## Unfinished

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### **Meet TMS Global**

New name. Same ministry. Fresh approaches to love our changing world.



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### **Cover photo:**



This boy was among the refugees who arrived on the Lesvos Island of Greece after a dangerous sea crossing. TMS Global missionaries have been traveling to the camps in Greece, Macedonia,

and other locations to provide a helping hand to the thousands of refugees seeking refuge there.

Photo by Jedediah Smith/Genesis Photos



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### What's in a name?

Introducing TMS Global—and why now is the right time to change our name

We retained our logo—a roughly drawn globe reminiscent of a passport stamp. Across the face of the globe is the ancient Christian symbol, the fish, which was used in the catacombs to mark a place for believers to gather in the midst of persecution. The left side of the globe and fish are incomplete, signifying that the task is unfinished.



For cross-cultural witnesses in many places, using words like "mission" and "missionary" can be potentially dangerous. For them, operating as "TMS Global" rather than "The Mission Society" will be a welcome shift.

TMS, the initials for The Mission Society, now acts as an acronym for words that are at the heart of this ministry. Training missionaries and churches, mobilizing the body of Christ, and serving are at the core of who we are.

Adding global to our name reinforces our ongoing commitment to be engaged in gospel ministry around the world, especially among the least reached.

### T R A I N + M O B I L I Z E + S E R V E

I'm having Patagonian Toothfish for dinner this evening. Sound appetizing? If you aren't so sure, you are not alone. Indeed, in 1977 a fish wholesaler named Lee Lantz discovered there was almost no market for this delicate coldwater seafood. But Lantz believed that the problem was not the fish, but the name. He got permission to market Patagonian Toothfish as "Chilean Sea Bass," and with its new name, the once slighted fish became a global bestseller.

William Shakespeare has Juliet ask "What's in a name?" But history teaches us that there is, in fact, a great deal in a name. While names can describe, they also have the power to help define a person, organization, or thing. Perhaps that is why Jesus was fond of giving His disciples new names. So as they begin to follow Jesus, Simon (which means "hearer" in Hebrew) becomes Peter

(literally "Rocky"), while brothers James and John become Boanerges (Sons of Thunder). Later, in Revelation 2:17, Jesus says that ultimately He will give all the victorious ones "a white stone with a new name written on it." Jesus seems to know that our names often affect who we become. He wants us each to know our true names, who He created us to be. One thing is clear: biblically speaking, names are important.

### Our name's history

In 1984 a small group of missionminded United Methodists formed a new missionary society with the aim of providing an additional avenue of evangelistic and disciple-making mission work within The United Methodist Church. The new agency was named "The Mission Society for United Methodists." After a couple of decades, however, the board of directors felt the promptings of the Holy Spirit suggesting that the agency was called to a broader mission. A large part of its work would continue to be to provide a home for disciple-making United Methodists seeking to serve cross-culturally in a traditional missionary calling. But the agency desired to become intentionally interdenominational as well. While maintaining its Wesleyan distinctive, the Society sought to work across denominational lines. As the scope of the mission expanded, "for United Methodists" was dropped from the name and the agency became simply "The Mission Society."

### Our name's problem

While the new name has served well for the last decade, it has also been problematic in some unforeseen ways.

Upon hearing that I work with The Mission Society, people often respond by saying "Which one"? When I reply, "No, that's our name...The Mission Society," even I am aware of how presumptuous that must sound—as if this were the only mission agency. Also, The Mission Society is often mistaken for another agency with a very similar name. On occasion we receive checks in the mail that were meant for the other organization. Even my own pastor introduced me recently using the name of the other agency in his introduction. It is clear that the name creates some confusion.

On a much more serious level, the name has become problematic missiologically. The world is changing. Where once Christian "missionaries" could practically hang

out a shingle to announce who they were and what they were doing, today doing so would be illegal in many places, dangerous in more places, and deadly in some. Even the term missionary is loaded with baggage these days, with the result that we now refer to all of our workers as cross-cultural witnesses, or CCWs. And we are not alone. A number of large, well known and highly respected agencies have recently renamed and rebranded for similar reasons. Campus Crusade for Christ is now CRU. The U.S. Center for World Mission is now Frontier Ventures. The General Baptist Conference is now Converge. And the list could go on and

In light of these and other realities, The Mission Society Board of Directors entered into a renaming process late last year. After a long season of prayer, consultation, and discernment, the board recently came to a consensus decision to rename the agency "TMS Global." The "TMS" portion of our name will point backward towards our roots (The Mission Society), while also serve as an acronym for "train, mobilize, and serve," three words that encapsulate the heart of this ministry.

