

Guides for the Journey!

If you were going to climb Mount Everest, you wouldn’t leave base camp alone.  If you wanted to make it to the summit, you would have a Sherpa guiding you to the top.  Sherpas have lived in the Himalayas for over 300 years.  Their bodies have adapted to the high altitudes and they are intimately acquainted with the terrain and trails.  Your journey into missions may look like a huge mountain shrouded in fog to you as you begin your journey.   Rather than seeking to climb this mountain alone, your journey will be more fulfilling and filled with less pain and heartache if you take the journey with a Sherpa!

The concept has many different names, Sherpa, guide, mentor, coach, but essentially the idea is to have someone who knows the way walking with you, helping you avoid the perilous cliffs and crevasses, helping carry the load, helping you stay focused on the goal.  The concept is quite biblical:  Moses coached Joshua, Paul mentored Timothy, and of course, Jesus and the disciples.

A missions coach can be of great value as you process your short-term mission trip and consider the next steps of your continued involvement in missions. More and more, churches and mission agencies are realizing the value of mission mentors or coaches.  Mission coaches can help you understand your gifting, your passion, where to serve, with whom to serve, how to prepare, what pitfalls to avoid and so much more. There is an abundance of resources available to support you.

A great place to start is with your own church.  Is your pastor or missions team willing and able to journey with you?  If so, they already know you and could come alongside you.  If they are unable or unwilling to coach you through the process, don’t give up.  Investigate one of these resources to help you on the journey.

[WorldVenture](http://missionsfrontline.com/video/what-is-a-mission-coach) is just one mission organization that has a missions mentor program with people to walk the journey with you.  Many other mission organizations have mission coaches as well.

[The Journey Deepens](http://thejourneydeepens.com/) not only provides weekend retreats to help you on the journey, but also has a heap of resources and through the retreat can connect you with mission coaches.

[The Center for US Missions](http://www.centerforusmissions.com/Services/Coaching/tabid/92/Default.aspx) has a list of certified mission coaches you could take advantage of.

If you’re not sure if you are ready for one on one interaction, you could start with [Ask a Missionary](http://www.askamissionary.com/). A website with lots of questions answered by experienced missionaries who have been down the road.  Additionally, the Urbana website has a section called “[Ask Jack](http://www.urbana.org/ask-jack)” where you can ask an experienced missionary your mission journey questions.

So don’t scale the mountain alone!  Find a Sherpa or missions coach to help you on the journey!

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