

*67 West May 28/98 c Grant Paulford
and Joyce Black*

A COVENANT OF COMMITMENT for ABSTINENCE from DRUGS

Minister: God is a covenant-making God who invites people to join in covenant with him. God made a covenant with Abraham and Sarah to be their God, and they covenanted to be God's people. God made a covenant with Moses and Miriam, and they covenanted to follow God's leading to the promised land. God made a covenant with Noah and all living creatures to save the earth from total destruction and Noah promised to seek and do God's will. In Jesus, God made a covenant to forgive people's sins, and Jesus called people to follow him and live in love as he lived in love. God's covenants are offered to everyone, and we are invited to be God's people, to follow God's leading, to seek and do God's will and to live in love, with forgiveness, by the grace of God.

Participant (taking the Bible in hand): I want to be a part of the story of God in this book. I want to enter into covenant with God. I hereby commit myself to abstain from taking drugs that are damaging to myself. I will seek God's help in prayer and from others who are willing to support and strengthen me. I accept God's love and will try to love others as God loves me, willing their well being and practicing kindness and fairness towards them. God knows I cannot survive by myself alone. God help me. I promise to be faithful in return.

Prayer: (Together) Loving and faithful God, in whom we live and move and have our being; You who are closer to us than our hands and feet and nearer to us than our breathing. You have created us to be your people, to live in partnership with you, to make life good and healthy and a blessing for all. Accept the promises we make to be your partners, to choose life over death, to abstain from anything that will harm ourselves or others, and to help anyone we can to find and keep life healthy and happy. Let your Holy Spirit be in us to give us the gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. We pray in the words of Jesus saying,

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Galatians 6:1-5, 7-10

Blessing and Benediction:

Minister: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's spirit rest upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord be with you at all times and give you peace.

All: Amen.