

Unfinished

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Don't let them miss it

Realizing the critical part we play in the call of others



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Cover photo:
Do you love helping others hear what is in their hearts? A conversation with you might help someone discern his or her call.

TMS Global's Global Outreach for churches has a new name...



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Maybe your church has fallen into a routine. Worship services and programs are decently attended. People seem happy enough. The church is doing well enough. But **there is something missing**. If you desire to see your church come alive to God's heart for the world, this opportunity is for you. Through Activate training, coaching, and resourcing, we will help you discover the **first steps toward a mission action pathway** customized for your church, and a way to fully fund your missions budget.

If you're interested in finding out more about Activate, contact Duane Brown at 800.478.8963, ext. 9043, or cm@tms-global.org.

You can also visit us at www.tms-global.org/churches.

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— **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**



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They might miss it

How many would-be missionaries never heed their call because it goes unnoticed, or an invitation to respond is never offered? President Max Wilkins tells of the critical part we play in the call of others.



"As important as it is for people to be 'sent' to join Jesus in His mission, it is equally important that people be offered an opportunity to hear and respond to the call."—Max Wilkins

Photo by Ethan Sykes on Unsplash

I never could have imagined that our worship service would end like this.

We had just completed the last of four weekend services. The worship had been powerful. We had some extended prayer time, and my message had gone long. I typically finished services with an explicit invitation for people to receive Christ but, for the sake of time, this Sunday I had simply dismissed the congregation with a benediction.

As the people started filing out of their pews, a little tow-headed boy made his way down the aisle and stood in the altar area of the church, right in front of me. "You didn't do it!" he yelled at me.

He was beginning to tear up as I stepped down from the platform to speak with him. "Why didn't you do

it?" he cried, his young face quivering in confusion.

My not giving an altar call that week had grieved the spirit of this serious child. He had felt the stirring of the Spirit in his heart. He was ready to respond to the

Mobilizing the body of Christ is more than recruiting; it is helping people interpret what the Holy Spirit may be doing in their lives, and putting before them the possibility that they may be called to missions.

invitation I always gave. But this time I had not offered the invitation.

How they can hear

I often wonder how many other people might want to ask me (and probably all of us), "Why didn't you do it?" Why didn't you help me understand and respond to

what God was doing in my life?

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:13-15, NIV) Paul is telling us that the one who shares the message and presents the call plays an essential role in this drama.

TMS Global's mission statement says we exist "to mobilize and deploy the body of Christ, globally, to join Jesus in His mission..." So, what does "mobilize"

mean in this context? It certainly means more than recruiting and training.

How we can help them

Mobilizing is about embracing our role in the sending process, helping people interpret what the Holy Spirit may be doing in their lives, and putting before them the possibility that they may be called to missions. It is also about ensuring that people have help in living into what that call means in their lives.

In our intentionality to carry out this mobilizing role, we affirm the same truth Paul was asserting. As important as it is for people to be “sent” to join Jesus in His mission, it is equally important that people be offered an opportunity to hear and respond to the call.

Many years ago, I heard John Maxwell say that “it isn’t the seating capacity, but the sending capacity of a congregation that determines the greatness of a church.” And much of that sending capacity will be determined by the willingness of a church’s people to pay attention to God’s callings on others’ lives and put before them the opportunities to respond.

In this issue of *Unfinished* you will learn about TMS Global’s opportunities to serve. Perhaps you’ll be encouraged to explore your own calling to go. (I assure you we are prepared to help.) Or maybe you’ll begin to more fully embrace your own role in helping others to both hear and respond. This, too, is a sacred calling. “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

How we can miss it

As I hugged the young boy at the altar that morning many years ago, wiping the tears from his eyes, I assured him that we would help him respond to the stirring in his heart. His father and I talked with him about his decision to follow Jesus. And the following Sunday morning, as I put forth the call once again, this young man came forward and publicly affirmed his trust and faith in the Lord.