### Our new name's meaning

We have been known for years for the excellence of our training, both with our Western missionaries as they prepare for cross-cultural service and also with the literally thousands of indigenous believers around the world who have been a part of our International Mobilization Conferences. Likewise, our

"We will continue to go even into the most challenging places, until the whole world knows the grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Church Ministries division is devoted to training and mobilizing local churches for mission. We remain committed to staying on the cutting edge of missiology and training and making that training a central part of who we are.

Mobilizing the body of Christ to join Jesus in His mission is the central feature of The Mission Society's mission statement. Facilitating the response of women and men of faith who desire to take seriously Jesus' command to "go and make disciples of all nations" is the core of who we are. We remain committed to deploying a global team of cross-cultural witnesses.

Likewise, incarnational witness and servanthood are at the heart of our strategy. Our cross-cultural witnesses go out as learners, as partners, as ambassadors of Jesus Christ, and foremost as servants. We remain committed to serving Jesus, His kingdom, and the people of the world.

Finally, adding "Global" to our name

reinforces our ongoing commitment to be engaged in gospel ministry around the world, and especially among the least-reached people. We will continue to go, even into the most challenging places, until the whole world knows the grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Our new name's potential

Between 1969 and 1979 the Chevrolet Nova was one of the best selling cars in the United States. Efforts to introduce it in Mexico proved extremely disappointing, however, until someone pointed out that "no va" in Spanish

means "it won't go." No one was really interested in buying a car called "it won't go"! A name that had worked well locally wasn't going to work globally. Here at TMS Global, we believe that our new name will not only work locally, but

globally. We believe it will serve a new generation of cross-cultural witnesses, who, unlike Chevy's car, will go—and under the banner of TMS Global, will share the good news of Jesus's love incarnationally around the globe. \$\P\$

**The Rev. Max Wilkins** is president and CEO of The Mission Society.

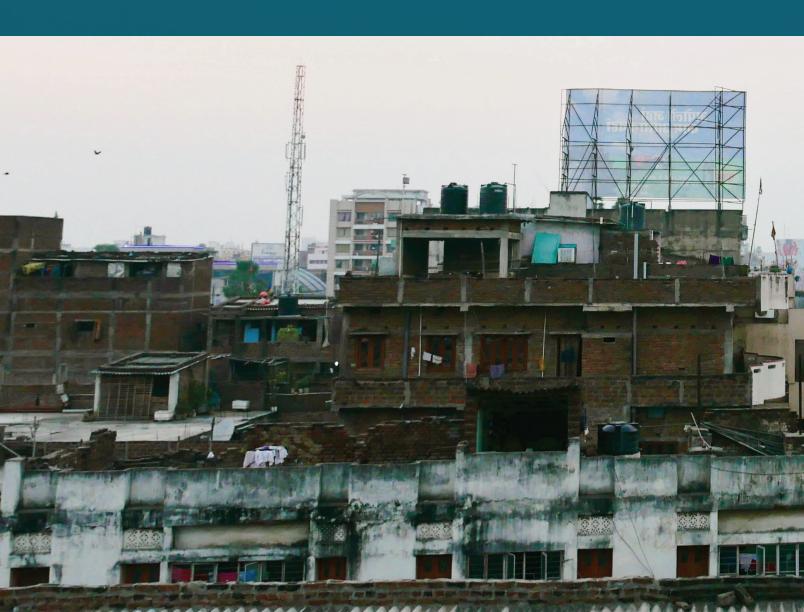
### **OUR MISSION**

TMS Global exists to mobilize and deploy the body of Christ globally to join Jesus in His mission, especially among the least-reached peoples.

### **OUR VISION**

The kingdom of God advancing among all peoples bringing about redemption and reconciliation through Jesus Christ.

