

Who is walking with you?

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work:

If one falls down, his friend can help him up.

But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! [Eccles. 4:9-10 \(NIV\)](#)

Have you ever wondered what would have happened to Paul if there had been no Barnabas? Or if Apollos did not have Aquilla and Pricilla? Or if Timothy and Titus had not had Paul? If the Ethiopian eunuch did not have Phillip? Or of course if Peter, James and John did not receive the personal attention from Jesus? All of these people had their lives changed because of the value they found in the relationship of one investing into their life and ministry. Coaching is much like these relationships as the focus of a coaching relationship is not on the coach, no matter how skilled or intelligent that person may be, but rather on the coachee—the one being coached—and their desire together to help that person process what God is up to in their life and ministry, think through their next step options, and then be encouraged to step into the future with confidence and passion.

The coach training process is really learning to ask good questions that allow the person being coached to verbally process through what God may want them to do in response to challenges and opportunities they face. Using the 5-R's to frame the online sessions—Relate, Reflect, Refocus, Resource, Review—the coach does not give out answers like a consultant, but rather asks good questions so that the coachee determines the best answers on their own. This guided process gives the person being coached control of where the agenda goes, but also then gives them full ownership for any decisions and action plans they make for themselves.

Our NAB coaching training initiative was launched just over a year ago and is already multiplying across the conference with five different regional training cohorts to begin training yet in 2008. I have the privilege of being our NAB lead trainer and seeing pastors and lay leaders over the course of their 10 months of training begin to process their own life and ministry differently, and change the way they deal with staff, ministry teams, personal counseling, and even family relationships using the coaching skills they are learning. We had trained all of the RMs in the first wave of training, so Charlie moving on from UMR has put coach training on hold in UMR for now. But with the hiring of a new RM in the months ahead, hopefully that person will be able to be trained as a lead coach soon and begin the multiplication process within UMR again as well. If you are interested in more info about being coached or being trained as a certified coach, contact the UMR RLT or myself and we will be happy to dialog about what good coaching could do both for your life and your ministry. I benefit from the person that coaches me each month. I know that if I stumble, they will help me up—who is walking with you?

Serving God's Kingdom TOGETHER,

**Dr. Tim Blackburn
NAB Coach Training Coordinator**