Overwhelmed with joy for what God was doing in this young man’s life, I was also aware of how close we came to missing it. I vowed in that moment to keep putting forth the call. Won’t you join me? †

The Rev. Max Wilkins is president and CEO of TMS Global.

Mobilizing God's people since 1984

From its beginning nearly 34 years ago, TMS Global has been mobilizing and deploying the body of Christ globally, to join Jesus in His mission. Today, we have three principle areas of focus, and mobilizing is central to all three:

- Our Church Ministry department comes alongside local churches to prayerfully assist them in developing strategic outreach plans. This work entails keeping before God’s people how He might be calling them and then helping to guide those who respond.
- Our Global Operations division team helps people discern God’s call, which may be to full-time, cross-cultural service. The team then comes alongside these people to help them determine where and how to live into that calling.
- Our International Mobilization department works to help believers outside the United States to both hear and embrace the call to join Jesus in His mission.

If you love helping others discern what God is doing in their lives, we want to hear from you. We are looking for volunteer mobilizers. Your calling may be helping others know theirs. (See more on page 6.)



Travis Curry and his wife, Lorna, have served for seven years in Namibia. They return to the States to attend mission events at their home church to invite others to consider how He might be calling them.

A woman with long, wavy hair is shown in profile, looking out a window. The window has a decorative, repeating pattern of stylized figures or symbols. The lighting is soft and warm, creating a contemplative atmosphere.

HOW CAN WE ATTRACT THE NEXT GENERATION?

by: Sarah Parham

Learning to respond to young people's questions can help them love your church—and find their place in God's mission.

Young people are leaving the church in droves. But many of them might actually be in pursuit of the kingdom, says Sarah Parham. Parham, who now directs TMS Global's mobilization and candidacy efforts, spent more than a decade in college ministry, where she listened to young people's struggles with life and faith.

Young believers, she observes, "are looking for a church that isn't contained in four walls." So how can churches attract, disciple, and continue to be significant in the lives of our young people? The answers, says Parham, may be in helping them hear their own questions—and what their disquiet might mean in the light of God's calling. The answer, too, may be in letting them go.

We have all read the reports, the gloomy news that young people are leaving the church in masses. A Fuller Youth Institute study shows that roughly 50 percent of young people who grow up in the church leave the church behind, along with the piles of caps and gowns and high school sports trophies. No one needs a news feed to tell us this. It's visible in the pews we sit in. It can cause us to lose hope.

But after more than a decade in college ministry, I can say with confidence that many Christian young people I know who are exiting the church are actually in pursuit of the

kingdom. They are looking for a church that isn't contained in four walls. They are looking for something more expansive, more missional. They are seeking a church to go to on Sunday that would be with them Monday through Saturday as well—touching the things they touch, loving the people they love. And this gives me hope!

But how might these young people stay connected to church? How can we, as church members, be an ally in helping them discern how God might use them in His mission in the world?



"For a generation that already laments the complexity of modern life, the church can offer valuable clarity."
—Barna Research

Don't have the answers

Young people's experience of the world is different than any other generation. They cannot stay uninformed of issues and tragedies in faraway places. The problems of other nations are being tweeted and broadcast in their pockets every day. Terrorism isn't something that happens on foreign soil, but in New York City. Young people want to know what Jesus says about these things.

It can be rather intimidating. Their questions can be hard ones: "Is Jesus serious about taking care of the poor? He talked about that a lot. What is the church doing to help?" We might be tempted to squelch such questions because we don't have the answers.

But that's just it. We often *don't* have the answers. And that's not even the point.

In my experience working with college-age youth, I noticed that when they asked hard questions, so often they

weren't trying to figure me out or to pin me or the church to the wall. They were trying to figure themselves out. They were trying to understand where their place was in this big, beautiful, and very messy world.

So how can we respond to their

In my experience working with college-age youth, I noticed that when they asked hard questions, so often they weren't trying to figure me out or to pin me or the church to the wall.

questions in a way that satisfies the questions beneath the questions?

