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The Noongar People

The aboriginal people who first inhabited Perth.

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Dearest Family and Friends-

While in Perth I met the little boy pictured at right. He looked at me and said, "We are Noongar. That is who we are." He was proud of his aboriginal heritage and wanted to share with me everything from the colors of their flag to what he knew about their sad history. I was given a tour that included the reserves where some of the adults had grown up separated from their families and separated from the rest of society as well. I was also shown the graveyard which is still maintained and colorfully decorated with artificial flowers.



"Nothing can stay the dying away of the Aboriginal race, which providence has only allowed to hold the land until replaced by a finer race," remarked a settler in 1849. This line taken from *The Fatal Shore* by Robert Hughes exposes the views of a very wrong first settler. The aborigines have endured despite all the efforts the white settlers made over the years to cull the their population. Even with the threat of disease, death and the entire "stolen generation", aborigines have remained as much a part of Australia as the land itself.



Today there are aborigines in every level of society. I met children and adults, a college professor, farmers, a librarian, musicians, those with homes, those without and everyone in between. It is these discrepancies in socioeconomic status as well as the differences between educational opportunities and outcomes that draw me towards Perth and working with the aborigines. Yet the desire to aid through literacy and community development only scratches the surface. Nat, my Australian friend, summarized my motivation well when she said, "There is so much need, yet so many opportunities for God to use Joy here amongst Australia's indigenous peoples. By focusing on educational and community development needs, all because of her love for Jesus, Joy is getting to the heart of what is able to transform communities and individuals."



For God's Glory-
Joy Candee:-)



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Contact Joy!

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A Few Common Noongar Phrases:

who's that?	nganda-nya palatja?
which way?	wungiana?
we do not understand	gabo
wait for me	mantenekin
thank you	an ungune
he is laughing	yato candedana
I am hungry	ngai-i murna
have you some food?	hii hii onom?