

Walk Alongside

Church Toolkit for Reconciliation (1st Edition)





Artist: Safina Stewart
Country: Mabuiag Island, Torres Strait and Wuthathi Country, QLD
Date: 2014
Website: www.artbysafina.com.au
Title: Reconciliation Well
Medium: Acrylic painting on stretched canvas
Size: 122cm x 92cm

World Vision Australia and Reconciliation Australia commissioned Christian Indigenous artist, Safina Stewart, to create a vibrant artwork for the cover of this toolkit and their National Prayer Book, *Reconciliation Well*.

The story of the artwork can also be found at <http://artbysafina.com.au/portfolio/spirit/reconciliation-well/>

Legend	
	Well of Reconciliation Central to the painting is the Well of Reconciliation understood as the spring of hope from which true repentance, forgiveness, restitution, recognition, restoration, empowerment and relational healing have their source. With respect to relationships between Australia's Indigenous and non-Indigenous people it is also the source of mutual respect and honouring dignity.
	Elders mentoring youth Surrounding the well are the large black U prints that cup smaller black U prints. These represent the wisdom of Elders mentoring and raising up the next generation of leaders for all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike.
	Elders & leaders The brown silhouettes of two men and two women represent a respect for those Elders who with courage and endurance have weathered great adversity and struggle in seeking to guard and promote the rights and dignity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Inside their hearts is the Wellspring of Reconciliation.
	Vision of Reconciliation These leaders are the custodians of a vision for a better future where all Australians enjoy a unity amidst a mutually valued diversity. They extend their hands to the shoulders of the next generation symbolising a Christ-centred world-view baton transfer. They are passing on the vision and responsibility to guard and model healthy and respectful relationships for all Australians irrespective of their varied cultural backgrounds.
	People The outer rings of people symbolise the positive multiplying effect that the "lived out" message of reconciliation can have on others when they embrace each other and join together to share the message with all Australians. There is an exponential multiplying effect towards positive holistic change that is wonderfully possible as this happens.
	Footprints/long journey The footprints represent the long journey of the past, present and future in working together towards the God-honouring goal of humble understanding, unity and respect that knows no ethnic, gender or age boundary. Then we can truly celebrate the words "we are one (i.e., reconciled), but we are many", from the popular Bruce Woodley anthem, "We are Australian".
	Land & water

Contents

What is Walk Alongside?	5
Getting Started	9
Framework for Church Engagement	10
The Walk Alongside Church Action Plan	15
<i>Church Toolkit Supplement</i>	19-46



Photo: Lucy Aulich/World Vision

the vision...

Australian churches are known as **welcoming** and **culturally inclusive** communities of faith, able to build strong, respectful relationships with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples



World Vision Image/ "Sun Setting" /Nyirripi N.T.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ
and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:
that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.
and He has committed to us the message of reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:18, 19 NIV

What is Walk Alongside?

World Vision has partnered with Reconciliation Australia to develop a new program **to guide churches in building strong and respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.**

Throughout Australia's history, churches have been strong supporters of reconciliation. From the earliest days of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (now Reconciliation Australia) Christian communities have recognised the potential of the reconciliation movement to seek restorative justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, where past wrongs are acknowledged and a healing pathway is forged through the building of strong and respectful relationships.

World Vision and Reconciliation Australia acknowledge the good work being done and the positive relationships that Christian churches have been building with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. We also recognise that our shared history has not always been a positive one and there have been missed opportunities for the church to learn from, and respectfully walk alongside, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This program is designed for Australian churches who are unsure about where to start this journey or want to do more and need help taking the next step.

As the **heart and soul** of our communities, churches provide congregations with a sense of **purpose** and help make sense of the activities they perform every day in their workplaces, universities, schools and communities.

World Vision and Reconciliation Australia believe that churches can empower Christian communities to drive forward the process of reconciliation both **inside and outside** of their churches. By acknowledging and creating greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories; building stronger and more respectful relationships between non-Indigenous and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; and helping to close the gaps in life circumstances and expectancy, churches can contribute to positive and lasting social change within Australia.

The Walk Alongside Program also provides a **framework** and suggested **activity plan** to help guide Christian churches build stronger and healthier relationships with Indigenous Australians. It seeks to point to a whole range of faith based and non-faith based resources, potential partners and networks that can support a church on this reconciliation journey. It embeds Reconciliation Australia's model for reconciliation – **Relationships, Respect and Opportunities**, within a faith context, focusing on elements of church life both within the church and in the broader community.



World Vision Image/ "road leading out of Nyirripi " /Warlpiri Country N.T.

One of the key factors underlying Indigenous disadvantage is the ongoing existence of negative discrimination of Indigenous Australians. This discrimination takes many forms and is manifest in many different ways and so often precludes Indigenous people from taking control of their lives. Thus reconciliation to tackle discrimination is also seen as critical to long-term change and is why World Vision is committed to the Walk Alongside Program and developing this toolkit.

For more information about World Vision's work in Australia go to [World Vision Australia's website](#)

For more information about Reconciliation Australia's Framework for Reconciliation go to their [website](#)

Being a part of the Walk Alongside Program is an opportunity for your church to:

1. **Contribute** to the development of the Walk Alongside program by actively participating in the program
2. **Explore** a new pathway with access to rich resources for developing strong relationships with Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
3. **Model and minister** God's love within new missional communities
4. **Be a prophetic catalyst** for the continued healing of our nation, for reconciled relationships and better social outcomes for Indigenous Australians
5. **Journey together** with like-minded people (churches, NGOs, Indigenous organisations) within a safe space of accountability and support to strengthen relationships with Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



World Vision Image/"campfire"

Walk Alongside invites churches into a courageous space of self discovery and learning, give churches permission to not only get things right but also to make mistakes



World Vision Image/"bush trip"

Stepping back

and connecting reconciliation to God's story also helps us move away from dramatic visions of fixing the world, as if our job were to provide solutions to problems outside us. If Christians believe anything, it is that no one—including ourselves and the church—is separate from the brokenness as an untainted solution to the problems of our world. The new creation contends with the old. The dividing line between good and evil runs straight through each one of us. So the journey of reconciliation begins with a transformation of the human person." Chris Rice, *Reconciling All Things: A Christian Vision for Justice, Peace and Healing*

