around the world to come and teach in their area of expertise: Islam, Buddhism, Urban Ministry, or China. Top-notch materials will be developed along with a yearly budget to add much needed books and resources to the AIAS library in these four areas. AIAS appreciates the grant given through the General Conference and with prayer and careful planning hopes to make our school truly a "Gateway for Mission." 

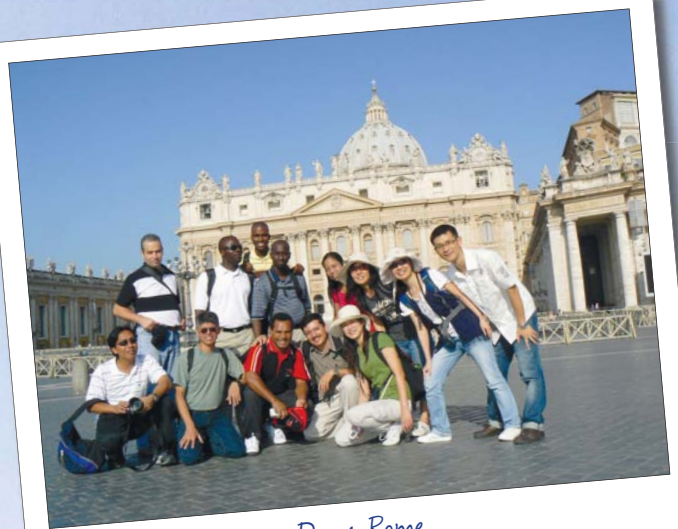
Bible Lands Tour

By Emmer Chacon

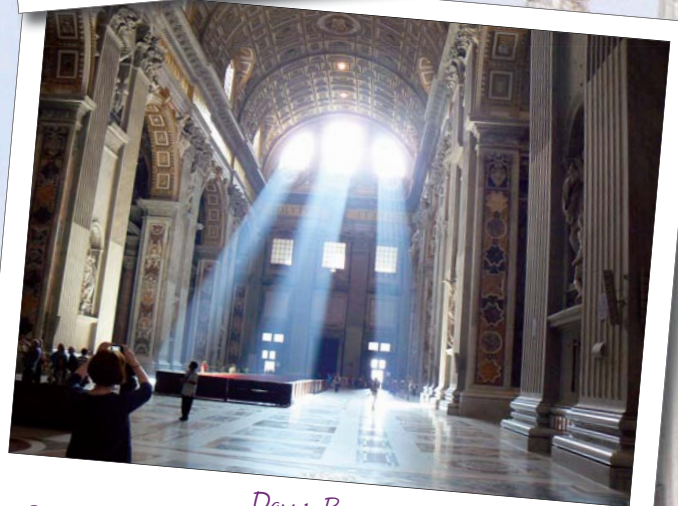
We began our trip with a very long flight from Manila to Amsterdam and then to Rome on May 25, 2009. We left AIIAS with our luggage and many dreams and expectations. Our cameras were hungry for sites to capture and our laptops went along with us ready to store more than 100 gigabytes of images, videos and sounds. I took with me a tiny netbook and my cell phone because I wanted to be in touch with my loved ones and give them daily reports of my journey.

I had read a lot about these places in Rome and Greece and had watched documentaries about them. I never thought I would get to go to the actual sites. This Bible Lands Tour has provided me with amazing and unforgettable first-hand experiences of Rome and several sites in northern and southern Greece. What I saw and experienced at those sites will be a source of thinking and study for me for years to come.

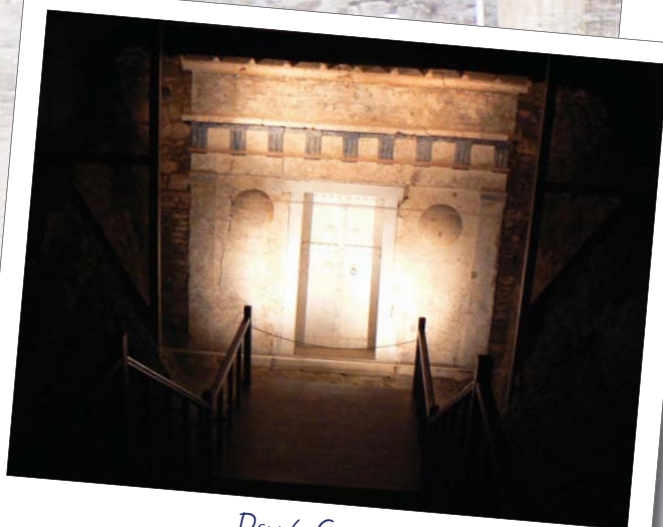
I have really run out of adjectives as to show the impact of this experience. The places we visited, the scenes we saw, the people we met, the food we ate... everything was amazing! No wonder we slept so little and walked so much without any complaint or remorse. I took over 3,100 pictures to document the journey. Our team had an excellent rapport that allowed us to stay and travel together under heavy pressure for over two weeks. Praise be to our Heavenly Father and cheers to my wife, my friends, the team, and our professor.