Listen to the heart

The transition young people go through is so subtle, adults can miss it. Of course, young children ask *why* about everything. At some point, though, the *why* starts to be asked for a new reason. The question goes from "Mommy, why is that man asking for money?" to, years later, "Why is he sleeping outside when I go home to a nice bed?" In other words,

as a person grows into adulthood, the question shifts from "Why is the world this way?" to "Why am I in the world this way?" When we miss the twist in the question, we miss the opportunity to speak into the lives of young people about that most precious thing: calling.

So at this junction, keep engaging. Listen to what Jesus is doing in this person. What breaks her heart? What inspires him to do more? What are his talents? What are the things that make her come alive—or the things that keep her up at night? What are the things that make him question?

It gets tricky when we hear hard questions over and over again. But be encouraged. So often, when God is moving in people to do something—like calling them to missions, for example—His call may be experienced as a holy unrest. In other words, there begins a stirring in the spirit that things aren't the way they should be.

So when young people come to us with their questions, what if we return the questions back to them by asking, "What do you think God is saying in these questions? What if the answer lies in you?" By our questions, we might help them see that the things they notice that are not right could be the very things God is calling them towards. As we do this, we might actually help them discover their place in the mission of Jesus.

And, says the Fuller Youth Institute, we

Hungry to be heard

Help others hear what is in their hearts

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet," wrote Frederick Buechner. As mobilizers, we know one of the deepest hungers in the world is the hunger to be heard. Our goal is to hear others' passions and where those passions intersect with God's mission. We're looking for volunteer mobilizers who would serve in their churches and communities. If you love helping others discern what God is doing in their lives, contact Sarah Parham at sparham@tms-global.org. Your calling may be helping others discern theirs.

might also help them stay connected to the church. The Institute released a study on the phenomenon of young people leaving the church post high school. They found that there is one X-factor for keeping young people engaged in the church. Listening. When young people have a non-related adult who knows them well and is actively engaged in their lives, the chances of their keeping the faith and staying engaged in a church/campus group throughout college and beyond increases dramatically.

Set them free

If church people ask me what they can do to attract young people, the first thing I ask is what their missions program is like. I often get quizzical stares. Some proceed to tell me about their church's youth program, or how much money they give to missions. But that's not the heart of my question.

The reason I ask about a church's missions program is because young people don't want to sit on the sidelines and observe. They want to get involved with something meaningful. They want to be involved in missions and outreach. And their doing this might actually mean that they will leave our churches to go elsewhere, even to some other part of the world.

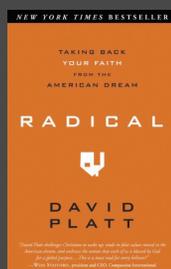
So instead of losing our young people, let's launch them. Let's listen to their questions. Let's help them discern how God desires to use them in the world. Let's resource them, and then let's set them free to join Jesus in His mission. This, after all, is the ultimate goal of a missional church.



Sarah Parham is TMS Global's director of mobilization and candidacy. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary.

Books that mobilize

We asked our missionaries, "Apart from the inner voice of God, what were the significant factors in your call?" Among the answers given were these book titles—some of them, classics. Pick up one of these for a young person in your life—and for yourself—and be freshly inspired.

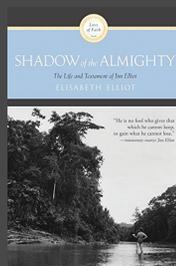


Radical

David Platt
Multnomah

In *Radical*, Platt challenges his readers to consider how they may have

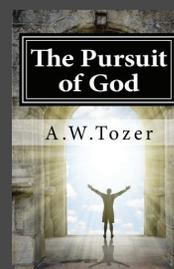
manipulated the gospel to fit their own worldview and cultural preferences. The book outlines Platt's own journey of self-discovery in this area, and how he led the church he pastored at the time to reconsider their perspective, which transformed the church and their community, and impacted the world.



