

The 100th Anniversary of Father's Day

Did you know that today is Father's Day? Let's give a hand to all our fathers here. Most of you knew already that it was Father's Day. **Yet how many of you knew that today is the 100th anniversary of Father's Day in America?** Here is the story as I found it on Google...

In May of 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Wash., sat in church listening to a Mother's Day sermon. She decided she wanted to designate a day for her dad, William Jackson Smart. Dodd's mother had died in childbirth, and Dodd's father, a Civil War veteran, had taken the responsibility of singlehandedly raising the newborn and his other five children.

The following year, Dodd wanted to celebrate Father's Day on June 5th, her father's birthday, and petitioned for the holiday to be recognized in her city. Needing more time to arrange the festivities, Spokane's mayor pushed the date back by two weeks, and the first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, according to the Spokane Regional Convention and Visitor Bureau. It became a permanent holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law in 1972.

So now you know! Thanks to a church goer we now have a holiday just for dads! So, if your father is still alive make sure you give him a call and thank him for being your dad!

Days like this are filled with mixed blessings for some. Some mourn the loss of their father who is no longer with them. Some mourn for a father they never really knew. Whether your father is alive or dead, whether he was a good dad or horrible today we want you to know that you have a heavenly father who loves you. The Apostle Paul wrote this to the church in Rome, "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, *"Abba, Father."*

That term Abba, is an intimate term for God as father. It is the equivalent of our saying, "Daddy." Our mission as a church is to share with the world that God loves us and wants to be a father to us, literally our daddy. On a day when some have negative memories of fathers at least you can be assured that there is one father you can call daddy, Our Heavenly Father.

That is why we do what we do here to connect people to God so that they can say, Abba, Father. Every time you give here you make it possible for us to share that message with a world that needs a daddy. So, thanks for your gifts that truly do honor our heavenly Father.