Program Objective

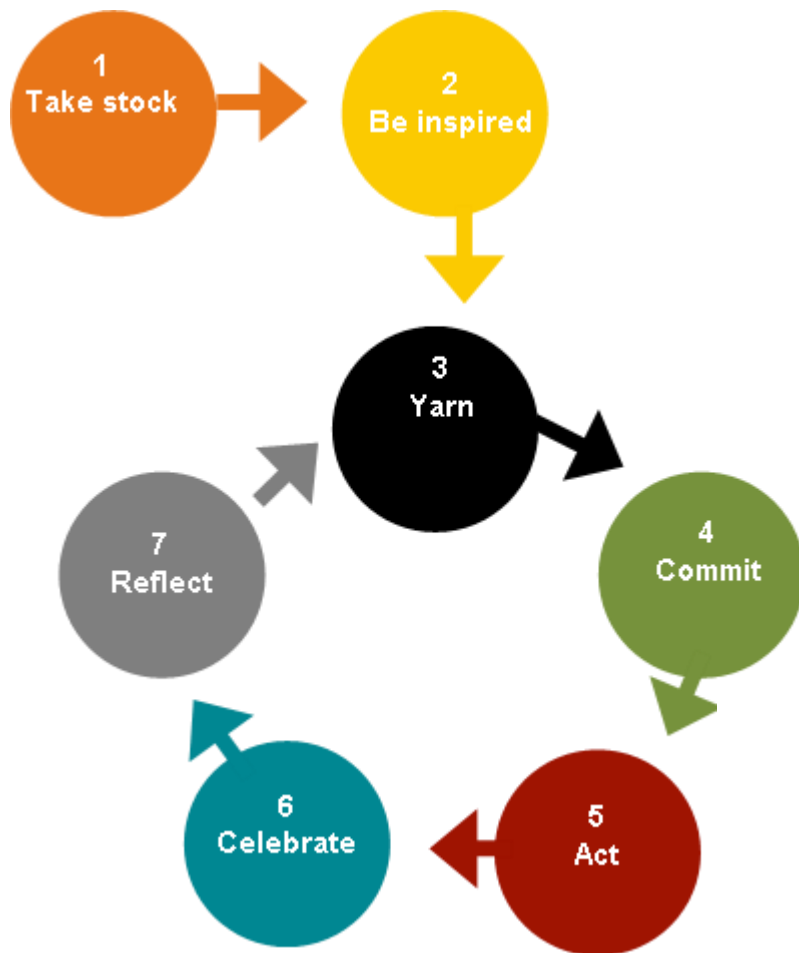
Through the Walk Alongside Program, churches will be equipped with tools to support them become **welcoming and culturally inclusive communities of faith**, able to build strong, respectful relationships with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people

Desired Program Outcomes

Through participating in the Walk Alongside Program:

- Churches will demonstrate greater cultural sensitivity and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Churches will create new pathways and opportunities for the building of stronger relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Churches will be better positioned to participate in advocacy initiatives alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Getting Started



Getting started on your reconciliation journey is easy. Follow this step-by-step guide - you can go through the process (stages 3-7) as many times as you like, each time deepening your relationships.

- 1 **Take stock.** Evaluate where you, your church leadership and your congregation are on their reconciliation journey
- 2 **Be inspired** to continue this journey by watching SHARING OUR STORY: a FREE four-episode DVD resource designed to help churches discover the shared story of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. <http://australiantogether.org.au/watch>
- 3 **Yarn.** As a leadership, or in a working group setting, explore the toolkit material. Share insights, thoughts and reflections about your church's reconciliation journey and ways to deepen relationships with and contribute to **closing the gap** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Consider new opportunities to deepen your commitment to reconciliation
- 4 **Commit.** Develop or refine your formal commitment to reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. Share this with your congregation and community.
- 5 **Act**, using the **"Framework for Engagement"** on **pages 11-15** to turn your faith and commitment into action.
- 6 **Celebrate** your progress along this journey of reconciliation in your church and with your community. Hold a **Week of Prayer for Reconciliation** service at your church. (see pg.31)
Spread the word about what you have learned and the friendships you have made.
- 7 **Reflect** on your commitment and all that you have achieved. Once again take stock and evaluate where you, your church leadership and your congregation are on their reconciliation journey.

Framework for Church Engagement

The **Walk Alongside – Church Toolkit for Reconciliation** embeds Reconciliation Australia's model for reconciliation – Relationships, Respect and Opportunities – within a church and community context.

Church and Community Context	Reconciliation Australia's formula for reconciliation
Church The centrality of reconciliation to the message of the gospel and the life of your church. (2 Corinthians 5:18, 19) Creating the right environment for a deeper encounter with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in churches and across our communities. (Galatians 3:26-28)	Relationships Good relationships are based on trust, understanding, good communication and mutual respect.
Community Extending the ministry of the church to establishing and deepening the church's links with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. (Ephesians 2:13, 14)	Respect Recognition and appreciation of the cultures that have existed in this country for tens of thousands of years and the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this nation that we share.
	Opportunities Creating opportunities that will achieve equality in the measureable areas of disadvantage, particularly education, employment and life expectancy.


Framework for Church Engagement

Explore the action/s suggested at each cross-section of the framework (**pages 11-15**) and work towards achieving them at your own pace and in line with the wants, needs and aspirations of your church and community.