Shadow of the Almighty: The Life and Testament of Jim Elliot

Elisabeth Elliot
HarperCollins

Elisabeth Elliot tells the story of the martyrdom of her husband and four fellow missionaries in this moving book. Elliot describes their lives as missionaries, the fateful day the five men were killed, and how God used the terrible event to spread the gospel among Ecuador's Huaorani Indians.

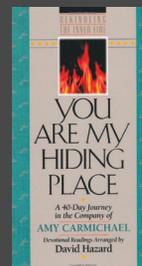


The Pursuit of God

A. W. Tozer
*CreateSpace
Independent
Publishing Platform*

In this work, Tozer guides followers

of Jesus to deeply pursue their relationship with God. Filled with biblical teachings and practical examples, this book inspires people to commit to a relationship with God, follow His teachings, and attain the peace and purpose in life that only He can provide.



You Are My Hiding Place

Amy Carmichael
*Bethany House
Publishers*

Amy Carmichael was an Irish missionary who served for 53 years in southern India. She founded Dohnavur Fellowship, a refuge for underprivileged children. In this book, she writes about finding safety and peace in God, despite the danger, illness, and pain she experienced during her ministry.

Making Space

YOU CAN MOBILIZE FROM HOME

Written by Jennie Wheaton

Photos by Isaac Wheaton



In 2015, TMS Global opened The Yellow House to offer seminary and university students a space for study and conversation, and a space to engage with visiting missionaries. Calm and inviting, The Yellow House is a place where sometimes overburdened students can pay attention to the voice of God.



“The dream was for a living room that would include chairs and couches and space—space for people to come and tarry and go ... space for tired missionaries, confused and unsure students, **space for anyone to encounter Jesus,**” writes Jennie Wheaton. She and her husband, Isaac, operate The Yellow House, TMS Global’s hospitality house across the street from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. It’s a new venture, but already it offers clues about how **living rooms and porches can be spaces where God’s calling is heard.**



Soda and coffee, cookies and muffins, and even potlucks are a regular part of hospitality at The Yellow House. Shown: Asbury University students Caylor Gongwer, whose family serves as TMS Global missionaries; and Olivia Hamlin, who was a GreenLight medical team member this summer (See more on page 14.)

Jesus was really good at making space for people. He didn't have a home, but He did create space—regardless of where He was—for people to meet with Him and hear from Him. Even with the crowds constantly surrounding Him, He was able to create the internal space—the heart space—to hear the questions, doubts, confusion, pain, and sorrow of those he encountered.

The dream

The dream for The Yellow House was for tired missionaries, confused and unsure students, and whoever else might be thirsting for a drink from the well to have a space where they could encounter Jesus.



Among the visitors to The Yellow House are the Rev. Dr. Timothy Tennent, Asbury Theological Seminary president, and his wife, Julie, shown with Jennie Wheaton (L). Opposite page (L to R): Anna Savelle, Kyeo Re Lee, Jennie Wheaton, and Jeremy Bone.

I wrote this in the spring of 2015 as some of us from TMS Global (at that time, The Mission Society) began dreaming about what a hospitality house could one day be:

“...and then the living room (that has a fireplace!) that would include chairs and couches and space—space for people to come and tarry and go. (The phrase “revolving door” is what keeps coming to my mind.)

“I have noticed through working here in Wilmore this year that people are much more responsive and curious about The Mission Society if I spend my time hearing their stories, asking them questions, praying for and with them, and encouraging them, than if I spend the whole time talking about how great we are and about how many opportunities we have to offer them. People want and need to know that they are going to be genuinely taken care of and cared for once they are on the field, and I believe that needs to start now—in the recruiting phase. This house (I am hoping) would provide space for that to happen in a way that meeting in the local coffee shop or student center lobby isn't always able to provide.”

The revolving door

Now, in 2017, this is life at The Yellow House: sitting on the front porch in the white porch swing that was hung by a work team from Mosaic United Methodist Church (Evans, Georgia); engaging in short conversations with Asbury Seminary students as they walk by the house on their way to class; drinking coffee and eating warm chocolate chip cookies while having conversations in front of the fireplace with students who are seeking to spend time with Jesus, and who are often discerning a call to the mission field.

