

— News Release —

For Immediate Release
For News and/or Community and/or Religion Editor(s)

Contact:

John Ross

(630) 879-8828 (office)

(630) 879-2583 (home)

05/30/08 Time: 1:30 p.m.

Children can not be dismissed...

June 8 “Children’s Day”

- Children need affirmation

Batavia, Ill., May 30, 2008 (*The Religion Wire™*) — In little over a week, *the second Sunday in June* — June 8, 2008, is “**Children’s Day.**” Across America, many individuals, groups, and churches, are trying to bring attention to this special day for children that predates both Mother’s and Father’s Day.

John Ross, advocate for **Children’s Day** and part of a growing movement spear-headed by the website www.nationalchildrensday.us, notes about the day, “Jesus had disciples who dismissed children as not significant. But he affirmed them. So **Children’s Day** is a day set to affirm and encourage our children. Many individuals, churches, and groups are already doing this... this movement’s goal is to expand that base.”

Last month, Illinois governor Rod R. Blagojevich issued a **Children’s Day** proclamation for the second year in row. Also repeating are two Illinois mayors, Mayor Thomas J. Weisner of Aurora, Illinois’ second largest city, and Mayor Jeffery D. Schielke of Batavia.

The website www.nationalchildrensday.us, supporting the revival of **Children’s Day** on *the second Sunday in June*, is stressing this day as a day of celebration and commitment by parent and individuals to children.

Children’s Day



Second Sunday in June

Add one — Children can not be dismissed... June 8 “Children’s Day”

The ***Children’s Day*** website offers helps and challenges parents, individuals, churches/houses of worship, schools/places of education, government/community and businesses to sign commitment cards directed at affirming America’s children. They pledge to “commit myself(ourself), in the coming year, to love, cherish, nurture(physical, mental, emotional, & spiritual needs), and affirm...” They can also make a commitment beyond America to the world’s children.

New to the website is a special word-search puzzle for download. Also new, and for download are two designed bumper stickers.

Children’s Day observations in the United States predate both Mother’s and Father’s Day. This day dates from the 1860s and earlier. The Methodist Episcopal Church at the Methodist Conference of 1868 recommended that *the second Sunday in June* be annually observed as ***Children’s Day***.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1883 designated the “the second Sabbath in June as Children’s Day.” The spring/summer 2005 issue of “The Journal of Presbyterian History” highlighted ***Children’s Day*** in the Presbyterian Church.

“Chase’s Calendar of Events” cites Children’s Sunday and notes that The Commonwealth of Massachusetts issues an annual proclamation for *the second Sunday in June*.

Numerous churches and denominations currently observe *the second Sunday in June* including the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, American Baptist Church, and the Church of the Nazarene.

#