Day 1: Rome.
We visited Saint Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museum, the Roman Coliseum and the Roman Forum.



Day 1: Rome.
Saint Peter's Basilica is considered one of the holiest Christian sites and the Mother Church of the Catholic Church.



Day 6: Greece.
The tombs of Phillip the Great and Alexander IV, son of Alexander the Great at Vergina.

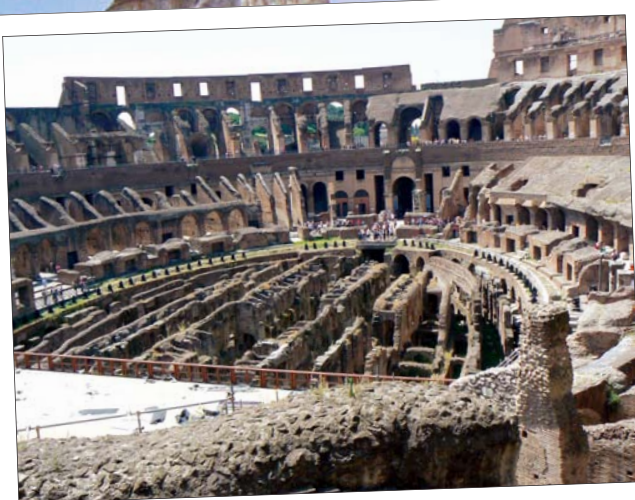


Day 8: Greece, on the way to Athens.
The Holy Monastery of Rousanou or St. Barbara is one of the most outstanding Christian Monasteries from the 16th century.

PHOTO CREDITS: Emmer Chacon.
Background image: The atrium at the Pella Palace



Day 1: Rome.
The partially ruined exterior of the Roman Coliseum.



Day 1: Rome.
The Coliseum arena, showing the hypogeum where gladiators and animals were kept before the contests.



Day 3: Greece.
We toured Thessalonica, Kavala (Neapolis), Amphipolis and Philippi where Paul went on his second missionary journey.



Day 3: Lydia's Baptistry, Philippi.
The possible site where the baptism of Lydia took place.



Day 8: Meteora, Greece.
The Holy Monastery of Great Meteoron is one of the largest monasteries in the area. The Katholikon (main church) was consecrated in honour of the Transfiguration of Jesus.



Day 12: Athens. The Parthenon.
We visited Olympia, where the Olympic games were born.

Thank You, Chan Shun!

By Jesin Kollabathula, PhD in Religion Student

I asked some of the recipients of this scholarship, **"How did the Chan Shun Scholarship help you in your studies?"**

"It relieves me of the fear and burden of having to come up with my tuition fees," said a scholar who is facing challenges because of the economic recession. **"We couldn't inch our way through school without the Chan Shun Scholarship,"** said another scholar who is nearing the completion of her master's in Education. **"It helps us get to the finish line without the fear of being unable to pay the tuition fee."** These are some of the responses of the many who have tasted the goodness of the Lord through the Chan Shun Foundation.

One of the solemn moments of being a Chan Shun scholar can be captured during the interview session once every semester. As we sit and wait for our turn, we talk of what is going on in our lives; often the eyes glisten and a tear or two overflows. Almost all the time, this informal sharing ends with testimonies of God's amazing, mysterious and meticulous love and care. We come to know each other's struggles and pain. And so, we feel grateful to extend a helping hand to someone struggling alone.

Receiving the scholarship drives us positively to be more loving, understanding and helpful to our fellow students. **"Working for the Chan Shun Scholarship makes me feel grateful,"** says a friend of mine who works in the library. We consider it a privilege to work as part of our way of saying **"Thank you."**

As recipients, we feel honored and challenged to follow the Golden Rule here and now and more so in the future, when we will be in a better position to assist someone struggling financially. **Thanks a million, Chan Shun Scholarship; we will forever be grateful to God and you for helping make our dreams for higher education come true. 🙏**

AIAS Poll

How did AIAS Scholarships Help You in Your Studies?

"As a Chan Shun Scholarship recipient in 1998-1999, I was assigned to work in the newly established APRC (Asia-Pacific Research Center). Thus, I received a double blessing: assistance with my tuition and the great opportunity to develop my research skills further. What a blessing!"

DOLF OBERHOLSTER
AIAS Academic Vice President

"I can clearly recall how the Chan Shun Scholarship was a tremendous help in finishing my MBA course at AIAS. My wife and I were full-time students at that time and to have been a recipient of this Scholarship is the fulfillment of God's wonderful providence in our lives. Personally, I think the Chan Shun Scholarship does make a difference, and therefore I would like to express my gratitude to the Chan Shun Scholarship Board."

DENNY RUMAMBI
SunPlus Accounting
Software Director, SSD*

"I was so privileged to receive a Chan Shun Scholarship and it solidified my yearning to be part of the ministry of spreading the love of Christ throughout the world. The scholarship granted me exposure to church and institutional work as well as experience in dealing with other people at work—because of this, I am so thankful!"