	Relationships	Respect	Opportunities
Church	<p>Reflect Reflect on the centrality of reconciliation to the message of the gospel and the life of your church.</p> <p>Identify Identify the values that guide your church's ministries and ability to engage effectively with different cultures</p> <p>Evaluate Evaluate your church's ability to engage effectively with different cultures.</p>	<p>Learn Learn about your church's history and connections to land and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities</p> <p>Acknowledge Recognise and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where your church is situated</p>	<p>Connect Find out about and connect with your denomination's Indigenous ministries</p>
Community	<p>Discover Contact your local government council to learn about the traditional custodians of the land where your church is situated.</p>	<p>Participate Get to know your local community and be part of local community events</p>	<p>Support Support causes that advance the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities</p> <p>Partner Partner with programs that 'walk alongside' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to bring about lasting, positive change</p>



Relationships

	Relationships	Recommended Actions	Resource	Desired Outcome	Reflection
Church	Reflect Reflect on the centrality of reconciliation to the message of the gospel and the life of your church.	Individually, or as a church leadership work through "Reconciliation: Seeking Restored Relationships". This is a World Vision International bible study designed as a resource to explore reconciliation from a biblical perspective Watch Miroslav Volf's video podcasts on faith and reconciliation Explore, study and/or discuss further resources provided in the Church Toolkit Supplement.	Reconciliation: Seeking Restored Relationships  Miroslav Volf's video podcasts Walk Alongside Church Toolkit Supplement (pages 19-46) NCLS website For further queries info@ncls.org.au	The church demonstrates cultural sensitivity and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples	1. What has been happening? (what have you and your church been doing?) 2. What are you most excited about? (successes, opportunities, conversations, discoveries) 3. What are you and your church most challenged by? 4. What are you and your church learning/relearning? 5. What are the most important next actions emerging from your reflections?
	Identify Identify the values that guide your church's ministries and ability to engage effectively with different cultures Evaluate Evaluate your church's ability to engage effectively with different cultures.	Have your church participate in the National Church Life Survey. It explores Australian spirituality, church health, effective and sustainable leadership, and the connections between church and community. It is a good way to find out more about the culture and aspirations of your church. Review your church's responses and recommendations from the "Walk Alongside – Church Survey, completed at the start of the Walk Alongside program.	Walk Alongside Church Toolkit Survey <i>(on World Vision website)</i>		
Community	Discover Who are the traditional custodians of the land where your church is located?	Contact your Local Government Council for information about the Traditional Custodians of the land where your church is located and to find out about any resources, events or historical information to help you along your journey	Find contact details for your Local Government or Shire Council here Find a list of Australian Aboriginal Land Councils here		






Respect

	Respect	Recommended Actions	Resource	Desired Outcome	Reflection
Church	Learn Learn about your church's history and connections to land and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities	<p>As a church, learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultures and histories by participating in the "Sharing Our Story" program</p> <p>Over time, start to focus your learning on the peoples, cultures and history of your local community/area or a community with which your Church has a connection. Cultural awareness workshops or experiences run by external organisations can also be something that individuals or groups within the church may want to explore</p>	<p>Sharing our Story is a DVD resource designed for small groups within a church setting. It is supported by a Leader's Guide. Sign up for Group leader access</p> <p>Reconciliation Australia 's Share our Pride website is a great additional cultural education resource for you and your church. The Little Red Yellow Black Book website is also a great Introductory resource</p> <p>For further information on cultural experiences, go to the Tourism Australia's website or contact your Local Government or Shire Council here</p>	The church creates pathways and opportunities for the building of stronger relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has been happening? (what have you and your church been doing?) 2. What are you most excited about? (successes, opportunities, conversations, discoveries) 3. What are you and your church most challenged by? 4. What are you and your church learning/ relearning? 5. What are the most important next actions emerging from your reflections?
	Acknowledge Acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where your church is situated	Develop Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country guidelines for your church and other appropriate guidelines and protocols for your church	<p>Australians Together explains the significance of both the Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country, and advises how to make them meaningful for your church</p>		
Community	Participate Get to know your local community and be part of local community events	Celebrate NAIDOC Week or participate in other local events. During National Reconciliation Week (NRW) there are many community events organised	<p>Find out more about NAIDOC Week, NRW or other events in your local area. See also page 14 of the Toolkit Supplement.</p> <p>Art centres and local museums are a great place to connect with your community and learn about different cultures</p>		



Opportunities

	Opportunities	Recommended Actions	Resource	Desired Outcome	Reflection
Church	<p>Connect Connect with your denomination's Indigenous ministry</p> <p>Support Support causes that advance the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities</p>	<p>Learn more about your denomination's Indigenous ministries and ways that you can support them</p> <p>Register your church or organisation's interest in hosting the National Prayer Book - "Reconciliation Well"</p> <p>Support the campaign to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's Constitution</p>	<p>Contact your church denomination's state office</p> <p>Further details – page 31</p> <p>Sign up to show your support for the Recognise campaign</p> <p>Additional resources for your church's youth group at: RecogniseThis</p>	The church is participating in advocacy and development initiatives alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has been happening? (what have you and your church been doing?) 2. What are you most excited about? (successes, opportunities, conversations, discoveries) 3. What are you and your church most challenged by? 4. What are you and your church learning/relearning? 5. What are the most important next actions emerging from your reflections?
Community	<p>Partner Partner with programs that walk alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to bring about lasting, positive change</p>	<p>Partner with World Vision's Australia Program or another organisation that 'walks alongside' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities</p> <p>Volunteer for an Indigenous organisation or an organisation that has a respected Indigenous program.</p>	<p>For further information about World Vision's work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities</p> <p>Go to Volunteering Australia's website and do a keyword search under Indigenous or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander</p> <p>Read "Lost Conversations - Finding new ways for black and white Australians to lead together"</p> <p></p>		

The Walk Alongside Church Action Plan

As a church, it is important that you can monitor the progress your church is making. After you have established a Walk Alongside Working Group, a Walk Alongside Church Action Plan should be developed.

This will help your church answer the following questions:

1. What are the areas we want our church to focus on?
2. What are the actions we want to take over the next 6-12 months?
3. Who will be responsible for delivering the various actions?
4. Who else should be involved or consulted on the various actions?
5. What is your timeframe for the actions to be completed?
6. What resources do you require in order to deliver your plan and progress your church's reconciliation journey?

The Walk Alongside Church Action Plan should be reviewed regularly within the working group and/or by your church's leadership. Areas of progress should be identified and shared with your church congregation.

