

**Today, September 30th, is Orange Shirt Day, a day to remember, honor and pray for the victims and survivors of Residential Schools.**

<https://youtu.be/XPm9b7SUX7I>

**Prayer for our children, they all matter.**

O loving Creator, our hearts are heavy with pain as we recall the abuse and suffering of our little Onkwehonwe brothers and sisters who came from many nations. Time is supposed to heal the wounds of abuse. Time has not erased the loneliness when we were taken away from our families, from our brothers and sisters, from our parents.

O God of mercy, please forgive us for the anger that erupts when we are triggered by the evil forced upon us, both our parents and we the children. It may just take a word, gesture. You gave us our language, you gave us our traditions, and our ceremonies. We were whipped for speaking and living who you made us to be. They took my brothers and sisters from our homes and separated us. They kept us apart until we lost touch and some never to be seen again. We remember those who never returned and died there. O God, I am angry, so angry this was allowed to happen.

We remember blaming our parents for allowing this to happen. We blamed them for not loving us, for making us suffer. We returned home in later years, finding our families not knowing us, we now spoke a different language, they couldn't understand us. We were lost, we were once again lonely. Now, Lord, we ask you to forgive us for blaming our parents who shed many tears and suffered so much pain when we were taken away.

O loving Creator, today many of us are struggling with all these terrible memories of our evil abusers who tried to wash away who you made us to be.

Creator, we ask you to help us. Guide us to walk in a good way, strengthen our people to fight the racism and discrimination that still plagues our people. We ask you to make our Onkwehonwe people strong again.

O loving Creator, today we remember and honour all your children. We ask you to bless each and every one of them. All this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Niawen Kowa

Robert Patton