# FIVE WAYS YOUR TMS GLOBAL IS RESPONDING TO A CHANGING WORLD



### >OFFERING CHRIST FOR 33 YEARS

In 1984, The Mission Society for United Methodists launched. Now, 33 years later, the world's landscape is vastly different. Trends toward mass migration, urbanization, and globalization reshape mission challenges. Here are a few ways Christ is offered through the freshly-named TMS Global—which continues to walk in a rich Wesleyan heritage.







## FOCUSING ON THE LEAST REACHED

From its inception, TMS Global has as a stated objective to reach the lost with the gospel, which has always informed our global mission outreach. In 2008 as a part of a vision-casting meeting with several missionaries and staff, we felt led to be more intentional about engaging with least-reached people groups. These are entire areas where people will likely never hear the gospel unless someone goes to them. Two years later, this was encoded in our mission statement, "especially among the least-reached peoples."

The decision to be more focused on the least reached impacted us in three major ways. The first is in recruitment. We began to lay out the vision and identify people who had the heart, the calling, and the capacity to work in least-reached areas. We prayed for the Lord to send such people to us. He has answered that prayer!

The second related to training. Since many of the least-reached people belong to one of the world's largest religions, we needed to increase our understanding of how gospel best engages with religions such as Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism. This led us on a journey to a new focus on Jesus and His kingdom and how best to relate that with adherents of other faiths. It has also enabled us to play a leadership role in this whole arena with other organizations.

Many of the world's unreached live in places that are politically, socially, and economically challenging. So a third impact of our focusing on least reached has been developing more creative access and higher sensitivity to security concerns. Words like "mission" are not helpful when engaging with many least-reached areas due to wrong associations in many nations with what that entails. More of our missionaries are engaged in vocations such as teaching, business, engineering, and other forms of employment that give them a natural way to live and build relationships in places with more religious restrictions.

The result of this effort is that 50 percent of our deployed missionaries now serve in areas considered least reached. (This is up from 24 percent in 2006.) And many others, while serving in places classified as "reached," are focusing on subgroups of people with limited access to the gospel. We continue to seek the Lord for other places He would have us go where people have yet to know of His love.



Jim M. Ramsay is TMS Global's vice president for global operations.





### CAPITALIZING ON MILLENIALS' STRENGTHS

Millennials (born 1980 – late 1990s) will make up more than half the American workforce by 2020. Already, they make up one-third.

Millennials value community, authenticity, development, justice, and experiences. Value alignment drives decisions.

They are connected globally through technology, both to information and relationships.

TMS Global places millennials on teams, where they can grow and thrive in formational community. #squadgoals

Our ministry approach appeals to millennials' values. We learn first, love tangibly, and make disciple-makers who follow Jesus.

TMS Global teams demonstrate the body of Christ where there is no Church. #unreached #unengaged

Missions is changing, and so are we. We've created on-ramps for young adults through GreenLight:Gateway (six weeks) and CoLab (two years) programs.

Millennials are pursuing jobs overseas. We are growing capacity to recruit, train, and send tentmakers and entrepreneurs. #travel #freelance

#Mentoring is the main course. Millennials seek out mentors with life and work experience. We offer mentoring to every missionary we send.

TMS Global is known for #collaboration. Our relational connectivity allows us to work across organizational, denominational, and cultural lines.

We want millennials! Their passion, cultural adaptability, resilience, and relationship building skills can have big impact at TMS Global.



In keeping with her millennial ways, **Kate Hilderbrandt**, TMS Global's innovation
manager for global engagement, wrote this
story in 140 character or less increments.





## REACHING POPULATIONS ON THE MOVE

Media of coverage refugees have put migration more on the radar in recent years. But actually, the dramatic increase in people on the move has been going on for a couple decades. Although some of this movement is due to wars, much of it is economic and related to globalization and urbanization. Nearly 250 million people now live outside of their countries of origin, and another 750 million are displaced internally. In the past few years, a completely new discipline in missions has arisen called "diaspora missions." Mission leaders are giving consideration to what this means in terms of mission.