Churches that are World Vision Partners are also encouraged to share their progress with their World Vision Church Partnership Manager.


The standard template for the Church Action Plan can be found on pages 16-18. Alternatively, the Church Action Plan Template can be edited and printed off for use by your Walk Alongside Church Working Group. Attached below is the Church Action Plan Template, both as a PDF and an editable word version. This will be an important document to refer to during the review process.





Walk Alongside Church Action Plan

Church Name:

Time Period: __/__/__ - __/__/__

Relationships 		Desired Outcome #1 <i>Our church demonstrates cultural sensitivity and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples</i>			
Focus area: (reflect, evaluate, identify, discover)	Action (what will be done)	Responsibility (who)	Collaborators (who is to be involved/consulted)	Timeline (start & completion)	Resources (materials, staff, volunteers, \$, other)
Reflect on the centrality of reconciliation to the message of the gospel and the life of your church.					
Identify the values that guide your church's ministries and ability to engage effectively with different cultures					
Evaluate your church's ability to engage effectively with different cultures.					
Discover who are the traditional custodians of the land where your church is located?					
Progress Achieved (include date of progress update)					
Date	Progress Update				
Reflections					
1. What has been happening? (what have you and your church been doing?)					
2. What are you most excited about? (successes, opportunities, conversations, discoveries?)					
3. What are you and your church most challenged by?					
4. What are you and your church learning/relearning?					
5. What are the most important next actions emerging from your reflections?					

<p>Respect</p> 		<p>Desired Outcome #2</p> <p><i>Our church creates pathways and opportunities for the building of stronger relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people</i></p>			
<p>Focus area: (learn, acknowledge, participate)</p>	<p>Action (what will be done)</p>	<p>Responsibility (who)</p>	<p>Collaborators (who is to be involved/consulted)</p>	<p>Timeline (start & completion)</p>	<p>Resources (materials, staff, volunteers, \$, other)</p>
<p>Learn about your church's history and connections to land and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities</p>					
<p>Acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where your church is situated</p>					
<p>Participate Get to know your local community and be part of local community events</p>					
<p>Progress Achieved (include date of progress update)</p>					
Date	Progress Update				
<p>Reflections</p>					
<p>1. What has been happening? (what have you and your church been doing?)</p>					
<p>2. What are you most excited about? (successes, opportunities, conversations, discoveries?)</p>					
<p>3. What are you and your church most challenged by?</p>					
<p>4. What are you and your church learning/relearning?</p>					
<p>5. What are the most important next actions emerging from your reflections?</p>					

Opportunities 		Desired Outcome #3 <i>Our church is participating in advocacy and development initiatives alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities</i>			
Focus area: (connect, support, partner)	Action (what will be done)	Responsibility (who)	Collaborators (who is to be involved/consulted)	Timeline (start & completion)	Resources (materials, staff, volunteers, \$, other)
Connect with your denomination's Indigenous ministry					
Support causes that advance the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities					
Partner with programs that walk alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to bring about lasting, positive change					
Progress Achieved (include date of progress update)					
Date	Progress Update				
Reflections					
1. What has been happening? (what have you and your church been doing?)					
2. What are you most excited about? (successes, opportunities, conversations, discoveries?)					
3. What are you and your church most challenged by?					
4. What are you and your church learning/relearning?					
5. What are the most important next actions emerging from your reflections?					

Walk Alongside

Church Toolkit for Reconciliation

Supplement (1st Edition)



World Vision



Contents

Introduction	21
Part 1. Executive Summary for Your Church Pastor	22
Part 2. World Vision's Christian Story	23
Part 3. Church Group Activities and Workshop Ideas	24
3.1 Acknowledging Country	24
3.2 Reflection Activity	24
3.3 Perspectives	26
3.4 Walking in another's shoes	28
3.5 Exploring Deep Listening "dadirri"	29
3.6 Reconciliation Wall	30
3.7 Week of Prayer for Reconciliation	31
3.8 "Reconciliation Well" - National Prayer Book	32
Part 4. Additional Resources (in alphabetical order)	33



Introduction

The **Walk Alongside Church Toolkit Supplement** is designed as an additional resource for churches engaged with the Walk Alongside program.

Part 1 provides an executive one page ‘message’ summary to share with your Senior Church Leader

Part 2 explores World Vision’s Christian Story

Part 3 is a collection of group activities which can help your church “kick start” your Walk Alongside journey. These activities can be used as meeting starters for your Walk Alongside Working Group and as icebreakers or reflective sessions within your various church ministry areas. They encompass themes such as reconciliation, cultural awareness and spiritual reflection.

Part 4 provides links to additional resources that may deepen your Walk Alongside journey. There are stories and articles that represent different voices and perspectives on reconciliation as well as a selection of online resources from various Christian organisations, church denominations and non faith-based organisations. Arranged in alphabetical order for easy reference, Part 4 can be used as a “starting” point for further personal or group study and discussion.

*We want to acknowledge those who have contributed their work to this resource. We also appreciate that there are other organisations and church denominations who have also developed appropriate resources that may not have been included in this edition of the supplement. Over time, it is hoped that new resources, group activities and conversations will be shared amongst those participating in the **Walk Alongside** program.*

1. Walk Alongside – Executive Summary for Your Church Pastor

WHAT IS IT?

- A program that uses Reconciliation Australia's proven framework of ***Relationships, Respect & Opportunities*** to guide churches in building stronger and healthier relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities

WHY THE PROGRAM?

- Reconciliation Australia & World Vision believe that progress toward closing the gaps in employment, education & health between Indigenous & non-Indigenous Australians will continue to be slow, unless we first address the gaps in our **relationships**
- World Vision & Reconciliation Australia believe that churches can empower Christian communities to drive forward the process of reconciliation both **inside and outside** their churches, bringing influence and change within the broader community

WHY GET INVOLVED?

