

Matt and Rachel serve as Regional Directors over the Middle East and Central Asia region for the church planting structure (aXcess) of Alliance missions. They oversee over 85 workers on 12 church-planting teams across ten countries. Before moving into regional leadership, they spent 18 years in the Middle East, running a community center and planting a church there. Both grew up as missionary kids in West Africa — they met at boarding school in Ivory Coast at age eight — and have been married since 1999 with four daughters. They now live in Germany and travel regularly throughout the region to lead, train, and care for the international workers serving across this region.

Great Commission = *Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20) — the story of the whole Bible helps us understand it, and that story is framed by two trees.*

➤ **Place — what we were created for**

Genesis begins in a garden, with two trees. We were made for that place — and we were removed from it (Gen. 2–3).

That loss creates a longing — a sense of not belonging — that people everywhere carry

➤ **Plan — God's way back, through a Person**

From Genesis 12 onward, Scripture reveals a plan to get us back to that place: all peoples blessed, all peoples given access back to God.

That access comes only through a Person — Jesus, sent “when the set time had fully come” (Gal. 4:4).

➤ **Present — we are the plan now**

If the plan is access for all peoples, the present question is: how will they hear?

Acts 1:8 is both/and — “in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Here AND there, not here OR there.

Thousands of people groups still have no access to the gospel. This is how the Great Commission is fulfilled — when all have heard.

He doesn't call everyone to go, but he invites everyone to be involved: praying, giving, going.



SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2:8–9 — *Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

Revelation 22:1–2 — *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*

Hebrews 11:13–16 — *All these people were still living by faith when they died... admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own... Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

Genesis 12:1–3 — *The Lord had said to Abram, “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

Revelation 7:9–10 — *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb... And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”*

Galatians 4:4 — *But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.*

Acts 1:8 — *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

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