

Transformed



May 2024

A special issue from TMS Global, formerly The Mission Society



Thanks to your gifts, cross-cultural witnesses and pastors receive world-class training on global missions from Dr. Jim Ramsay at TMS Global's Maclin Training.

A new chapter for TMS Global

New leadership and ministries, same mission and values

Dear beloved TMS Global community,

Among the greatest joys in the life of a Christian disciple is the high privilege of joining Jesus in His mission. During the last 10 years, I have had the unimagined opportunity to live out that missional calling among those who serve Jesus in and through TMS Global. As I reflect on more than 42 years of ministry life, I realize that this past decade has been the most wonderful and amazing of all.

I enter retirement this spring because of a strong sense of the Spirit's leading and a desire to pursue

some additional avenues of ministry while I still have the strength. I believe this transitional timing is right because it will allow TMS Global to experience a season under the vision and apt leadership of Dr. James Ramsay.

Jim has served for 30 years with TMS Global, first as a cross-cultural witness and leader in Central Asia and then, in the highest levels of leadership in the TMS Global US office. During that time, he has become a recognized expert in the field of global mission.

Read more of this story, pg. 2

INSIDE: Cross Cultural Witness Becomes CEO • Your Feedback Requested • Your Impact On Global Discipleship Continues



Before becoming TMS Global president and CEO, Rev. Max Wilkins spent 32 years as a pastor. He continues to preach globally today. In 2019, he earned a post-doctoral diploma in organizational leadership from Pembroke College, Oxford University, England.

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Jim has a vibrant faith in Jesus, an unquenchable passion for the mission (and for those who join Jesus in that mission), and an unwavering commitment to help all comers to find a place at the mission table. God has made it clear to me, to the board of directors of TMS Global, and to Jim, that this is his season to lead.

Thus, I leave with a heart filled with joy and gratitude for what has been, but also with an expectancy and excitement about what is to come. And while my physical presence will be elsewhere, my heart, prayers, and attention will remain with the TMS Global community.

I believe that what Paul shared with the church at Philippi is also true of TMS Global in the season to come: "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you is able to bring it to completion." I hope you are as excited as I am to see all that God will do.

In His Love, Max Wilkins

Join us in welcoming our new CEO



Dr. Jim Ramsay

M.Div. degree from Asbury Theological Seminary with focus on international studies and counseling

D.Min. from Bakke Graduate University with focus on global leadership and diaspora studies

Served with his wife, Shawn, and their four children in Kazakhstan for 10 years, prior to his serving on the leadership team at the US office for the last 20 years

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Send farewell wishes to Max
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Have questions or need prayer?

It is our joy to serve you. Please contact Kenda Hembrough, Vice President of Advancement at khembrough@tms-global.org or +1 678.542.9045.

Cross-cultural witness becomes CEO

Your impact on global discipleship continues

“Thirty years ago, I never would have guessed that God would use our team’s tiny church plant in Kazakhstan to raise up several pastors and many believers who now live in 11 countries around the world,” tells Jim Ramsay.

Praise God, that is just one example of what God has done through TMS Global over the past 40 years, thanks to donors like you. You are advancing God’s kingdom.

Today, the tiny church plant that began with Jim’s team in Kazakhstan is fully led by local believers and has even planted other congregations.

“I was recently in Asia and had the joy of being with Valodya,* a young man I first met when he came to our church in Kazakhstan. He came to faith, grew in the faith, eventually pastored that church, and now trains church leaders in discipleship across Central Asia.”

Dr. James “Jim” Ramsay, TMS Global’s new president and CEO, could tell you many other such stories of lives who have been transformed by the love of Christ and called into mission. Himself called, he has dedicated the last 30 years of his life to mission—through TMS Global.

Jim will be this organization’s first president who has served as a cross-cultural witness with TMS Global. “That says more about the organization than it does about me,” he says. “It equips, supports, and develops people, and encourages innovation. In a sense, TMS Global has raised me. There is no doubt that the values of this community are part of who I am. And they will carry me into this role.”

While our mission is the same as when Jim joined 30 years ago, the world is not the same.

“I am humbled by the creativity of our cross-cultural witnesses who have innovated new ways of doing ministry and engaging culture, ways of serving that I



Valodya* (left), now an international church leader, is one of untold thousands whose lives have been transformed by God through TMS Global, in partnership with donors like you. Thank you for your commitment to joining Jesus in His mission. (Also shown: Shawn and Jim Ramsay)

could not have imagined back when we first moved to Central Asia in 1996.

“As an organization, we also are innovating new ways to assist local churches and pastors in being missional in their own increasingly diverse communities.”

As for the future of TMS Global, for Jim, the example of Valodya’s life and ministry serve as inspiration.

“This is my vision—that through all we do, our purpose remains to invite people to faith, then disciple them well so that they enter into the good works God has for them. They, in turn, disciple others—for the sake of the gospel and the advancement of God’s kingdom.”

**pseudonym*

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Max Wilkins, Former President of TMS Global

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