

CHRISTMAS PRISONER PACKETS 2012

Instruction Guide

For more information contact:



SOUTH CAROLINA
BAPTIST CONVENTION
Missions Mobilization Group
190 Stoneridge Drive
Columbia, SC 29210
1-800-723-7242, ext. 4801
www.scbaptist.org/missions



This ministry is made possible by South Carolina Baptist Churches giving to missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program.

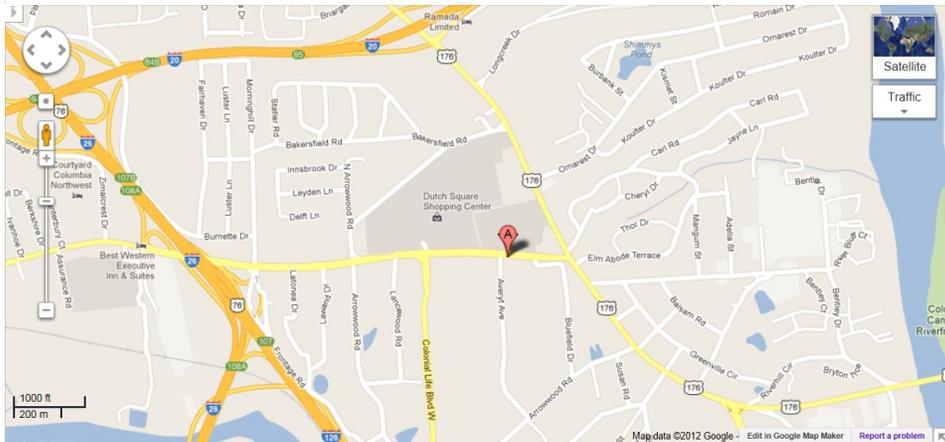
DIRECTIONS
TO
ST. ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH
230 Bush River Road
Columbia

Traveling on I-20 from Florence - Take the Bush River Rd. exit (exit 63 toward Columbia). At the end of the ramp, turn left onto Bush River Rd. Continue straight. You will cross over I-26, pass Dutch Square Mall on your left and Wendy's on your right. SABC is on the right just beyond Wendy's.

Traveling on I-20 from Aiken- Take the Bush River Rd. exit. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Bush River Rd. Continue straight. You will cross over I-26, pass Dutch Square Mall on your left and Wendy's on your right. SABC is on the right just beyond Wendy's.

Traveling on I-26 from Greenville/Spartanburg - Take the Bush River Rd. exit. Turn left onto Bush River Rd. You will cross over I-26, pass Dutch Square Mall on your left and Wendy's on your right. SABC is on the right just beyond Wendy's.

Traveling on I-26 from Charleston - Take the Bush River Rd. exit. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Bush River Rd. Continue straight. You will pass Dutch Square Mall on your left and Wendy's on your right. SABC is on the right just beyond Wendy's.



CHRISTMAS PACKETS FOR PRISONERS
2012 PACKING LIST

South Carolina Department of Corrections
APPROVED Items

- * One **Black** non-retractable pen
(no wire clip and no other color pen)
- * One 6 oz. or larger Toothpaste
- * One Adult Toothbrush (individually factory-sealed,
no multi-packs)
- * One 4 to 6 oz. Bar of Soap
- * One junior legal or no larger than 5½"x 8" Writing Tablet
(no wire bound and no 9 x 12 tablets)
- * Five First-Class **Stamp-Embossed** #10 Envelopes
(purchased at US Post Office)
- * Two Rolls of Candy (LifeSavers, Mentos, Breath Savers type)
- * 1 gallon size zipper bag

No New Items for 2012

ALL ITEMS MUST FIT IN A GALLON SIZE ZIPPER BAG
WITH ZIPPER CLOSED
AND ROOM FOR A CHRISTMAS CARD.

Please take all Christmas packages to your Association Office.
Contact your Association Ministry Assistant for the due date!

"How To" video podcast can be viewed on any PC with internet access.
Go to www.scbaptist.org/podcasts and click on "Missions."

2012 PROJECT INFORMATION



The Christmas Packet for Prisoners Project began in 1976. It is a joint project of SCBC and SCWMU. As the project has grown, our churches continue to give faithfully and generously. Last year, you helped raise over 25,000 packets. All the extra packets were given to inmates who arrived after the distribution date.

Many men, women and youth have no one who cares for them. They have no visitors nor do they receive gifts at Christmas. You make Christmas special for them through this ministry. You provide hope and love. As a result, some have received the true Christmas gift. They have come to know Christ because you care.

