

2017 Wise Guy Bag Initiative

Isolated in a detention center sits a young man or woman longing for someone to remember them this holiday season. Christmas means something different to each of them. He has heard of a Jesus whose birthday is the reason for getting stuff. She remembers walking past a cold baby doll in a manger outside of her Grandmother's church. Another urgently hopes for God to be real and true. For now, His name is only said in a rage while cursing.

*Incarceration cuts young people off. Enter True North Ministry and our 130 volunteer missionaries brimming with hope and Wise Bags filled with practical goodies. Our **"Follow the Star"** parties in each facility are full of song, games and messages of the One who can guide them on their journey.*

The activities below will give you an idea of the scope and magnitude of this project; everyone, regardless of age or income status, can hand out the love of Jesus Christ to 500 imprisoned youth with a Wise Guy Bag.

- **Filling a Wise Guy Bag:** Some people like to fill entire bags with the approved items. This can be done individually, by family or the entire church body
- **Adopt an item:** Many youth groups or young people adopt specific items and commit to gathering that one item. For instance, a dentist commits to 500 toothpastes every year while a youth group purchases 300 envelopes.
- **Volunteer Missionaries:** Missions minded people are greatly needed to personally hand a Wise Guy Bag to an incarcerated or detained youth during the Christmas season or to manage the organizational details of filling, transporting, counting and gathering miscellaneous supplies.
- **Financial Donation:** Others like to give a cash donation to supplement items or random expenses; each Wise Guy Bag costs about \$13.
- **Cookies.....Cookies.....Cookies.....:** In each facility unit, TNM hosts a small party for the youth including a small plate of cookies (about 2000 cookies).
- **Festive Decorative Cards:** TNM hopes to include three handmade or handwritten Christmas cards in each bag. The 1500 cards and handmade pictures are an easy way for children of all ages to liberate imprisoned youth. The youth have commented that these cards are their favorite item in the Wise Guy Bags!

Please allow us to answer any questions you may have or explain any of the above information in more detail.