ROMHELYN GAY TUBALLES-DELES
Communication Department
Secretary, SSD*

"I've lived at AIAS all my life, but I don't think that I could have studied and taken up my MA in Education, Emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction here if it weren't for the Chan Shun Scholarship. This scholarship has provided its recipients and this institution with the financial support that they need to be able to acquire and provide quality Christian higher education. Without

these scholarship funds, AIAS wouldn't be the place that it is now, and to go a step even further, I should say I wouldn't be the person I am today, if it weren't for that."

AIMEE GRACE B. TAPECERIA
MA Education Student

"After two years of joyfully serving as a missionary through the 1000 Missionary Movement, I packed my bags ready to fly back home to Uganda; but God had other plans for me. Just before my flight, He sent a man to bless me. This man (an angel in disguise) offered to pay the student deposit of \$1,600 in order for me to start my master's degree and he also promised to pray for me. I couldn't afford all the expenses and the tuition but God's grace abounds more than my daily needs. AIAS extended this grace to me and I was able to study for the first semester. After one semester and a term, I had the required units to help me apply for the scholarships available from the institution. It was God's providence that when I applied, there was a new scholarship fund that had just been introduced in AIAS called Bicycle Mission World (BMW), offering a 100% scholarship; so I was sure of no more accumulated debt for the following semester."

"My parents could mostly afford my rent and there were still a few pre-requisites that I had to take from other institutions. Miraculously, provisions were made for me to do the pre-requisites under the scholarship. The blessings I received at this time of need softened my heart to the needy so much so that I recommend that more funds be made available to struggling students. God bless the hearts of these givers to keep giving and supporting more of His children."

LENCE OTIM
MBA Graduate

**The Chan Shun Scholarship
at AIAS has helped and
is continuing to help many
students fulfill their dreams
for higher education.**

A Closer Walk With God

By Henry Sitanggang



A Korean group shares reflections about the power of spiritual living during the Sabbath Retreat

The Student Association conducted a week of prayer last September 6-12, 2009 featuring Dr. Don Leo Garilva as the main speaker. Dr. Garilva is currently serving as Dean and Professor of the School of Theology at Mountain View College in the South Philippines. Meetings were held in the amphitheatre in the morning and in the AIAS gym in the evening in order to provide room for the community to attend.

The theme of the week was "Powerful Spiritual Living" which was illustrated by the theme song, "A Closer Walk with Jesus." The song was composed by

a friend of Dr. Garilva's and it provided a wonderful reminder of the main themes of the week. Dr. Garilva presented a very spiritual message through the telling of personal experiences and the testimonies of others. He stressed that we should "Read your Bible every day, pray every day, praise every day, sing every day, witness every day and you will grow, grow, grow."

The Sabbath worship time was transformed into a rich Spiritual Retreat. A unique, but very effective service was created by Dr. Garilva. The regular Sabbath Schools began with a time of meditation and met in different areas going over the materials which had been provided by the speaker. Many were pleased with this unique Sabbath worship activity and praised God because it brought the group members closer to one another through the rich time of meditation and sharing.

The small group worship concluded with a fellowship potluck together within the small groups. After the fellowship meal, all the groups gathered together in the auditorium to share their testimonies with the rest of the congregation. The week of prayer was concluded by lighting candles of commitment which was followed by a communion service.

The AIAS community praises God for using Dr. Garilva in a special way to pour out His blessings upon us during this special week. 



SA officers and friends cherish a time of fellowship with the speaker after the conclusion of the Week of Prayer. Dr. Garilva is pictured in the center with the bright blue and gold Thai shirt.

AIAS Comes to the Middle East

By Kenneth Swansi

The newest AIAS Distance Learning Center (DLC) location is in Doha, Qatar. While most students at this site are not Adventists, the DLC provides AIAS with a unique opportunity for service. Presently, the program has an enrollment of 37 students pursuing MBA degrees in Finance, Business Management and MIS. A Master of Arts in Education degree has also recently been approved, and will open soon. The Doha programs are managed by Doha Training Center [DTC] where Pastor C. Raju, is the Training Manager and Mr. Wilson Raviraj Mysore is the Managing Director.



Above: Traditional Arab street in Doha Below: A modern minaret

Why a DLC in Doha? Doha, Qatar provides a confluence of social, political, economic, and educational initiatives. Qatar has the highest per capita income in the world. Though its original wealth came primarily from natural gas reserves, Doha, like Dubai, is fast combining commerce, culture, technology and education to produce a knowledge based economy. This wealth and opportunity has attracted an expatriate community that now outnumbers the Qataris. Doha has begun to contribute to the country and the world through dynamic leadership. It was the site of the first ministerial-level meeting of the Doha Development Round of World Trade Organization negotiations. The city hosts 'The Doha Debate,' a popular BBC program which provides a forum for discussions about major political issues. The city of Doha also hosted the 2006 Asian Games.