WHY ARE WE SO PARTICULAR ABOUT WHAT GOES IN THE PACKET?

1. The Department of Corrections decides what goes in each packet.
2. All packets must contain the same items, quantity and sizes to prevent conflicts among inmates. Larger sizes are acceptable.
3. Extra items are removed in order to keep packets the same.



Our goal is to give a packet to every adult and juvenile inmate in a state-owned penal institution. This year, we need 25,000 packets. The amount requested from your Association is the amount needed.

These packets are NOT intended for local projects.

The packets are given to the inmates by the chaplains with the help of volunteers. If your church would like to be involved in distributing the packets, contact your chaplain. The Missions Mobilization Group SCBC has a list of chaplains. Please call 1-800-723-7242 or 803-227-4801 if you have questions.

* Why do the envelopes need to be stamp-embossed?

Loose stamps are prohibited by the SC Department of Corrections policy since they can be used to smuggle illegal drugs into the correctional institution.



* Can I include a gospel tract or Christmas card in the packet?

Do not add any items other than those listed. A Christmas card and Scripture booklets are added to each packet before it goes to the inmate.



* What if a store runs out of an item I need?

SC Baptist churches are purchasing 25,000 of each item. Since stores may run out of items, you might call the store to check the availability before going to make your purchases.



* Can I include a larger item than what is listed?

Items listed are generally the smallest size needed.

All items must fit in a gallon size zipper bag with zipper closed with room for a Christmas Card and booklet.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*** Do all these packets really go to the inmates?**

We often hear this question. The bags are collected by prison chaplains the day after delivery at St. Andrews. Then they are handed out by volunteers at the prison soon afterward. You can join these volunteers by contacting your prison chaplain now and signing up to help.



*** How will you handle 25,000+ bags at St. Andrews? That sounds like a lot of work.**

It is a lot of work, and a lot of fun too! You can volunteer to count and sort prisoner bags the day they are collected at St. Andrews church. Join the WMU from your Association when they are collected and delivered. We provide a good lunch and lots of fun! Please call the Missions Mobilization Group if you plan to volunteer on Monday, December 3 at St. Andrews. Contact Cheryl McCullough, 803-765-0030 or 800-723-7242, ext. 4801.



*** Why do we need to check the contents of the bags before delivering them to St. Andrews Church?**

The bags have to be checked to make sure the contents in each bags meet the requirements of the SC Department of Corrections, and to be sure nothing extra was added. By checking the contents of bags your church collected, the volunteers at St. Andrews can add the Christmas card and Scripture in a more timely manner.



ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Black pens only.



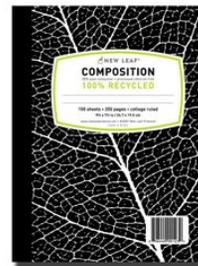
Verify they are individually boxed and not glued together.



Verify they are individually boxed.



Verify that soap boxes are individually boxed and not glued together.



Composition books are acceptable as long as they have no wires.
No 9 X 12 tablets!



You need to purchase these #10 envelopes from the US Post Office



This type of candy is acceptable.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTABLE



Insides of retractable pens could be used as a weapon.
No colors.



No individual stamps are permitted.



Plastic containers can be used as a weapon.

No bagged individually wrapped candy.



Not packaged. Toothpaste needs to be in a sealed box.



No unwrapped or loosely wrapped soap.



No chocolate candy!



Metal containers can be used as a weapon.



Unwrapped and multi-packs of tooth paste are not acceptable.



Wire from notebooks could be used as a weapon.
No 9 x 12 tablets.

2012 PROJECT TIMELINE

October 31, 2012 Associations return commitment cards.

Cards indicate the number of packets each association commits to providing. NOTE: *the number of packets you were asked to provide is the number needed* to give every inmate a Christmas packet.

December 2012 Churches deliver packets to local Baptist Association office.

Association volunteers check bags to be sure all are complete. Extra items can be delivered along with prisoner bags on the day of collection.

December 3, 2011 Baptist Associations deliver ALL packets to St. Andrews Baptist Church.



Volunteers check contents, add Christmas card and a Scripture portion and package packets for distribution to chaplains.

All Volunteers Welcomed!

**ALL packets MUST be delivered
by
12:00 noon
on
Monday, December 3
to
St. Andrews Baptist Church
230 Bush River Road
Columbia.**



December 4, 2012 Chaplains pick up packets to distribute to inmates.