The house really has become a revolving door. There are many who come in, find rest and peace (and often food and coffee), and go back out. Go back out. Jesus welcomed, healed, prayed with, and fed hundreds of people. And then, in most cases, He sent them back out. He sent them to tell of His love and to tell the stories of what He had done for them.

The conversations

Many students have come and gone from the house. I have had conversations with college students who are so scared that they will make the wrong decision and not be in God's will. I have had coffee with others who so badly want to start into missions, but are wrestling with God's timing in

Mobilization can happen from anywhere. What I have found is that people are longing for a place of quiet where they can . . . actually be able to hear the voice of Jesus speaking to them.

their lives. Others have 10 options on the table and just need permission to ask questions and choose the one they actually want. And then there are others who just need to process what God is doing in them and ask the hard questions that many of us don't want to ask.

Here is the bottom line: Mobilization can happen from anywhere. What I have found is that people are longing for a place of quiet where they can get away from the chaos and noise of the world and actually be able to hear the voice of Jesus speaking to them.

The invitation

It seems that the invitation for me has been to simply create a space for that to happen and pray to be able to discern the movement of God in the lives of those who come in. For me, that happens in The Yellow House. Might you consider where Jesus is inviting you to create both inward and outward space so that others can hear His voice and go out to serve? †

Jennie Wheaton, TMS Global mobilizer, is an Asbury Theological Seminary graduate and a former missionary to Mexico, where she served for four years.



HELP START THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY



“You can't stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes.”

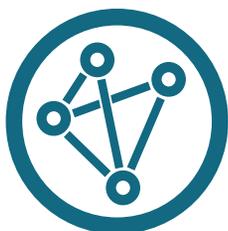
—A.A. Milne, *Winnie-the-Pooh*

Be intentional with those who might sense God's calling.

You likely already know them. They are in your church or your small group. You've noticed their love for people everywhere—and their hunger for more of God. These pages may be for them—or for you. TMS Global has a range of terms of service tailored to fit all ages and stages of life.



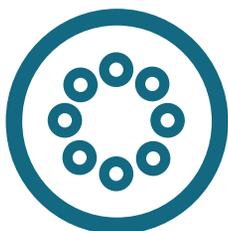
GreenLight programs give students and young adults the go-ahead to explore ministry, culture, and calling for 4-6 weeks in a group setting. You will join a group, led by a mentor who will help you explore what it looks like to live, work, and do ministry cross-culturally. *(For much more information, see pages 14-15.)*



CoLab is a two-year apprenticeship opportunity for young adults who want to gain experience in cross-cultural ministry while also making a contribution. Alongside a mentor, you will immerse yourself in a local community, incorporating personal experience, spiritual formation, and practical ministry skills, while creating a project that impacts your new community and team.



CoWork matches your skills and calling to cross-cultural ministry with a TMS Global team or project. This two-year term is ideal for those with some life and vocational experience to offer.



Core is an opportunity for you to live out your calling to bring redemption and reconciliation with a team and/or alongside international partners. You will become a part of a local community for at least four years, embodying the values and strategies of TMS Global.

Visit www.tms-global.org to complete a no-obligation interest form or call us at 678.542.9030.

Shown, left: Todd Attaway who has served with his family in Thailand for the past four years.

TMS Global to open new areas of ministry

More than 180 TMS Global workers presently serve in 32 countries. Plans are underway to open new areas of ministry in Central Asia, Ethiopia, Ecuador, and Cambodia. Without you, we would not be able to mobilize, train, and send new workers like those in all of these areas. *Some countries are not marked for security reasons.*



Current and former workers team up to produce an album

Two TMS Global cross-cultural workers collaborated to produce a new album. Charlie Chastain, who serves with his family in Estonia, and Gustavo Faleiro, who previously served in France, just released *Rue de la Convention*, by Spark Recordings.

