



NCFI Caring Across Regions with Encouraging Scripture

The Holy Family
By Carrie Dameron

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)

The beautiful nativity scene depicting the infant Jesus and his parents surrounded by animals is replayed in movies and church celebrations throughout the Christmas season. It is a reminder of the humble circumstances that the holy family experienced. It is hard for us to imagine the poverty in which a child is born amidst straw and manure. Yet, unfortunately, even today, the vulnerability of the family is too common throughout the world.

As nurses, we encounter fathers who are unable to provide adequate housing for their families. We counsel young single women who are alone and afraid, yet choose birth in hope of a better life; and mothers who lack the basic necessities of food and clothing. Overwhelmed with the responsibilities of parenting and marriage, parents separate and divorce. Mothers and/or fathers paralyzed by mental illness become too debilitated to care for their children. In war-torn areas, parents are challenged to protect their children from bombs and violence.

Then there is the addiction crisis, where any number of substances demands priority over the love and care of children. Thus leaving a growing number of emotionally and possibly physically abandoned children to mature into adulthood on their own.

Next time you see the nativity scene, don't get swept up in the celebration. Whether it is through our nursing services, our supportive churches, or from the fruit of our wages, find a way to help the most at-risk group in our society—the family. Through our work in Christ's name, we can go into the nativity scene and bring the essentials needed to support the birthplace of our Saviour—the family.