Walk Alongside is an opportunity for your church to:

- **Explore** a new reconciliation pathway with access to rich resources for developing stronger relationships with Indigenous Australians
- **Be a prophetic catalyst** for the continued healing of our nation, for reconciled relationships & better social outcomes for Indigenous Australians
- **Journey together** with like-minded people (churches, NGOs, Indigenous organisations) within a safe space of accountability and support to strengthen relationships with Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

HOW WILL THE PROGRAM BENEFIT MY CHURCH?

Your church will be better equipped with tools to become **inclusive and culturally inclusive communities of faith**, able to build stronger and more respectful relationships with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people.

2. World Vision's Christian Story

Most Australians know something of **World Vision's story**. Since we began in Australia nearly 50 years ago, millions have done the 40 hour famine, or sponsored a child, or dug deep when an emergency like the Asian Tsunami occurs. As Australians have connected with us, they've connected with the stories of children, families and communities struggling with injustice and poverty right around the world and in our own backyard. But not everyone may be familiar with World Vision's connection to the Christian story. It is this story that motivated our founders and continues to motivate and guide our staff and organisation today. At the heart of this story is the person of Jesus. His life and his teaching shapes the way we work today.

Reconciliation is Central to World Vision's Ministry, Mission and Vision

Our Ministry

World Vision's ministry in Australia aspires to reconcile the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians (2 Cor 5:18, 19)

Our Mission

To be a Christian organisation that **engages people** to eliminate poverty and its causes.

Our Vision

Life in all its fullness for every child, and the **will** of every heart to make it so.

When relationships are made right with God, with each other and with Creation, we will see **"fullness of life for every child"**

Our story is a story of **faith**. Jesus was known for spending time with those on the fringes of society, always seeing potential for change and transformation where others could not. His example motivates us to live and love at the edges and to find potential for transformation in the toughest situations.

Our story is a story of **hope**. Jesus presented a radically different view of how life, relationships and society could be. He said he came so that *everyone* might have a full life. This gives us a glimpse of how things could be and motivates us to work for justice for all, so that everyone might experience a 'full life', with no-one left behind.

And our story is a story of **love**. We believe that that love has the power to overcome all. The unconditional love Jesus demonstrated for the sick and the hungry, for children and widows, for prostitutes and foreigners, for friend and even for foe, sets the standard we aspire to today. Love drives us to serve all people in need today, regardless of race, gender, age, location, religion or social status.

Today, there are more than half a million Australians who share in World Vision's work. Some share our Christian story, but many have other stories that motivate them to partner with us. We welcome and celebrate this diversity. All of us at World Vision are connected in our desire to seek justice and to overcome poverty **for all children, everywhere**. We invite all Australians to join us.



3. Church Group Activities and Workshop Ideas

Activity 3.1 Acknowledging Country

In preparation for a Walk Alongside working group meeting or church leaders meeting, personally research the 3 questions below. Come ready to share with group what you have discovered.

- Q1. Who are the traditional custodians of the land where you live? (or alternatively where you were born)
- Q2. What is the name given by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people to this particular country and what is the traditional language spoken in this area?
- Q3. Does this place have any historic or cultural significance for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people?

Activity 3.2 Reflection Activity

- Spend a few moments reflecting on the photo images on the next slide.
- Which images spoke most to you?
- How do you feel about embarking on this reconciliation journey using the Walk Alongside Program.
- Share with the group



We are all in this together



Activity 3.3 Perspectives

What do you see in the picture below?



Activity 3.3 Perspectives (cont.)

- We need to challenge our assumptions and stereotypes
- This is a journey for everyone. No one has arrived
- We need to also feel safe in this space to share what we feel and acknowledge what we don't understand.
- It's okay to make mistakes. It's about maintaining a posture of posture of humility, generosity and grace.

**We see the world, not as it is, but as we are—
or, as we are conditioned to see it
to change ourselves effectively, we first had to change our perceptions**

Stephen R. Covey, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change

- We all have blind spots and need others to help us see where we can't
- Let's be open to see things differently, from new perspectives.
- Our attitudes and beliefs are often shaped by our surrounding culture and personal experience
- This is a journey where the learning is not only about others, but about yourself.



Activity 3.4 Walking in Another's Shoes



Group Activity

1. Find a partner.
2. One person in each pair is to ask their partner for one of their shoes and then attempt to put it on.
3. The person with the odd shoes must then attempt to walk around the room, whilst their partner observes.
4. Swap places and repeat steps 3 and 4.
5. Swap shoes back.

Discussion

- How did you feel being asked to do this?
- How did you feel when you put your partners shoe on and walked around?
- How did you feel when you saw someone else trying to walk in one of your shoes?
- How did you feel when you were able to take the shoe off and place your own shoe back on?
- What can this activity show us?

Activity 3.5 Exploring Deep Listening - “Dadirri”

Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me. Ps 42:7

The concept of *Deep Listening* appears in many Aboriginal languages in Australia.

In the Ngangikurungkurr language of the Daly River (NT) the word for inner deep listening and quiet still awareness is ‘**Dadirri**’ - *Miriam Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann OA*

The closest we can get to describing it in English is deep and respectful listening which builds community. *Deep Listening* involves taking the time to develop relationships and to listen respectfully and responsibly. It is characterised by an absence of the need to be in charge. It creates a space where genuine contact can be made. It is respectful and restorative.

Maree Clarke is Mutti Mutti/Yorta Yorta/ Boon Wurrung/Wemba Wemba artist. She describes it as Deep Listening.

“Deep Listening. Blackfellas have been doing it for hundreds and hundreds of generations. Listening to the country. Listening to each other. And understanding each other’s journey.”

Deep Listening is characterised by an absence of the need to be in charge. It brings us together and helps us make sense of our worlds. It supports our individual and collective meaning making processes. It creates a space where genuine contact can be made. It is about tuning in and being fully alive to each other. A conversation which is underpinned by *Deep Listening* highlights the complexities within a situation and the different perspectives from which one situation can be viewed. Reflecting on issues from different perspectives requires a degree of comfort with complexity and a reluctance to simplify.

“For Aboriginal people deep listening comes naturally. It’s about walking on the land, softly, quietly. And listening to the stories around the campfire. We’ve got to listen to the wind in the trees. Listen to the birds. It’s the feeling of a gift. A gift always comes back.”