Education has been a major focus of the Qatari government in recent years. In addition to Qatar University, established in 1973, the government has solicited other universities to establish campuses in Doha, most notably at Education City, where universities that have a presence include Virginia Commonwealth, Texas A&M, and Carnegie Mellon.



Partnering with Doha Training Center AIAS aims to provide internationally accredited graduate education to working professionals who wish remain competitive in the knowledge based community. In a setting such as Doha, AIAS endeavors to provide a values-based, world-class educational experience to all who enroll in its programs. By doing so, AIAS hopes to contribute to the development of the global community, to provide faculty with new insights, and to create an opportunity for residents of Qatar to become familiar with Adventists. 



MBA students in Doha

Business Club Hosts AW Webpage

By Sunia Fukofuka

In February 2009, marketing director and associate publisher for Adventist World—Mr. Claude Richli—sat down with Dr. Ronald Vyhmeister (Director for PhD Business) and Mr. Raimond Luntungan (AIAS Webmaster) to discuss the possibility of AIAS hosting the *Adventist World* magazine's 10 different translations. A one-year contract was signed with the agreement that business students would work on the project. The funds that this project generates will be used for scholarships, research, and business club mission trips.

The business club officers have appointed Sunia Fukofuka, Zacharie Razafimahafaly, Robert Sanjeeva, Lence Otim, Grace Mang, and Thang Do Lian as the technical team to work on this project. To date, they have been successful in publishing the Portuguese, French, Spanish, German, and Korean sites. The Pakistani and Vietnamese languages will be published soon.

The team has benefitted so much from this project. It has given students the opportunity of working in a "global workforce" atmosphere. The project also allows students the opportunity to put into practice the theoretical knowledge learned in the classroom. In addition, most of the students who are under this project are non-sponsored and the funds have proved helpful in meeting their expenses. The business club is planning a trip to Manado, Indonesia in March, 2010 with the funds in order to participate in church building, running workshops, and doing evangelism.



On behalf of the business club officers and the team that runs the Adventist World website, we would like to thank the Adventist World for giving us this opportunity! We are proud that we, in some small way, have contributed to the worldwide distribution of the Adventist World magazine online. As business students we are happy to 'make this happen' and we look forward to many other opportunities where we can continue to make a difference! 

AIAS Reaps an Award

Clarito A. Poblete, Silang Mayor, recognized several NGOs, institutions and individuals who have brought pride and honor to the municipality, and those who have contributed to the welfare of Silang residents. AIAS is among the institutions that were presented plaques of appreciation for actively taking part in reaching the needy Silangueños through various community outreach projects within Silang, Cavite. The recognition took place on August 17, 2009, at 7:30 am at the Municipal Hall.

In 2008, AIAS was recognized for its contribution to the Protection of Women and Children program. This year, AIAS was honored for spearheading a Medical, Dental and Surgical Mission—in partnership with the Tzu Chi Foundation—held July 26, 2009 at the Silang Central School.

Our institution had been constantly extending community services through Pureza Nasution—AIAS Community Service Representative, who was also recognized for her selfless efforts and dedication to social welfare.

PROGRAMS/SERVICES *Extended* to the *Municipality* of Silang

1. A free medical mission twice a year.
2. A feeding program is conducted once a year to combat malnutrition for children ages 2-12. AIAS works with the Silang Nutrition Office and provides one meal a day, 5 times per week over a one-month period for every child in the program.
3. There is a gift-giving program at the end of the year for the helpers of the AIAS community, grounds workers, guards and some indigents in the Silang Area.
4. Health Promotion programs are conducted in collaboration with the Rural Health Unit of Silang. This includes family planning lectures, dengue fever prevention, iodized salt usage, general health lectures, personal hygiene and vaccinations for children.
5. Assists the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) with case studies, financial assistance and counseling with spiritual guidance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR EVENTS

- AIAS has just received approval from the General Conference to offer an Online MBA program. Check the AIAS website and the next issue of FLAGS for further details.
- AIAS is planning to have a get together at the GC Session in Atlanta. More details will be given in the months ahead.
- Second Semester Registration
October 22, 2009
- 12th Annual Theological Forum
October 29-31, 2009
AIAS Amphitheater
"Current Trends in Adventist Theology: Between Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy"
- Student Association Mini Olympics and International Food Fair
January 22-24, 2010
- Second Semester Week of Prayer
February 6-13, 2010
Speakers from AIAS students and faculty
- School of Graduate Studies Forum
January 28-30, 2009
AIAS Auditorium
"Abundant Living: Dispelling Old Myths and Exploring New Perspectives on Holistic Lifestyle"
- March Graduation
March 5-7, 2010
AIAS Auditorium
- Intersemester Registration
March 25, 2010

Dasmariñas Municipal Jail Ministry

By Paluku Mwendambio and Nirobindu Das

For several years a team from the AIIAS Church under the leadership of Dr. Paoring Ragui has been serving the prison inmates of Dasmariñas Municipal Jail every Sabbath. There are over 280 prisoners, which include men and women of all ages, from youth to the elderly.