TMS Global has been adapting also to this global phenomenon. Ten years ago, a missionary family moved to Clarkston, Georgia to begin a work here, where thousands of refugees are placed upon arrival to the United States. This family's pioneering work has now been taken up by others and has grown, even receiving national attention.

Our workers in the Middle East are ministering to and in relationship with Syrians who have relocated there to escape the war. Other missionaries in Europe have traveled to the camps and temporary locations in Greece, Macedonia, and other areas to provide a helping hand to the thousands of refugees seeking temporary refuge there.

Often missionaries who have returned to the United States after several years of service can be key to serving in this "diaspora" context. One missionary family who served in China and speak fluent Mandarin now live in a major US city. They reach out to unbelieving Chinese and also work with a local Chinese church to help it reach out to other Chinese, other immigrants, and even the host American culture.

Missionary Neal Hicks served for more than 30 years in Japan with his late wife, Mari. After her passing, Neal began serving among the many Japanese in Tennessee associated with Japanese-owned businesses there. He and his wife, Shirley, are in partnership with Japanese believers in the area and have planted a multinational church that reaches out not only to Japanese, but to other diaspora groups in the area.

As TMS Global moves into the future, we anticipate these sorts of ministry settings will only increase. We also see a great opportunity to work with local churches in the United States to equip them for connecting with diaspora populations in their communities.



*Jim M. Ramsay* is TMS Global's vice president for global operations.





## TRAINING CHURCHES TO IMPACT CITIES

TMS Global is passionate about reaching people who have not heard Jesus' good news of life in the kingdom of God. Today, many of these least-reached people live in—or are moving to—cities.

With the global trend towards urbanization, more than half the world's population now lives in urban centers. By the year 2050, it is estimated that 70 percent of the world's population will live in cities. Masses of those moving into urban areas are asylum-seekers.1 Will the church welcome the stranger and refugee? How equipped are churches to meet the social and spiritual needs of people in these growing cities?

TMS Global helps empower and equip churches in the US and overseas to meet the social needs of people in these emerging cities, especially among those who are most vulnerable.

To meet spiritual needs of those in emerging cities means journeying with them toward Jesus and into the kingdom of God. So we help train and equip people to cross the streets of their cities and speak of Jesus with their neighbors from different cultures or faith backgrounds—moving from a posture of fear to friendship.

TMS Global is establishing strategic Mobilization Hubs in cities around the globe. Through training offered in these hub cities, local churches are mobilized to address the spiritual and social needs of their urban neighbors. To make this training available, we partner with mission leaders from Latin America, Asia, and Africa who lead these diverse mobilization teams. In this changing world of missions, we are discovering together with God's global family to live, teach, and anticipate the kingdom of God.



Steve Wilson is TMS Global's senior director of international mobilization.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) says that "one in every 113 people globally is now either an asylum-seeker, internally displaced or a refugee—a level of risk for which UNHCR knows no precedent." www.unhcr.org





## EMPHASIZING THE WAY OF JESUS

I had a conversation recently with someone who is a mentor to myself and a number of us at TMS Global. As we were speaking about someone in ministry, she asked in a matter-of-fact manner, "Is he Christ-formed?" That simple four-word question succinctly encapsulated the crux of what we seek to accomplish through the training and formation of our cross-cultural witnesses—Christ-ward transformation.

Of course, the New Testament emphasizes that we be formed towards Christlikeness. Paul's prayer for the Galatians was that Christ "be formed in you." In his letter to the Romans, he said that we should be transformed by the renewing of our mind. And he referred to Christian growth to the believers in Corinth as a process of being transformed.

And yet, we Christians often try to identify and categorize ourselves and other believers based on other criteria. "Of what denomination is she a member?" or "Is he born again?" But "Is he Christ-formed?" is the better question. It says the fruit we seek goes far beyond a decision or an organizational affiliation.

Rather than doing work that encourages formation, it is easy for those of us in ministry to default to a ministry of mere information instead. This is why popular ministry may be more often understood by an abundance of sermons, seminars, printed materials, radio programs, and other mass-disseminated forms of Christian data. However, at TMS Global, we seek to develop leaders who will focus on the way of Jesus, not just the words of Jesus. We pursue this by tending to the hidden life of quietness alone with God and by meeting regularly with others for study, prayer, dialogue, and service together. That is why our missionary preparation includes mentoring, coaching, and reading assignments in addition to the extensive residential training that we require.

