

# Faith, Hope, and Forgiveness in Prison



## *Overview*

At 43 years old, Charles has spent almost half of his life behind bars.

His journey through incarceration began when he was in his late twenties. “You are just beginning adulthood at that stage. Still childish a little bit. So I grew up in prison,” Charles said.

Charles begins his day with work in carpentry, where he helps build various items for the institution. As a peer support specialist, he conducts classes for fellow inmates, aiming to help them overcome addictions and make positive changes in their lives. For Charles, the peer support certification gave him a purpose. “I was looking forward to helping other people that were like me get their lives under control,” he said.

## *Receiving a Christmas Prisoner Packet*

One of the most cherished moments in Charles’ early years of incarceration was receiving his first Prisoner Packet. He remembers the excitement when inmates heard the doors opening and the cart carrying the holiday packets approaching. These packets contained valuable hygiene items like soap and toothpaste, envelopes, Christmas cards, and candy.

What stood out most to Charles that first time was the Christmas cards – tokens of love that he could send to his family. “Those Christmas cards are special. At that time my children were smaller, so to send them a card, they enjoyed that. I knew how much it meant to them,” Charles said.

Each year, Charles also looks forward to receiving the devotional written by SCBaptist staff in the packets. “The holidays are a depressing time of the year, and those devotionals, it encourages you. It builds you up,” he said.

Read the full story.



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