New ways of passing on wisdom emerge when we stretch beyond our previously held assumptions about learning and knowing. Deep Listening involves taking the time to develop relationships and to listen respectfully and responsibly. It involves reframing how we learn, how we come to know and what we value as knowledge.

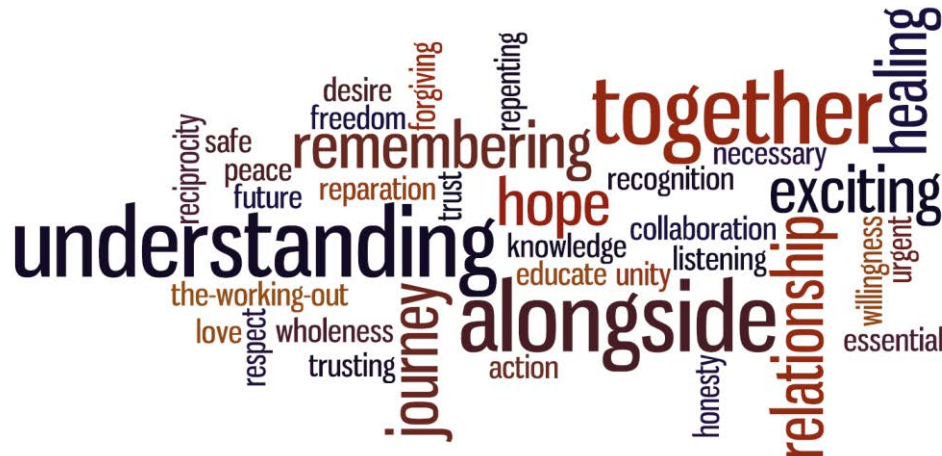
References

- <http://www.yarrahealing.catholic.edu.au/celebrations/index.cfm?loadref=58>
- <http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/education/deep-listening-dadirri#axzz3Zn9Epb9V>



Activity 3.6 Reconciliation Wall

- What does reconciliation mean to you?
- Write a single word on a post-it note that represents what you believe reconciliation looks like.
- Place on the wall and share as a group
- Collect post-its and transfer onto [wordle](#) (see below for an example that was created at a church reconciliation workshop)



3.7 Week of Prayer for Reconciliation

The Week of Prayer for Reconciliation is held every year between 27 May and 3 June (National Reconciliation Week). These two dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey – the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the Mabo decision .

The week is an opportunity to celebrate how far we've come in our relationship between non-Indigenous and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, and how far your church has come on its reconciliation journey.

Activity	Ideas	Resources
Join churches across Australia who are holding a service for reconciliation during the <i>Week of Prayer for Reconciliation</i> , preceded or followed by a morning or afternoon tea	<p>Incorporate songs, prayers, readings and liturgy that focus on reconciliation, creation and justice. There are plenty of resources out there, and we encourage you to consult amongst your church or ask your diocese or state body about resources</p> <p>Register your church or organisation's interest in hosting the National Prayer Book - "Reconciliation Well" by contacting World Vision's Church Partnership Team via email.</p> <p>Alternatively you can email your prayer and it will be added to the Prayer Book. See next page for details.</p>	<p>Go to www.reconciliation.org.au and enter Reconciliation Guide for Churches into the search tab</p> <p>Download the TEAR Australia Reconciliation Resource Kit</p> <p>church@worldvision.com.au</p>

3.8 “Reconciliation Well” – The National Prayer Book

Reconciliation Well is a national prayer book for you to express your commitment to reconciliation and stronger relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. As it embarks on its long journey around Australia, churches and communities will have the opportunity to read and contribute to the prayer book.

A joint initiative of Reconciliation Australia and World Vision, *Reconciliation Well* seeks to bring together churches and individuals across Australia to honour our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian leaders and Elders.

Reconciliation Well symbolises a renewed desire by Indigenous and non-Indigenous faith communities across this nation to reimagine the Church in Australia as a movement of brothers and sisters committed to friendship and partnership, built on humility, trust and mutual respect.

Your prayer will be added to the prayer book which will be displayed in a place of national significance after Constitutional Recognition is achieved for Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The story of the artwork used for the National Prayer can be found [here](#):

ACTIONS:

1. **Send your prayers via email to our online prayer book – church@worldvision.com.au**
 - Your emailed prayer will be added to the prayer book
 - Prayers can be written in English or in your traditional language
 - Please include your first name and home town (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may also choose to include the name of their traditional country)
 - We welcome children to email a short prayer
1. **Register your church or organisation’s interest in hosting the actual prayer book at a service or event by contacting World Vision’s Church Partnerships team: church@worldvision.com.au (subject to availability)**

4. Additional Resources

(in alphabetical order)

Additional Resources

Reconciliation Australia

<http://www.shareourpride.org.au/>

https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/NRW2014_Further-Reading_FactS.pdf

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Lets-Talk...mythbusting-PDF.pdf>

https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/NRW2014_Timeline_FactS.pdf

https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/NRW2014_Constitutional-Recog_FactS.pdf

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lets-talk...26-January-2015.pdf>

World Vision Australia

[World Vision Australia's website](#)

<http://www.worldvision.com.au/Partner-with-us/Your-church-and-world-vision/LatestNews.aspx>



Additional Resources

A

AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies

<http://lryb.aiatsis.gov.au/resources.html>

<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/welcome.html>

ANTAR (Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation)

<http://antar.org.au/>

Australians Together

For videos, stories, bible studies and other resources

www.australianstogether.org.au

Bible Colleges

<http://www.nungalinya.edu.au/>

<http://www.wontulp.qld.edu.au>



Additional Resources

B

Books

Aboriginal Spirituality: Past, Present, Future. *Anne Pattel-Gray (ed), (Melbourne: HarperCollins, 2006)*

Acting in Solidarity? The Church's Journey with the Indigenous Peoples of Australia
Peter Lewis (Melbourne: Uniting Academic Press, 2010)