Before serving with TMS Global, Charlie was a touring songwriter and played in several bands. He and his wife, Miki, moved to Russia to work with orphans and street children. While in Russia, Charlie helped the Russian Methodist Church write and record music. “All of the songs people sang in church were written in other languages and translated into Russian,” said Charlie. “They simply needed encouragement to write in their own voice.”

Charlie, Miki, and their three children now reside in Estonia. Charlie said, “Our ministry is about breaking the bondage in people’s lives.” Miki leads prayer retreats and is trained in healing prayer ministries. Charlie serves in refugee camps, ministers among orphans and street children, and works in the arts.

Charlie and Gustavo met at a TMS Global event in 2008. Both were preparing to serve as cross-cultural workers. Gustavo, from Rio de Janeiro, was in a band and had a recording studio before moving to Paris. There, he and his wife, Dalila, planted a church and shared their faith among the art community. They have since returned to Brazil. Gustavo now pastors a church and continues in music ministry.



Rue de la Convention touches on the topics of refugees, orphans, faith, and love. The cover art was provided by Dave Bartlett, a TMS Global worker in Ghana. You can stream the album on Apple Music, Spotify, GooglePlay, and other music sites. All proceeds benefit the ministries of the Chastains and the Faleiros. (L to R) Charlie Chastian and Gustavo Faleiro

FIND YOUR PLACE

Mission service opportunities for you or those you love



LIBERIA

Join our growing team in Liberia! Through an eco-tourism startup, cross-cultural workers in Liberia employ vulnerable young adults who have aged out of orphanages or group homes. Without family support or job training, these young people often have yet to develop life skills. Cross-cultural workers in Liberia mentor the businesses' employees, walking with them as they make important life decisions and explore issues of faith.

There are three ways to join God's work in Liberia:

- 1. Join a CoLab team.** Serve alongside our team leaders to disciple young people in the workplace. Live with the businesses' employees, serve as a mentor, and assist with the business. This is a great opportunity to learn business as mission, gain some cross-cultural experience, and disciple Liberians. Two-year term.
- 2. Serve as a teacher.** Teach at the local community school and help to homeschool cross-cultural workers' children in Liberia. The position could also include training local teachers, depending on qualifications. Two-year or four-year term.
- 3. Counsel hurting Liberians.** We are looking for counselors and people trained in healing ministries. Liberians are recovering from war and the Ebola outbreak and are in need of prayer ministers, psychologists, and people trained in trauma care. Specific certification in EMDR would be useful for many people who are dealing with PTSD. Two-year or four-year term.

To read of other mission opportunities visit us at www.TMS-Global.org.

CoWork

Two-year term for professionals

Are you a professional who dreams of using your skills in missions? "CoWork" is a specialty term of service. As a CoWork missionary, your skills and calling to cross-cultural ministry are matched with a TMS Global team or project. This two-year term is ideal for those with some life and vocational experience to offer. It's easy to start the journey. Visit TMS-Global.org and complete the interest form.

They are on their way!

These cross-cultural workers are newly arrived in their places of service. Thank you for praying for them.



Tyler and Kaylan Foster - Ecuador

Tyler and Kaylan relocated to Ecuador to minister to children. Kaylan teaches middle and high school students, and Tyler discipled students in their walk with Jesus. Tyler and Kaylan's desire is to empower children through education, values, and leadership so they can break the devastating cycle of poverty.



Cheryl Moye - Thailand

Cheryl teaches English in several schools in southern Thailand. She builds relationships with her students, and shares with them the love of Jesus. Ministering with a Thai couple, Cheryl desires to build up a church of young people who are both growing in relationship with Jesus and equipped to share the Truth of Christ with their families and communities.

Expanding our team: TMS Global welcomes new staff members

Meet the new members of our TMS Global home office team, and read of some of our other staffers who are embarking on new adventures. We thank God for these colleagues, and for the entire TMS Global community—which includes you!

