

# LIGHTING THE WAY

## *Reconciliation Stories*

by DIANNE JOHNSON

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### RECONCILIATION

"The root meaning of the word is an exchange of equivalent values, and then, through the ideas of exchange of sympathy and mutual understanding, the notion of a thorough or radical exchange. Thus reconciliation has the significance of a new stage in personal relationships in which previous hostility of mind or estrangement has been put away in some decisive act."

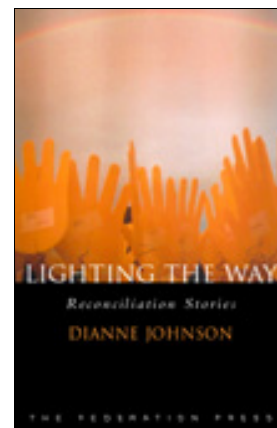
Richardson, Alan (ed) (1957),  
*A Theological Word Book of the Bible*, SCM Press

### THE BOOK

*Lighting the Way: Reconciliation Stories* captures the spirit of reconciliation. A collection of stories about individual and community acts of reconciliation, it is honest and engaging, and shows what reconciliation means and why so many Australians wish to achieve it. Each story is personal and immediate. Some trace families and relationships over generations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. This book reveals Australia for all that it is, has been and can be.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Dianne Johnson is an anthropologist, writer and researcher who is passionate about cultural diversity, Indigenous history and social justice. Her recent books include *Mandatory Injustice: Compulsory Imprisonment in the Northern Territory* (co-author) (2000) and *Night Skies of Aboriginal Australia: A Noctuary* (1998).



More information overleaf.

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# LIGHTING THE WAY

## Reconciliation Stories

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Director-General, NSW Dept  
of Aboriginal Affairs and  
Chair, NSW Reconciliation Council

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### PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

Dianne Johnson's achievement is to tell, simply and clearly, a series of tales that show reconciliation in action: real Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, doing what they see as appropriate in their part of the country to heal the divisions from the past. The stories are inspirational.

**Professor Garth Nettheim**, Member, NSW State Reconciliation Council

Dianne Johnson has written a wonderful, eclectic collection of reconciliation stories.

To those who ask, *what can I do?*, my answer is read these and be inspired.

They capture the strength, trust and humility of the reconciliation process and remind us that it is time to put reconciliation back on the agenda or we are all diminished.

**Wendy McCarthy AO**, Chancellor, University of Canberra

These beautifully told stories of personal courage and integrity show us what is possible. They make the heart beat fast and they stir us to action, with optimism and a sense of renewal. How vital it is that we can know in this way about each other's actions! *Lighting the Way* is such a spur for our collective determination.

**Gillian Moon**, ANTaR

A fabulously diverse collection of recent and compelling stories from all over Australia presented in a very clear, straightforward, yet very engaging style. They are unified, not just by the important theme of acknowledging "the more painful aspects" of our past in order for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to "be free to move forward together," but also by acknowledging all those people who over the years "have reached out to one another across the racial divisions" in the true spirit of reconciliation.

**Michael Raper**, President, Australian Council for Social Services

The task of true reconciliation remains ahead. As a nation we need

to understand the consequences of our history upon Indigenous lives throughout Australia.

*Lighting the Way* is a book comprising some of our work together for the future. Stories of strength and struggle, of standing up and facing our past, extend all of us so that we can move forward together.

**Phil Glendenning**, Director, Edmund Rice Centre for Justice & Community Education

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