Our calling as heralds of the gospel is not merely a matter of getting the word out to places beyond our borders. If it were, success could be measured by how well we disseminate information about Jesus—the number of heads counted at a seminar or hands raised at a crusade. But transformation comes through more incarnational models of ministry, even though measuring its fruitfulness can be less precise. Jesus is our model. Formation by His example, not simply the sharing of information, is the path of transformation.



Frank Decker is TMS Global's vice president for training and formation.

# WORLD-ALTERING LOVE LOV

EXAMINING LIVES YOU'VE HELPED AWAKEN TO JESUS

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.
Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."

- I John 4:7, NIV

"Jesus said, 'Love ...as I have loved you.' We cannot love too much," writes Amy Carmichael (1867-1951, missionary to India).

In 2016, you loved much. You helped provide clean water for villagers where there had been none, employment to women in need, discipling for new believers, care for refugees, support for missionaries, pastoral training to those who would announce the gospel among unreached people. The list goes on and on. Through Christ's love in you, you loved, bringing about small moments that transformed single lives. And you loved, helping to bring about change on a grand scale.

It is estimated that today "only 14 percent of non-Christians today know a Christian."\* So the Christian Church has much work to do. And you are doing it. Whole communities know Him today because of you.

In the following, we look back over 2016. Here are just three of the unnumbered stories that show how your witness is being communicated all over the world.

\*From First Things, "World Christianity by the Numbers," February 25, 2015, by George Weigel

The stories on these pages were compiled and edited by Reed Haigler Hoppe, associate director of communications.

Photo by Jonathan Duncan



### Something of his very own

Neglected and regularly beaten, Emilio lived unimaginable days. Today, sorrow remains, but something else too.

The scars on Emilio's\* head tell of the abuse he suffered at a young age. Emilio is 18 years old and illiterate. His mother beat him as a child. He was never allowed to attend school.

Emilio lives in Lima in a small home all alone. He never knew his father, and his nine other siblings have different fathers. He sells candy on the street and gives the profits to his mom. When he has no money to give, she sends his brothers to punish him.

We had an audio Bible, so we gave it to Emilio. He told us that he had never received a gift in his entire life.

By the grace of God, Emilio found a church near his home and met Jesus. He prays regularly for his mother to know Jesus as well. He has memorized some scripture verses that he learned at church, but cannot read the Bible on his own. In addition to being illiterate, he cannot see well.

We first met Emilio when he attended our feeding program. He told us his story, and our hearts broke for this kind, young man who stood before us. After the feeding program, Tim took Emilio to an eye doctor in Huancayo. Unfortunately, his poor eyesight is caused by a neurological problem. Emilio's eyes filled with tears when I told him that glasses would not help him see more clearly. The doctor gave us the name of a neurological doctor in Lima, but this is probably not an option due to finances.

We had an audio Bible, so we gave it to Emilio. You should have seen the smile that spread across his face! He told us that he had never received a gift in his entire life. Now Emilio can study the Bible and grow in his relationship with Christ.

> We become so tired of feeling helpless in situations like these, but God always steps in and takes control. Please pray that the Lord will wrap His arms around Emilio, and that he will continue following Christ.

\*Pseudonym.



Tim and Jennifer Goshorn and their family serve in Huancayo, Peru, where they minister in the local women's prison, lead discipleship groups, serve in an orphanage, and coordinate a feeding program and Bible study for children.

### EUGENE PETERSON ON LOVE:

"And yet I decide, every day, to set aside what I can do best and attempt what I do very clumsily—open myself to the frustrations and failures of loving, daring to believe that failing in love is better than succeeding in pride."

### Showdown

She put her faith in Jesus and destroyed her idols. Then it got scary.

Amita\* is from a very poor family and lived in a shelter for most of her life.

When I moved to India, I began meeting with several of

the young women connected to our ministry, spending one-onone time with them. During these meetings, I shared with them about Christ, prayed with them, and wanted to be a friend they could trust if they needed to talk to someone

Her eyes couldn't focus on me. Every time we prayed, she would tell me a man would yell really loudly in her ear so she couldn't hear me praying.