New staff



Shannon Mullins
Vice President for Human Resources and Administration

Shannon Mullins joined the staff in July as the vice president for human resources and administration. She oversees human resources, information technology, facilities management, and ad-

ministration, and provides expertise and guidance in strategic planning, performance management, and goal setting.

Prior to joining TMS Global, Shannon worked for 18 years with a nationwide nonprofit organization. In 2012, she founded Shannon Mullins Ministries and produced a daily 15-minute video series entitled Living Power, which walks people through the Bible. Subscribe for free at shannonmullins.org.



Stacey Skinner
Global Engagement Administrative Coordinator

Originally from Trinidad, Stacey joined TMS Global after serving in administrative roles in the local church and non-profits. She has a background in training, program management, and marketing

(for a school of broadcasting in Florida). In addition, she has owned her own business—a gluten-free bakery called Happy Tummies.

Stacey loves to use her creativity and problem-solving skills to improve systems and programs. She assists the global engagement department, helping to support TMS Global's cross-cultural workers.

New roles



Sarah Parham
Director of Mobilization and Candidacy

After nine years of service at the University of Kentucky Wesley Foundation, Sarah joined the TMS Global staff last June to support cross-cultural workers serving and preparing to serve. In

July, she became the director of mobilization and candidacy. In this role she oversees TMS Global's efforts in recruiting, coaching, and screening missionary candidates. She walks alongside people as they explore their sense of calling and how that may align with the ways God is using TMS Global around the world.



Andrew Randall
Chief Financial Officer

Andrew initially joined TMS Global as controller in 2011 before stepping into the chief financial officer role in July. As chief financial officer, Andrew provides primary leadership to TMS Global's financial operations,

stewarding the financial holdings and overseeing the financial activities and financial processes of all of TMS Global's constituencies. Prior to his joining the TMS Global staff, Andrew worked at a large local accounting firm. In addition, he spent one year as a full-time ministry intern at the University of Georgia Wesley Foundation, where he helped develop a curriculum and support system for small-group leaders.

New adventures

Richard Coleman, cross-cultural worker with TMS Global

Richard has served as the senior director of mobilization and candidacy for TMS Global for the past 11 years. Prior to this role, Richard was the director of missions at a megachurch in metro-Atlanta, helping to build missions awareness. He earned a bachelor's degree and a Master of Divinity from Oral Roberts University. A celebrated teacher/speaker, Richard is ordained in the Evangelical Church Alliance International.

Richard, his wife, Amanda, and their four children, are relocating to Ethiopia to serve as cross-cultural workers with TMS Global. In Ethiopia, the Colemans plan to train, encourage, and mobilize Ethiopian believers. Through coaching, training, storying, and discipleship, the Colemans will equip churches in Ethiopia in practical ministry. We love you, Colemans, and are so grateful to get to continue to serve in ministry with you!



Ivar Quindland, retired

For 13 of his first 14 years, Ivar lived in Colombia, South America, where his father served as a CitiBanker. Ivar's own career has been in finance. Among his positions, he worked at Citibank in New York and in a variety of roles with the Bank of America or its predecessors for 19 years. Ivar ended his banking career as a senior vice president.

In 2002, Ivar and his wife, Andy, served in Peru with TMS Global. They worked with the Peruvian Methodist Church in introducing and placing into service a mobile medical clinic. Ivar joined the staff of TMS Global in 2004, serving as vice president and chief financial officer. He held that role until his retirement in August. Ivar, we thank God for you, your witness, and your years of self-giving service. You have left your mark on TMS Global and on all of us!



Remembering Denny Brown

Denny Brown, TMS Global's former vice president for advancement, passed away on August 14, 2017. A celebration of Denny's life was held on August 18 at Dunwoody Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Denny served with TMS Global as vice president of advancement from 2003-2014. The Rev. Dick McClain, former TMS Global president, shared at the funeral, "Denny was a living, walking, breathing, talking testimony to the power of God and the ability of Jesus to transform a person's life."

