

Prayer for the Journey of Healing

Almighty and loving God,
you, who created ALL people in your image,
lead us to seek your compassion
as we listen to the stories of our past.

You gave your only Son, Jesus,
who died and rose again so that sins will be forgiven.
We place before you the pain and anguish
of dispossession of land, language, lore,
culture and family kinship
that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
have experienced.

We live in faith that all people
will rise from the depths of despair and hopelessness.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
have endured the pain and loss of loved ones,
through the separation of children from their families.
We are sorry and ask God's forgiveness.

Touch the hearts of the broken, homeless
and afflicted and heal their spirits.

In your mercy and compassion
walk with us as we continue our journey of healing
to create a future that is just and equitable.

Lord, you are our hope.

Amen.

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The Painting - "Invasion"
Acrylic on canvas, 78 x 121 cms, 1994
Artwork: "Munnari" John Hammond A'Hang
Concept: Anne Pattel-Gray

The Artist - "Munnari" John Hammond A'Hang is a descendant of the Tangeanekaid tribe. Born in Adelaide, he is one of three children, and has been doing his own contemporary Aboriginal design paintings for six years.

The Meaning - Whiteman came to this country in their ships, with their guns. The blackman had no answers. They were poisoned, shot, hung and put in chains as punishment.

Then along came religion, Christianity. The Bible was read at campsites by whiteman and later black and white.

Now we walk side by side burning bridges of the past. The chains of the past are broken, and black and white walk on equal ground through this rugged, wide land - their spirit finally freed through Christianity.

Artist Contact
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