After several months of meeting together, Amita decided to put her faith in Jesus.

I was so happy for her! Unfortunately, that wasn't the end of the story.

After Amita accepted Christ, she brought her idols to me and asked me to destroy them. The next day, Amita began hearing voices in her head. She was admitted to a mental hospital.

We knew Amita was dealing with spiritual warfare. Her eyes couldn't focus on me. Every time we prayed, she would tell me a man would yell really loudly in her ear so she couldn't hear me praying. It was really scary.

Amita decided to return to her home village. I was devastated. Away from this community of believers, Amita did not have a support system or any Christians around to encourage her in her relationship with Jesus. Also, she was in danger of being sold in marriage by her family. I prayed and decided to put the situation in God's hands. I totally trusted God with her.

A week later, Amita returned to school. This has been a turning point for her! God is so good! Amita is smiling and laughing again. The voices are gone, and she is happy and

praying to Jesus!

Please pray for Amita. She has a long way to go and has been through a lot. Her story is one of the many reasons I am here doing what I'm doing—helping young women to know Christ and grow in their relationship with Him.

Anna\* serves in India with a ministry that reaches out to young women in need of guidance. The ministry teaches the young women a trade, enabling them to have a means for supporting themselves.

\*Pseudonyms.

### C.S. LEWIS ON LOVE:

"Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him."





### Seeking truth

In a country where Buddhism underlies nearly every activity and belief, young Buddhists start hungering to know Jesus. How?

Dao\* is the strongest Buddhist we have met in Thailand. With big, brown eyes and long dark hair, this sweet young woman has become very close to our family. We got to know Dao through English classes, and she began to hang out at our house often and has become a good friend.

When we pray in Jesus' name, Dao adds, "and Buddha, too" at the end of our prayers. She bows to every Buddhist statue we pass while driving down the road.

Each summer, our team in Roi Et, Thailand takes a group of students to an academic camp in Bangkok for four weeks. The camp provides students a chance to work on their English skills and other subjects during summer break. Although the camp is primarily academic, the leaders are Christians, and we share our testimonies with the students and have times of worship and of building relationships with them.

This year, 37 students came with us to study the topics of education, family, finance, and careers. As we taught these lessons, we wove in our personal testimonies about the ways God had worked in our lives related to these issues. Over and over, the students heard testimonies of God's faithfulness and how God can guide our steps in each of these areas.

Each morning, we began the day with worship, including music by a praise band and a devotional thought by one of the speakers. Easter Sunday fell during the camp, so we attended Good Friday and Easter celebrations with our students at Muang Thai Church. We also took the students to see the movie Risen. Through all of these events, we could sense

God moving in the students' hearts.

The final Sunday of camp, Pastor Life gave an invitation for those who were interested in opening their hearts to Jesus. Two people from the congregation stood, but almost all of our students from Roi Et stood up, claiming their desire to know Jesus! It was an incredible moment for us to see the Lord at work.

During camp, Dao heard the speakers' testimonies about Jesus, as well as attended the Easter service at church. We had been praying for months that she would open her heart to Jesus. When Pastor Life gave the invitation, Dao stood to express her interest in knowing more about Christ!

Later that day, Dao asked me, "Pam, why did you move to Thailand?" I was able to explain to her that we love Jesus and He sent us here to share His love with the Thai people.

We are still praying that Dao would fully give her life to Jesus. Our experience with Dao has taught us about the power of loving relationships, the importance of God's timing, and the power of prayer.

\*Pseudonym.



Todd and Pam Attaway and their daughter, Hannah Grace, serve in Roi Et, Thailand. They teach conversational English and disciple students in their faith.



Play a part in reaching the nations with the gospel.

Train one (1) indigenous Christian leader to reach unreached people within his or her own country

Fund one (1) Global Outreach Weekend at a US church, mobilizing it for global mission

Train one (1) US missionary to multiply his or her ministry through strategic cross-cultural partnerships

\$500

Project ID #: 0113

\$1,250

Project ID #: 0112

\$3,750

Project ID #: 0111