Prior to his joining the staff, Denny served as chairman, president and CEO, vice president, executive director, and board member for major for-profit and non-profit organizations and corporations. Positions he held include: co-founder and executive director of JobSeekers USA (an Atlanta-based ministry for unemployed businesspeople); chairman of the board of American Health Companies (AHC); president and CEO of Diet Centers, Inc.; business development specialist and coach to CEOs; owner of a customer-service consulting business in Atlanta; and the Avon Company's national sales manager. Denny began his career in Avon's order entry department and advanced through the ranks. During his time in the business sector, Denny actively shared his testimony and

spoke in marketplace ministry seminars across the US.

Denny's son-in-law, the Rev. Ken Murphy, said "When Denny first learned that his cancer was untreatable, his response was, 'I will be fine. I know where I'm going.' Denny taught me how to die with hope, even in the face of physical death."

Denny will be missed by his many friends and family. We are thankful for his years of ministry on our team and will always remember his infectious laughter that echoed throughout the TMS Global offices.



Leaving your heart on the field

Taking up one's cross, as it turns out, makes for a life of great love and meaning.



"No one ever told me how hard it was to leave." Steve and Carol Johnson, cross-cultural workers who served for 12 years on two continents, tell of their years of undreamed-of experiences.

"We were at a missions conference, and the speaker asked if anyone was called to cross-cultural ministry," remembers Steve. "I looked at my wife, and we both knew that God was calling us. Then the speaker asked anyone who felt called to come forward and make a covenant with God about serving. We went to the altar and began our journey as missionaries."

Steve was serving as a pastor in California when he and his wife, Carol, attended that conference. A TMS Global missionary was the keynote speaker, so the Johnsons decided to check out the organization.

"When we joined TMS Global, we knew we were called to serve cross-culturally, but we did not have a clear sense that our call was to a certain place or a certain type of ministry," said Steve. "We asked the staff to pray and decide where we

"What I have learned is that the best thing to do if you want to serve God well is to simply be open to whatever He wants to use you for, rather than to decide that you want His help in something you want to do." —Steve Johnson

should serve. The TMS Global staff members came back and said, 'We have been praying for three years for a pastor with a strong marriage to go to Khabarovsk, Russia.'"

For the next 12 years, Steve and Carol served in Russia and South Asia, discipling pastors, pastor's wives, and indigenous missionaries. Steve said, "I poured out my life to do whatever I could to raise up strong leaders within the church."

"I thought I would meet with women one-on-one and disciple them," said Carol. "Instead, God had me leading conferences of 75 women at a time! The most fun part of cross-cultural ministry is the surprises God gives you. I never thought I could do anything like that, but Jesus enabled me to help women grow in their relationship with Him."

No one ever told me

"What I have learned is the best thing to do if you want to serve God well is to simply be open to whatever He wants to use you for, rather than to decide that you want His help in something you want to do," reflected Steve.

"No one ever told me how hard it was to leave," added Carol. "I had grown so close to the women I served among that I grieved deeply when we returned to California. You leave a piece of your heart on the field."

"And once you live a good story, you get a taste for a kind of meaning in life, and you can't go back to being normal." —Donald Miller

Grateful for her years of service

As we send this magazine to press, we say farewell to our friend and colleague, Brenda Lee, who has served with TMS Global for 15 years in a variety of roles, including overseeing human resources and payroll. We can only assume the years ahead will include and quilt-making and travel, both of which are Brenda's passions. We will miss her. As noted Ivar Quindslund, who headed her department, "Brenda is the stitch in the fabric that makes the beautiful quilt that is TMS Global." We love you, Brenda! Thank you for your faithful service among the entire TMS Global community and the love with which you did it all.





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Pack your passion and come find your place on a TMS Global team with CoLab. Develop cross-cultural ministry skills, receive mentoring and experience formation in community. Integrate culture and language learning with hands-on experience to create a collaborative project that will contribute to your team's long-term goals. Discover the unique ways God is equipping you to join Jesus in His mission.

CoLab is a two-year apprenticeship for young adults. Find your place at www.TMS-Global.org/go.