Every Sabbath the inmates await the Sabbath service conducted by the AIIAS group, and help out by arranging the benches and setting the place in order. They come out of their cells in a disciplined manner and take their seats. They joyfully join in the singing, both in English and Tagalog. Most of the time they volunteer to lead out in the song service. They even take an active part in special songs.

Because of the ongoing Christian influence, this prison has been declared the best and most disciplined prison in the country. The word of God has changed the attitudes of the inmates and the love of the AIIAS team that visits them regularly has helped to transform their lives. Worship service consists of singing, praying and pre-planned sermons that serve as Bible studies.

On August 08, 2009, 45 prisoners received their certificates after an intensive study of 24 Bible lessons from the Voice of Prophecy. That same day, a series of evangelistic meetings commenced. Elder Lawrence Jay Jayme spent two consecutive weeks preaching the word of God to the inmates in English, which was translated into Tagalog by Abel Flores. More than 100 prisoners attended the meeting each day. The Holy Spirit was at work. As a result, 30 prisoners were baptized on August 15, 2009. Praise the Lord!

The end of the evangelistic effort arrived, and another miracle of new birth took place. There were an additional of 100 prisoners who accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and were baptized on August 22,

2009. A total of 130 persons have joined the family of God. The Dasmariñas Jail Ministry Team—composed of AIIAS students, faculty and staff—thank God for His amazing grace which sets people free from sin anywhere—even in Dasmariñas Municipal Jail. 📷



The speaker, Elder Lawrence Jay Jayme (left) elaborates on the topic “Happy Living” and Abel Flores (right) translates the message into Tagalog



Baptizing prisoners in barrels of water



The Jail Ministry team and the speaker with the first batch of 30 newly baptized prisoners

NOTE: The success of the effort could not have been achieved without the support of the following persons: Dr. & Mrs. Paoring Ragui, Larry Windewani, Nirobindu Das, Paluku Mwendambio, Saw Kyaw Ba Sein, Harry Rambai, Anita Pica, Ellen Compuesto and some members of Dasma Area-G SDA Church.

PHOTO CREDITS: Paluku Mwendambio (Interest Coordinator) and Nirobindu Das (Communication Coordinator).

Meet the Vice President for Academic Affairs: **Dr. Frederick “Dolf” Oberholster**

FLAGS: *How did you come to know AIIAS and when did you first come here?*

Friends introduced me to AIIAS, but God brought me here. No Internet was available in those days so it was quite providential that God brought the right people at the right time across my path. I had been determined to get an Adventist graduate education, and while I was exploring a number of possibilities, Dr. Leonard Masuku, a recent graduate of AIIAS, introduced me to the institution. To my surprise, I discovered that the president at the time was Dr. David Birkenstock, who had been president of Helderberg College when I was a student there some 17 years earlier. All of this made it easier to have the faith to bring my family to a relatively unknown place in a strange part of the world.

FLAGS: *Share a bit of your personal and academic background.*

I am passionate about Adventist education. Most of my 22 years of formal education took place in Adventist

schools. This includes both my graduate degrees (MA Education and PhD) that were earned at AIIAS. My secular education included two years in an elementary public school, and pursuing my BSc (Mathematics) via correspondence from the University of South Africa (UNISA). Born into a first generation Adventist family, my parents were quite devout. My father became a literature evangelist soon after my birth and has been active in that capacity ever since. As a primary and high school student at Helderberg College, I was exposed to numerous stories of divine providence from visiting missionaries sharing and from biographies I found in the library. The Lord used these to impress on my mind a call to service. In Grade 10 I felt a very distinct call to become a math and science teacher and also to be a missionary in a foreign country. How these two roles would both come to fruition seemed impossible at the time. The call was so strong that it was one of the first things I shared with Trevlynn (now my wife) when we began dating. As it turned out, in 1984 we went to Zimbabwe where I would be first a math and science teacher and later, an administrator. Interestingly,

I have now been working as an administrator in Adventist education in four different countries, in four vastly different contexts.

FLAGS: *Where were you working before coming to AIIAS in 1997 to start your master’s studies?*

Before coming to AIIAS I was headmaster of an Adventist boarding academy, Anderson School, which is in Gweru, Zimbabwe. Anderson School was well known for its strong academic program and excellent spiritual atmosphere, much like AIIAS in that regard. In January 1997 my family and I came to AIIAS to take a year off from school administration to recover from what I understood to be a stress-related illness but



Dr. Dolf and his wife Trevlynn

later discovered was a food allergy. I also wanted to better prepare myself for my work, so I came to study educational administration.

FLAGS: *How long have you been here at AIIAS, and what were your responsibilities before your appointment as VP Academic?*

We have been here at AIIAS for almost 12 years now but in two sessions. My time as student lasted more than four years. After that we went to Palau where I was principal of the Palau SDA schools for a year before receiving a call to return to teach at AIIAS. We have now been back at AIIAS for more than seven years. Until last year, I was the Director of the Division of Online Learning (DOL) here at AIIAS. It was a very interesting challenge requiring me to work with the faculty and the online support team in establishing online learning programs at AIIAS as well as the mechanisms to support them. It was most delightful to find that we could be a blessing to professionals seeking an Adventist graduate education wherever they might find themselves in the world. My role as director was part-time, with my other responsibilities being that of a faculty member in the Department of Educational Studies.

