

Disaster Response Team Covenant

Purpose Statement: The purpose of our response team is to **serve** people who have suffered a disaster. We will be involved in **mercy ministry** and **relational evangelism** to the people of the disaster zone and surrounding area, according to their need and as opportunities arise. We may be in a high-risk, high pressure environment. To promote unity, we will attempt to model the following covenant, emulating the character of Christ.

Teamwork:

We commit ourselves to be united as one, striving to accomplish the same goal— to glorify God in all we do and to help build His church.

Communications:

We commit ourselves to resolve all team differences and conflicts according to Biblical principles. This involves **prayer** as the first step, **personal confrontation** as the follow-up step, and the **counsel** of a third party (team leader or other) as a third and final resort. We will maintain a humble spirit of confidentiality, while seeking to obey Ephesians 4:29, "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear." We also commit to respectfully listen to team leaders.

Forgiveness:

We recognize sin as our common enemy so that we may be sensitive to our human shortcomings and forgive freely. We are commanded to forgive just as Christ has forgiven us, and then we forget. In accordance with Hebrews 12:15, "See to it that no one fail to obtain the grace of God; that no 'root of bitterness' springs up and causes trouble..." we commit ourselves to swiftly resolving any bitterness because we realize that will drag the whole team down.

Spiritual Growth:

We commit ourselves to personal worship and fellowship with God through obedience to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and an openness to learn from God's Spirit. We agree to have the attitude of Paul the Apostle with respect to failure (Philippians 3:12-14) and perseverance (I Corinthians 9:24-27).

How will we work to conform to His character?

- We commit to daily team meetings for devotions, prayer, mutual encouragement, and to share experiences (Hebrews 10:24-25, Romans 15:4).

- We commit to be as faithful as possible to spend individual time with God at some time during each day as opportunity arises (Matthew 14:23). We will also pray for other team members and team leaders.
- We commit to affirm one another daily by encouragement through small acts of service, supportive comments, etc. (Acts 20:2).
- We commit to manifesting the character of a disciple through being ready: to forgive, to serve as various needs arise, to work to the best of our God-given abilities, to obey those in authority, and to share the Gospel as opportunities present themselves (when appropriate) (Colossians 3:17, 23).

Covenant Fulfillment Evaluation:

- Are we fulfilling our commitment to daily meetings, devotions and prayer?
- Are we on time for meetings, meals (including breakfast!) and departure times? We're a team, if one's late We're all late!
- Are we participating in any conversation that is critical or negative of another?
- Are we complaining to others or ourselves when things don't go our way?
- When there is an offense are we following the three-step plan?
 - Pray
 - Personal confrontation (go to the individual privately)
 - Counsel (go to a team leader privately)
- Are we exercising forgiveness?
- When in doubt ask yourself this question, "If Christ were standing next to me (which he is) would He be pleased with the way I am acting, talking, thinking, building, serving, etc.?"
- Am I doing anything out of selfish ambition? Or, am I esteeming others better than myself? (Philippians 2:3)

Team Member Signatures:
