

## From A Team in Uganda

### Team Covenant

We, the Church Development Team of \_\_\_\_\_ Uganda., as children of God saved by his grace, do covenant to live together as a team and as a biblical community. Believing that our most effective ministry will ensue, and our personal lives be most truly fulfilled when we lay them down for one another, we agree that on our team "no one succeeds unless we all succeed."

The writer to the Hebrews call us to "consider how to STIMULATE (our acrostic) one another to love and good deeds" (Hebrews I 0:24). Toward this end we commit ourselves. By God's grace and with his help, we pledge to spur one another on in godliness by:

**Serving with humility.** Rather than seeking to be great we will lay down our lives. We will give of our time and energy for the good of teammates. We will find tangible ways to serve with the goal of seeing others succeed. "No task is unworthy if it serves a brother." (John 13:14)

**Taming our tongues.** We will avoid gossip. We will resist the impulse to knowingly malign a teammate. We will lovingly rebuke a brother when we see his sin. We will shun deceit. We will use hyperbole and sarcasm with caution, realizing that these rhetorical tools often wound in unintended ways. We will strive to use humor that edifies rather than tears down. "How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire!" (James 3:5)

**Interceding for one another.** We will pray for one another corporately and individually. We will seek to hear from the Lord through prayer before making important decisions as a team. We will strive to make prayerful dependence a part of our corporate life. "Prayer will be our first response, rather than our last resort." (1 Samuel 12:23a)

**Moving toward openness and vulnerability.** We will strive for proper and appropriate self-disclosure. We will be honest, open and transparent with one another to allow and invite godly counsel and prayer. We won't hide in self-protection, but will entrust ourselves to one another as we grow in intimacy. "We want to know fully and be fully known." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

**Using our tongues for good.** We will love with our words. We will speak into one another's lives the whole counsel of God. We will encourage, admonish, challenge and rebuke. We will cultivate the habit of speaking words of affection and appreciation. We will preach the gospel of faith and hope. "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." (Ephesians 4:29)

**Listening to each other.** We will refrain from speaking quickly, so as to better understand. We will be inquisitive. We will cultivate patience. We will ask good questions before confronting and disagreeing. "Listen with the ears of God that you may speak the word of God." (James 1: 19)

**Accepting and bearing with one another.** We will endure with patience and grace the faults, eccentricities and imperfections of the other. We will respect the created individuality of our teammates. We will suffer and struggle alongside the other when he is in the midst of grief or sin. We must seek ways to restore and support in the face of failure and disappointment "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." (Colossians 3:13a)

**Turning from all judging and comparing.** God has made us each the person he wants us to be. When we compare our gifts, abilities and talents with another so as to build ourselves up, tear another down, demean our own value, or make someone else into an idol, we sin, When we call into question the motives of another's heart from the appearance of his actions rather than engaging in open dialogue, we sin. We will strive to be thankful to God for who he has made us, and to be thankful as well for how he has made others. We will work to assume the best in others, and when we find we cannot, we will lovingly investigate and initiate a frank and loving conversation. Believing that we are chiefs of sinners, we will consider others better than ourselves. "All comparisons are odious; judge not lest ye be judged." (Matthew 7: 1)

**Extending forgiveness to one another.** We will cultivate the habit of seeking forgiveness verbally when we sin. We will verbally and graciously extend forgiveness when asked. While not denying our true feelings, we will move forward in actions of forgiveness toward the other person once we have decided to forgive. Throughout the process we will work to communicate openly and freely with the other party our struggles, difficulties and joys. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Colossians 3:13b)