FLAGS: *AIIAS never had an academic vice-president in the past. What are the greatest challenges you are facing in this new position?*

One of the greatest challenges I face is the constraint of time, particularly when considering all that could and should be done—constraints both in terms of my time and in terms of the time that the faculty and others have available to initiate the important changes at AIIAS during this period. With no one functioning previously as VP Academic, there is somewhat of a backlog of issues that need to be addressed, even though the deans and presidents have done much to fill the gap in the past. This time constraint means we have to balance our efforts very carefully between the urgent and the important.

Change itself is also a challenge. Change is always difficult, much more difficult than it first appears. This may be even more true when working with academicians than with other groups. Fortunately, there is a readiness for change at AIIAS and a wonderful team of faculty and staff. The recent process of

developing a new strategic plan has forced the AIIAS community to reflect on common purposes and seek to unify their efforts on what is considered important. This has been most helpful.

Another major challenge that AIIAS faces is meeting the demands for international level education with the realities of limited resources in a developing region of the world. There are very high expectations placed on AIIAS—from the General Conference, to whom we are directly responsible, from the board, the faculty, the students, and even from the Adventist community in general. We desire to offer distinctively Adventist education that is recognized for its excellence, continuing to prepare leaders for the church in this region as we have been doing now for more than 20 years.

AIIAS is strategically placed on the doorstep of what missiologists call the 10/40 Window.

Herein, I believe, lies our biggest

challenge, not merely to prepare our students for “a life of respectable conventionality” but for a life of service so that, in working with Christ, they can fulfill a very definite and meaningful mission. So far it has been a joyful experience acting as VP Academic, mainly because I am working with a very supportive community and with an amazing God. What a privilege to have this opportunity! 



New Faces at AIIAS

By Marife Banot-Salamante



Melody Ambat Javier is from Talon, Amadeo, Cavite. She graduated from the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) in March 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in Office Administration. Before joining AIIAS, she worked with First Filipinas Insurance Brokers

Corporation in Makati, Metro Manila. She is married to Mendelle Javier and they are blessed with a lovely son they call Ziv. Melody loves to cook for her family. Her interests include reading books, watching TV and playing the bamboo flute, but most of her time is spent playing with her one-year-old son. Melody serves as a secretary in the Office of Admissions and Records.

Iren Castro Aguillon

is the Administrative secretary for the Academic Vice-President (VPA).

Iren was called to join the AIIAS staff in July 2009. She graduated from the Adventist University of the Philippines in March 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Office

Administration and was affiliated with the Central Philippine Adventist College as Secretary to the Dean of the School of Nursing prior to her work assignment here at AIIAS. She is from Bacolod, Central Philippines. Iren is a person who is positive about almost every aspect of life. She likes to read, think, dream, and be surrounded with people.



Emily Anne Appel is an Adventist Volunteer (AVS) whose primary responsibility is working in the English Center, teaching English Level 3. Emily graduated in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Religious Education from Southern Adventist University. Prior to coming to AIIAS, Emily taught Bible and Music at Louisville Junior Academy for



one year. Her hobbies include singing, playing the piano, clarinet, flute, drama, and writing. She plays basketball and volleyball. Emily is blessed with two older brothers (twins) and a younger sister. Her father is a pastor, and her mother works as a sales manager.

Mirriam Aguilar Carlos, also known as Mac, is still working toward finishing her Bachelor of Arts in English at the Adventist University of the Philippines. She has also earned credits in Psychology and Fine Arts. Mac was born in Tuguegarao, the Sun City of the North, Cagayan Valley, and spent her first 13 years there. Her parents were from Nueva Ecija, so she grew up with a mixed culture of Ilocano, Ybanag and Tagalog. Mac loves nature, photography, arts and crafts, literature, and writing, and is very fond of kids. She works as secretary in the Office of Advancement and Recruitment.





Rey Alvarez Arquiza, Jr.

is 25 years old, the only boy, and the youngest in a family with 3 girls. He is from Bacoor, Cavite. He spent his elementary years at Baesa Adventist Elementary School and Pasay Adventist Elementary School, and went to high school at

Central Luzon Adventist Academy in Pampanga. He graduated in October 2006 from the Adventist University of the Philippines with a bachelor's degree in Accounting, and became a Certified Public Accountant in May 2007. Rey worked in Makati for one year as a junior auditor, then as a temporary accountant at AllAS from Oct. 27, 2008 to November 22, 2008. He became a regular worker in May 2009. Rey is fond of reading, watching TV, surfing the Internet, and tinkering with computers.