Following Jesus in Invaded Space: Doing Theology on Aboriginal Land. *Chris Budden (Eugene: Pickwick, 2009)*

One Blood, *John Harris (Sutherland: Albatross Books, 2nd ed. 1994 – now available from Amazon for kindle)*

Paddy's Road – Life Stories of Patrick Dodson, *Kevin Keffe (Canberra: Aboriginal Studies Press, 2003)*

Rainbow Spirit Theology: Towards an Australian Aboriginal Theology, *The Rainbow Spirit Elders, (Harper Collins ,2nd ed. 2008)*

Reconciliation: Searching for Australia's Soul. *Habel, N. C. (Sydney: HarperCollins, 1999)*

The Journey Toward Reconciliation. *John Paul Lederach (Scottsdale: Herald Press 1999)*

The Lamb Enters the Dreaming. *Robert Kenny (Scribe Publications, 2007)*

The Little Red, Yellow, Black Book: An Introduction to Indigenous Australia
(Aboriginal Studies Press, 2008) <http://lryb.aiatsis.gov.au/about-the-book.html>

White Cross Black Cross . *Noel Loos (Aboriginal Studies Press, 2007)*

Why Warriors Lie Down and Die. *Djambatj Mala and Richard Trudgen (Darwin, Why Warriors Pty Ltd, 2000)*

Additional Resources

C

Church Denomination Resources

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry

A Ministry of the Sydney Archdiocese which supports Aboriginal people to live and express their faith as Aboriginal Catholics

http://www.aboriginal.sydneycatholic.org/images/pdf/Easter%20Reflection_ACM%20Sydney.pdf

ACC National Indigenous Initiative

<http://www.acc.org.au/ministries/indigenous-initiative/>

Anglican Church of Australia

http://www.anglican.org.au/community/Pages/indigenous_ministry.aspx

Baptist Churches of Australia

<http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/who-we-are/people-groups/ongoing-relationships/outback-australia#qiProjects>

<http://www.nswactbaptists.org.au/ministries/social-issues/where-we-stand/119-aboriginal-reconciliation>

Catholic Australia

<http://www.catholicaustralia.com.au/page.php?pg=austchurch-ACBCindigenoustatement>

http://www.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1165:mandate-of-the-bishops-commission-for-relationships-with-aborigines-and-torres-strait-islanders&catid=88:mandates&Itemid=290

Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba (Social Justice Commission) - Liturgy Resources, Small Group Reflection and Youth Activities

http://www.tsjc.org/uploads/media/218_2013_booklet_small_final.pdf

NATSICC (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council) <http://www.natsicc.org.au>

Additional Resources

C

Church Denomination Resources (Continued)

Churches of Christ Australia

<http://www.inpartnership.org.au/indigenous-ministries>

Lutheran Church of Australia

<http://www.lca.org.au/aboriginalindigenous-ministries.html>

NATSIEC

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission

<http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/natsiec>

http://www.ncca.org.au/files/Natsiec/IDEAS_FOR_ACTION.pdf

Placing Aboriginal spiritual belief into the context of Christian belief

http://www.ncca.org.au/files/Natsiec/Christ_and_culture_proceedings_final_for_printing.pdf

National Council of Churches in Australia – Mandate of how they will provide forums/harmony with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples http://www.ncca.org.au/files/Natsiec/NATSIEC_Mandate_2011.pdf

Additional Resources

C

Church Denomination Resources (Continued)

Salvation Army

<http://www.sarmy.org.au/en/Social/JustSalvos/Issues/Indigenous/>

Salvation Army 2013 Reconciliation Ideas

http://my.salvos.org.au/subscribe/sites/my.salvos.org.au/files/indigenous/Booklet_Web.pdf

Salvation Army Ideas to teach Indigenous/Christian lessons to children

http://my.salvos.org.au/subscribe/sites/my.salvos.org.au/files/indigenous/Agents_WEB.pdf

UAICC (Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress)

<http://uaicc.org.au/about/who-we-are/>

Uniting Church of Australia

Revised preamble to their Constitution to foster inclusive and equal relationships and recognising the place of First Peoples in Australia

<http://assembly.uca.org.au/images/stories/covenanting/PREAMBLE.pdf> (full preamble)

Uniting Church South Australia with Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress – ‘A Pilgrimage of Healing’ – Efforts they made during Reconciliation Week in 2013

<http://sa.uca.org.au/documents/covenanting/reconciliation-sunday-2013/Pilgrimage-of-Healing-2013.pdf>

Additional Resources

C

Church Denomination Resources (Continued)

Uniting Church of Australia (Cont.)

Uniting Care Queensland RAP

<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/getfile?id=124&file=Uniting+Care+Queensland+2012-2013+RAP-Ver+2.pdf>

Uniting Church Australia – A guide to covenant renewal with Indigenous people throughout the Uniting Church in Australia

<http://assembly.uca.org.au/images/stories/covenanting/buildingpartnerships.pdf>

Uniting Church Australia – Covenanting – providing apologies and seeking reconciliation

http://assembly.uca.org.au/images/stories/covenanting/2012ReconciliationWk_CovenantingandtheUCA.pdf

Uniting Church of Australia – Christian perspective of reconciliation

http://assembly.uca.org.au/images/stories/covenanting/2012ReconciliationWk_whatisreconciliation.pdf

Uniting Church of Australia – Ideas to get involved in reconciliation

http://assembly.uca.org.au/images/stories/covenanting/2012_ReconciliationWeek_whatcanyoudo.pdf

Additional Resources

C

Common Grace

http://www.commongrace.org.au/aboriginal_and_torres_strait_islander_justice

Cultural Insights

Indigenous Ministry in the Top End

http://www.missionsinterlink.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Indigenous_Ministry_in_the_Top_End-Cross_Cultural_Insights.pdf

Cultural Protocols

<http://www.terrijanke.com.au/img/publications/pdf/14.OxfamAus-AboriginalTorresStraitCulturalProtocols-1207.pdf>

Note: Additional cultural learning resources may be added as the Walk Alongside program continues to develop.

