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As you journey through the Advent season, GWP invites you to take a few moments each day to reflect upon and interact with this educational calendar. The calendar focuses on the work of our Partner Project Growing Grounds and issues related to the incarceration of women in the U.S. As you meditate on the information shared each day, color in the shapes labeled with the day's number and color (or choose your own colors).

- 1 (YELLOW)** During this month of expectant waiting, pray daily for the nearly 220,000 women and girls (Prison Policy Initiative) waiting to be released from jail or prison.
- 2 (BLUE)** Growing Grounds continuously works at understanding the needs of women in the Wabash County Jail. Read one article today to better educate yourself about issues faced by women in your county jail system or google and read "What is Prison Like for Women and Girls" by The Marshall Project. [Micah 6:6-8]
- 3 (RED)** The rate of incarceration of women in the U.S. is at an all-time high, with 133 women in correctional facilities per every 100,000 female citizens. (Prison Policy Initiative) Contribute \$1.00 if you are fortunate enough never to have been incarcerated.
- _____
- 4 (BLACK)** In the Wabash County Jail, visits are limited to two 15-minute visits per week. Contribute \$.10 for each family member or friend with whom you visited this week. _____ [Luke 1:39-45]
- 5 (GREY)** There are no mandatory standards of care for women in U.S. prisons, yet most of the women are of reproductive age. Contribute \$.50 for each child for which you had prenatal care during pregnancy. _____
- 6 (RED)** As we imagine Mary's pregnancy with Jesus, a sampling of prisons that house 57% of imprisoned women in the U.S. showed that 1,396 were pregnant at intake. (Johns Hopkins Medicine) Contribute \$.50 for each pregnancy you had free from the prison system. _____ [Luke 1:26-38]
- 7 (BROWN)** 56% of female inmates are parents (Bureau of Justice) and 80% are primary caretakers (MN Women's Press 3/21). Challenge yourself today to shatter stereotypes you might have of people in the criminal justice system.
- 8 (BLACK)** Read Matthew 25:35-40. Be mindful today and throughout your Advent journey of where you might see and interact with the Divine.
- 9 (BROWN)** Incarcerated women have an average of 10.7 years of education. (National Institute of Health) Growing Grounds provides incarcerated women GED and higher education preparation. Contribute \$.25 for each year of education you've had beyond 10th grade. _____
- 10 (SKIN)** Growing Grounds provides mentors for support during incarceration and transition back into the community. Contribute \$.50 for each person who has mentored or is mentoring you. _____ [John 13:1-20]
- 11 (SKIN)** Having a parent that has been incarcerated can create layers of trauma that perpetuate inequity, injustice, unemployment and poverty. (unPrison Project) Contribute \$.50 for each parent in your life who has not been incarcerated. _____
- 12 (SKIN)** You lose the right to vote if convicted of a felony. Felons also may lose the right to certain government programs meant for assistance such as grant programs, public housing, food stamps or SSI. Contribute \$.50 if you have been fortunate enough to maintain your right to vote and have access to assistance programs. _____ [Isaiah 1:16-17]

- 13 (BROWN)** Growing Grounds helps women with rent and housing as they are released from jail. This is especially important in Wabash County where there are no emergency shelters for women and children. Contribute .05% of your monthly rent or mortgage if you have stable housing. _____
- 14 (YELLOW)** Did you know you have to pay to get out of jail? Many women come out of jail with debt from court costs and then are required to check in with agencies where fees are charged. If not paid, they are re-incarcerated. Contribute \$1.00 if you have never had to worry about a fee you had to pay. _____ [Matthew 18:21-35]
- 15 (EARTH)** Growing Grounds is an outreach program through the Wabash Church of the Brethren. If you are part of a faith community, do an inventory of its outreach programs (if it doesn't have any, start one). [Psalm 136]
- 16 (LIGHT RED)** Many incarcerated women have felonies, making getting a job extremely difficult. Contribute \$1.00 if you are employed or have a steady source of income. _____
- 17 (LIGHT YELLOW)** In 2019, the incarceration rate for African American women was over 1.7 times the rate of that for white women. (The Sentencing Project) If you are white, contribute \$1.00. _____
- 18 (LIGHT BLUE)** Nationwide, the Vera Institute for Justice estimates that 86% of incarcerated women have a history of trauma, physical abuse or sexual abuse before they were incarcerated. Google and read "Women in Prison: Twice as Likely to Have History of Abuse" by justpublics365.
- 19 (BROWN)** The story of Mary and Joseph reminds us of the struggles of those without adequate shelter. Formerly incarcerated people are 10 times more likely to be homeless than the general public. (Prison Policy Initiative) If you suddenly became homeless, would you have a place to stay? If so, contribute \$1.00. _____ [Luke 2:1-7]
- 20 (YELLOW)** Growing Grounds provides needed items such as bikes for transportation upon release from jail. Contribute \$.50 for each bike you have in your household. _____
- 21 (RED)** As we near the birth of Jesus, be mindful that incarcerated women are often given only 24 hours to bond with their newborn babies before they are taken away. (National Commission on Correctional Healthcare)
- 22 (YELLOW)** Volunteers from Growing Grounds and the Wabash Church of the Brethren gather, store and distribute food from their church for families coming out of jail (and others). Look through your pantry and donate a bag of nonperishable items to your local food bank.
- 23 (YELLOW)** For many years, Growing Grounds has provided a free monthly meal and gathering time for those released from jail. Consider inviting someone to your Christmas dinner who might be in need of food and/or connection.
- 24 (DARK BLUE)** Growing Ground's tagline is: "Where hope takes root." On this Holy eve, reflect on what you've learned/experienced during this Advent journey – and where you derive hope. Share your hope with others.
- 25 (YELLOW)** Celebrate the birth of the one who taught us to live into compassion and to set the oppressed free. Merry Christmas from Global Women's Project! [Luke 2:8-14]

TOTAL _____

Your tallied contribution can be sent to GWP c/o Karlene Tyler, 333 South Lakeside Drive, Unit I, McPherson, KS 67460 (write checks to GWP).

Artwork by Jessie Long