Catherin Pediri Sarco

completed her Bachelor of Science in Office Administration at the Adventist University of the Philippines in 2005. Before coming to AllAS she worked in Central Luzon Conference as a secretary for the Human Resources department for one year and spent another year as full time church secretary at the Philippine International Church located at AUP. Catherin comes from Baesa, Caloocan City, Manila. Her hobbies include swimming, playing badminton, and watching movies with friends. She is working as a secretary for the Department of Public Health and the Department of Business in the School of Graduate Studies at AllAS.



New SGS Professors

By Denise Dunzweiler and Puring Ragui

We are excited to introduce you to our newest SGS faculty!

Ronny Kountur is from Indonesia. He has not one, but TWO Ph.D.s! His areas of expertise are business and Statistics.

He is currently teaching in the Department of Business and is the director of the Asia Pacific Research Center (APRC). During recent conversations he has shared, "I have the chance of serving students, co-faculty, and even the churches that need my expertise. I believe that when we sincerely serve God there is peace and joy. AllAS is a beautiful campus with friendly people. I have been invited to contribute to AllAS, particularly in the area of research, and that motivates me to do my best!" Dr. Kountur has been a wonderful addition to AllAS, and to the Business Department. We especially appreciate his cheerfulness, his enthusiasm, and his willingness to always go the extra mile.



Hilario Dela Torre Is the newest faculty member in the Public Health Department. He holds a Doctor of Public Health degree from the Adventist University of the Philippines. Before joining AllAS he was the head of the Health Education Department of Cagayan Valley Sanitarium and Hospital in Isabel, North Philippines. His wife is a practicing physician, and they have three children—two boys and a girl.



An interview with AIIAS Professor Woodrow Whidden, PhD, Author of E. J. Waggoner: From the Physician of Good News to Agent of Division (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Pub. Assoc., 2008)

Your recent book makes you one of the leading scholars in the world on the life of E. J. Waggoner. Briefly, who was he, and what was his role in the Adventist church?

Waggoner was a medical doctor, turned minister who rose to prominence as the co-editor of the *Signs of the Times* (with A. T. Jones) in the late 1880s. This dynamic duo became the legendary "messengers" of "Righteousness by Faith" in the fabled Minneapolis General Conference Session of 1888. They received strong support from Ellen G. White.

Why do you feel his life is worth studying today—what can we gain?

Waggoner became one of the most important, shaping theologians in SDA history. His theology became his most important legacy. While he made many valuable and positive contributions to Adventism's theological understanding, his later life proved to be a tragic manifestation of his most controversial theological developments. We should profit from his positive contributions and make his failures cautionary tales of how not to think and act.

What gifts did Waggoner give the Adventist church of his day?

His major gift was to help refocus Adventist thought on the Person and Cross of Christ. In doing this he made a number of fine contributions to our understanding of the role of the law in salvation, the covenants, and how to properly relate justifying to sanctifying grace. These were his main contributions, though there are others.

What lessons can we learn about what we should NOT do?

We should not move very far away from the very positive contributions that he made in the run-up to the 1888 Minneapolis

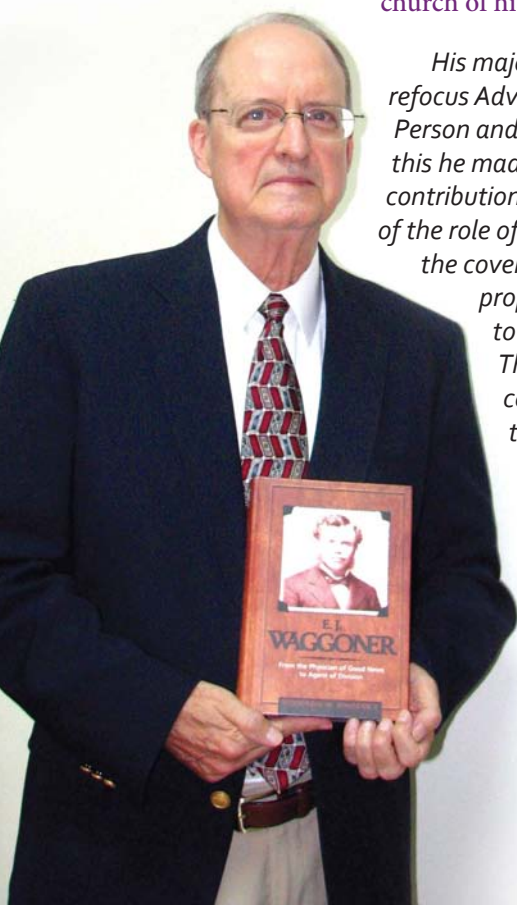
Conference and in the three to four years following the Conference. From 1889 on, however, he steadily began to move away from a number of the foundational teachings that made his 1888 contributions so powerful and positive.

It is obvious from the title of your book that Waggoner experienced a shift in his influence on the church over his lifetime. What caused that shift, and what lesson can church leaders today learn from his life in order to avoid similar errors?