E

Events

Australians Together <http://australianstogether.org.au/events>

Justice Conference www.thejusticeconference.com.au

Katherine Christian Convention <http://kathcc.org.au/>

National Reconciliation Week events <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw/>

NAIDOC Week events <http://www.aidoc.org.au/>

Surrender Conference www.surrender.org.au



Additional Resources

G

Grasstree Gathering <http://grasstreegathering.org.au/>

M

Media

ABC (Australian Broadcasting Commission)

<http://www.abc.net.au/religion/>

<https://shop.abc.net.au/t/genres/indigenous>

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/lost-conversations/5903960>

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/indigenous-policy/5453098>

The Australian

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/indigenous>



N Rothwell
Articles Jan 2015

The Guardian <http://www.theguardian.com.au/search/>

Koori Mail <http://koorimail.com/>

National Indigenous Times <http://nit.com.au/>

NITV (National Indigenous Television)

<http://www.nitv.org.au/>

<http://www.nitv.org.au/fx-program.cfm?pid=CCE66358-060A-BD87-73BDA678AE7E6D6A>



Additional Resources

M Movements

Common Grace http://www.commongrace.org.au/aboriginal_and_torres_strait_islander_justice

Grasstree Gathering <http://grasstreegathering.org.au/>

Recognise www.recognise.org.au

O Organisations

Australians Together <http://australianstogether.org.au>

Queensland Churches Together http://www.qct.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=27&Itemid=135#WhatCTIPPdoes

Surrender <http://surrender.org.au> Surrender Toolkit <http://surrender.org.au/surrendertoolkit/>

TEAR Australia <http://www.tear.org.au> Reconciliation Kit <http://www.tear.org.au/static/files/resources/resourceKitReconciliation.pdf>

R Reconciliation Action Plans (RAP)

Baptist Union of Victoria: RAP
<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/raphub/wpcontent/uploads/raps/community/baptists%20union%20of%20victoria%202013-2014%20%20rap.pdf>

Mission Australia RAP <https://missionaustralia.com.au/how-we-work/reconciliation-action-plan>

Scripture Union RAP <http://www.suqld.org.au/rap>

TEAR RAP <http://www.tear.org.au/about/reconciliation-action-plan>

World Vision Australia RAP <http://www.worldvision.com.au/AboutUs/OurPolicies/Reconciliation-action-plan.aspx>



Additional Resources

T

Theological Papers

Australia – Whose land anyway? (2009) Peter Adam

<https://stjudes.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Australia-whose-land-Peter-Adam.pdf>

Discussion of sovereignty:

<http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2012/07/03/3538034.htm>

Five Smooth Stones: Reading the Aboriginal Eyes (2013) Paulson, G & Brett, M

Abridged version of a paper to be published in *Colloquium: The Australian and New Zealand Theological Review*, November 2013

http://repository.divinity.edu.au/1672/1/Brett_M_Five_Smooth_Stones_BUV_edit.pdf

Making Space for justice after Mabo: Theological critiques of sovereignty. Mark Brett

<http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2012/07/03/3538034.htm>

Towards an Aboriginal Theology (2006) Graham Paulson

<https://unlearningtheproblem.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/graham-paulson.pdf>

Additional Resources

W

Worship Resources

<http://40stories.com.au/>

<http://australianstogether.org.au>

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry – The NATSICC Prayer

<http://www.aboriginal.sydneycatholic.org/images/pdf/the%20natsicc%20prayer.pdf>

Bruce Prewer: Prayers and Reflections

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

National Council of Churches in Australia - Prayer for the Journey of Healing

http://www.ncca.org.au/files/Natsiec/Prayer_for_the_Journey_of_Healing.pdf

National Council of Churches in Australia – Examples of Sorry Day Prayers 2012

http://www.ncca.org.au/files/Week_Prayer_Reconciliation_2012.pdf

National Council of Churches in Australia – Examples of Sorry Day Prayers 2011

http://www.ncca.org.au/files/Natsiec/Sorry_day_and_Week_of_Prayer_2011.pdf

Prayer of the Aboriginal People

<http://www.aboriginal.sydneycatholic.org/images/pdf/Prayer%20of%20the%20Aboriginal%20People.pdf>

Additional Resources

W

Worship Resources (Cont.)

Prayer for the Journey of Healing

<http://www.aboriginal.sydneycatholic.org/images/pdf/Prayer%20for%20the%20Journey%20of%20Healing.pdf>

Uniting Church Australia South Australia – Reconciliation Sunday Service Ideas/Resources

<http://sa.uca.org.au/documents/covenanting/reconciliation-sunday-2013/Reconciliation-Sunday-2013.pdf>

Uniting Church Australia – Prayers and hymns and songs to use in a service

http://assembly.uca.org.au/images/stories/covenanting/2012ReconciliationWeek_liturgy.pdf

Uniting Church South Australia – Hymns and songs for Trinity Sunday and Reconciliation Sunday

<http://sa.uca.org.au/documents/covenanting/reconciliation-sunday-2013/Collected-Hymns-and-Songs-2013.pdf>

Uniting Church South Australia – Reconciliation Sunday Service Ideas/Resources 2012 – includes the Lord's Prayer in the Kaurna language

<http://sa.uca.org.au/documents/covenanting/reconciliation-sunday-2012/Worship-Resources-Reconciliation-Sunday-2012.pdf>

Uniting Church South Australia – Lord's Prayer in Ngarrindjeri

<http://sa.uca.org.au/documents/covenanting/reconciliation-sunday-2011/Lords-Prayer-in-Ngarrindjeri-Reconciliation-Sunday-2011.pdf>

Uniting Church of Australia South Australia – Whale Story Notes and Narrated PowerPoint – story about the importance of sharing – drew the parallel to Jesus knowing that people don't always want to listen to the truth so would tell stories or parables which have underlying truths in them

<http://sa.uca.org.au/documents/covenanting/reconciliation-sunday-2013/Whale-story-Notes.pdf>

<http://sa.uca.org.au/documents/covenanting/reconciliation-sunday-2013/Whale-story-Narrated.ppt>

FINAL PAGE

