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(S.D.)-Churches Prepare Christmas Packages For Inmates

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 12/21/2012 02:59 PM

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - More than 3,000 care packages of fudge and Christmas cards will be delivered to the inmates at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, the Yankton Minimum Security Unit and the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield on Monday as part of an annual tradition.

Rev. Steve Moerman of Cornerstone Prison Church says several prison churches started the tradition in the 1980s as a way to remind inmates that people still care about them. For many of the inmates, it's the only present they will get at Christmas.

Moerman says the packages contain fudge, peanuts, hard candy and homemade cards written by kids.

Jeff Howard is serving a life sentence for murder at the state prison. He says the packages are encouraging to inmates who otherwise might get nothing.