It was my desire to approach the life and thought of Waggoner in as affirmative a manner as possible. But in the immediate aftermath of the Minneapolis Conference there were already signs of theological drift. My central thesis is that Waggoner's theological perspective would steadily move in an unhealthy subjective direction to the very end of his life. The key turning points were his adoption of a "post-fall" view of the Humanity of Christ in early 1889, followed by the repudiation of the Penalty/ Substitution/ Satisfaction" model of the Atonement (the reason why Christ had to die) and the adoption of the Mystical view of Atonement. In other words, the believer is effectively made righteous through the power of the in-dwelling Christ and is declared justified because he/she has been truly made righteous. And it was in the wake of such serious theological change that everything went in a very subjective direction. This included a dangerous perfectionism, strong opposition to Church organization (every church member was to be directly led by the Holy Spirit, with no need for formal organization), a rejection of the Sanctuary doctrine, and ultimately to pantheistic views that led to a species of mystical spiritualism and serious moral compromise. It was a sad and chilling "fall" from both theological and moral "grace" which enveloped his life and ministry.

What influence do Waggoner and those who follow him have in the church today?

That is hard to assess. The 1888 Study Committee (greatly mentored by R. J. Wieland and the late D. K. Short) and a number of its fellow travelers (such as Pastor Jack Sequeira) have sought to incorporate a number of Waggoner's later theological ideas into the mainstream of Adventist theology under the banner of the 1888 Message. The key issue is that a number of the teachings of Waggoner (and Jones) were later developments, not themes they had agitated before and during the Minneapolis Conference of



1888. Thus there has been a lingering, serious debate as to what the real message of 1888 is. Such issues as the "post-fall" humanity of Christ, "universal legal justification," the alleged sinless perfection of the final generation (and their supposed vindication of God) were not even a part of Waggoner's message at Minneapolis (being later developments in his thought). Furthermore, there is the issue of what Ellen White affirmed in the teaching of Jones and Waggoner. She clearly did not endorse a number of these later views. Thus the logical question in these debates seems to be: who is the major Adventist authority to define the truthfulness or falsity of all these issues---Jones and Waggoner, or Ellen White? Of course, the Bible is the ultimate court of resort. But in the historical flow of 1888 and its aftermath, it seems that Ellen White should be our major authoritative arbiter of the real truths of 1888. The key sub-plot in the whole Waggoner story is how he related to Ellen White. My thesis is that he steadily moved away from her counsel, both theologically and morally. And one of the sobering lessons of Adventist history is that it is a fearful thing to go against wise and redemptive counsel given by an inspired prophet. One of the saddest parts of this story is that finally both Waggoner and Jones came to the place where they simply no longer heeded the counsels sent to them by Ellen White. The inevitable result is that they both left the church.

What is it about Waggoner that captured your attention personally and inspired you to research his life to this extent?

When George Knight asked me to write this book, I quickly embraced the challenge. While this is the first fully researched biography of Waggoner, it was not so much the drama in his life but the major influence that he has had on subsequent theological developments in Adventist history that inspired me to accept the assignment. There is a growing body of evidence that he is the key source for the "post-fall" view of the humanity of Christ, most subjective views on the Atonement, and the final generation vindication views so greatly touted by later SDA thinkers (such as M. L. Andreasen, Herb Douglass, Robert Wieland and many of their admirers). Thus Waggoner is the main inspiration, along with A. T. Jones, for almost all subsequent perfectionist agitation in SDA history.

You have published extensively in the area of Adventist History. How does this book fit with your other works?

All of the key theological issues which preoccupied Waggoner, along with the theology of Ellen White, have been the major research and writing concerns of my scholarly work. When I pondered George Knight's invitation to write this biography as Volume Five in the "Adventist Pioneer Series" (Knight is the "Consulting" editor) it just

seemed natural for me. It was very challenging, even taxing, to do the research and a bit daunting to tackle such a controversial and voluminous writer. But the work has been personally very revealing and satisfying.

What is your next publishing project?

My next projects are to write two books: the first one is on the theme of Christian Assurance in the Light of the Investigative Judgment and the subsequent volume will be on the Person of Christ. These volumes will appear in the newly launched Review and Herald book series entitled the "Library of Adventist Theology" (George Knight is also the "Consulting" editorial director of this series).

How did the writing of this biography personally affect your appreciation of Waggoner as a person?

I sought to approach his thought in a very affirmative spirit, and to "get to know Waggoner as a man." While I was fully aware that there would be theological and moral challenges in his life, their collective effect took me by surprise. I became more deeply affected by his persona and plight than initially anticipated. While there were many wonderful theological, editorial, administrative and revival triumphs, the ultimate keynote became intense sadness. Few men in the history of Adventism have been gifted with such great native talent and industry (and strong support from Ellen White), and yet in the end have fallen so far from what God had intended. There were numerous times during the writing process that this sense of sadness would suddenly envelop me with spontaneous weeping, as I mourned the tragedy that was E. J. Waggoner. Waggoner's life ranks right up there with J. H. Kellogg and L. R. Conradi in the Hall of Shame of Leading Lights in SDA history whose flame waxed dim. 



Dr. Whidden and his wife Margaret (Peggy)

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