



# Current Issues in Prayer

March 2016

Welcome! The Pope invites people of different faiths to come together and pray:

**That families in need may receive the necessary support and that children may grow up in healthy and peaceful environments.**



## Getting started:

In a quiet place, I bring my family to mind for a few moments. I look both at what is beautiful and also at what is not. I now beg the Lord for a grace on behalf of my family. Let me now think of the many families around the world who are facing difficulties or grave problems ...



## Short story:

Saroo, a boy from India, was only five years old when he got lost. It happened when he once followed his elder brother, who was on his way to a train-station to work. His brother was employed in sweeping trains. Saroo's brother had instructed him that he would collect him at a certain place right after work. Since his brother was late in coming back, Saroo fell asleep on a bench. On waking up, and being somewhat confused, the little boy boarded a train in the hope of finding his brother. He was off to a very long journey. The ride brought him all the way to the overcrowded city of Calcutta.



After a few days wondering about here and there, he was noticed and picked up. Saroo was taken to an orphanage so as to be given in adoption. The Brierley family from Tasmania, Australia adopted him. In this family, Saroo never lacked for anything, and yet he never stopped wondering what had become of his mother and brothers in their great poverty.

25 years passed and relying on the few memories that remained, Saroo searched for the place where he was born on an Internet map-site. He recognized the village and decided to visit. It was called Khandwa. He did indeed find his family! And yet the joy of his mother's embrace was mingled with sorrow. Saroo got to know that the day he got lost, his brother had not come to fetch him because he had been run over by a train.



## Time to reflect:

By means of this story, what can you learn about the complexities of life of poor families?

When a family is suffering, it is the children who hurt the most. Is your heart moved by the needs of children?



## Let us pray:

Lord I ask you to care for all families. May the children grow strong and enjoy peace. Help us to appreciate ever more the importance of the family in the building of society.



## Inspiration:

The only rock I know that stays steady, the only institution I know that works, is the family

*Lee Iacocca*



## Hands on:

Reflect on the way you can help families in need through some parish initiative or through civic centres that reach out to families and children.

Research and ask around to get to know of State organizations whose work benefits families and children. Reflect on the aims of these organizations. Do you agree with their way of thinking?