

# A Day at the Beach

Patsy Rowe



## Two program options:

This can be a summer program taking place at the beach (if so, then beach games can be arranged—Frisbee, relay races, building sand castles, etc. )

OR it can be an indoor program to remind us of the joys of being at the beach.

The following program is focused around an indoor location.

## Pre- Arrangements:

- Ask the women to bring beach chairs, patio umbrellas with stand, sun hats, beach blankets, shorts, sandals to set up the beach scene
- Women can also bring a picnic lunch to eat at the beach
- Another option for refreshments is to have drinks with little umbrellas in them, sandwiches, snacks, and Jello or ice cream—serve it from a large cooler.

## Arrangements:

- Display pictures/posters of the beach
- Have a large sun
- Have ‘ocean’ relaxation music or Beach Boys’ music (eg. *Surfing USA*)
- As women enter, ask them to find a spot to sit at the beach, and have them set up their umbrella, etc.

**Welcome:** Welcome to the beach, where we gather for relaxation and some fun in the sun!

**Sharing:** Ask the ladies to share a memorable beach event.

**Song:** *There is sunshine in my soul today* (Salvation Army Songbook 387)



## Selected Scripture:

Genesis 22: 17

Deuteronomy 33: 19

1 Kings 4: 29

Acts 21: 5

**Reading:** *Footprints in the Sand* (see attached poem) Mary Stevenson  
(<http://www.footprints-inthe-sand.com/index.php?page=Poem/Poem.php>)



**History of Mary's Story:** <http://www.footprints-inthe-sand.com/index.php?page=Bio.php>  
(See attached information)

**Chorus:** *Following Jesus ever day by day* Leonard Weaver  
([http://www.sermonaudio.com/hymn\\_details.asp?PID=ihaveashepherd](http://www.sermonaudio.com/hymn_details.asp?PID=ihaveashepherd))

**Game:** **Unscramble the items seen at the beach**

**Game:** I spy at the beach—unscramble the items seen at the beach

DANS TALECS	_____	LSEHLS	_____
LUBELAMR	_____	RHINLEDC	_____
ERIBEFS	_____	LOTEWS	_____
CABEH LABL	_____	TOFO SNIPTR	_____
RIBSD	_____	NIKIBI	_____
TSHORS	_____	SCAKSN	_____

Sand castle, umbrella,, Frisbee, beach ball, birds, shorts, shells, children, towels, foot prints, bikini, snacks

**Devotional:**

**A Life-Changing Day at the Beach**



When we decide to spend a day at the beach, it is often for leisure. For many of the inhabitants that live around the Sea of Galilee, the shoreline (beach) was a place from which to work. It was from the shoreline that they launched their boats into the Sea of Galilee with the hope that the day’s catch would be enough to sustain them and to provide a livelihood for their families. However, it was also at this very shoreline, that a life-changing event occurred for Simon, Andrew, James and John, as we read in Mark 1: 14-20 (**Read the passage of Scripture**).

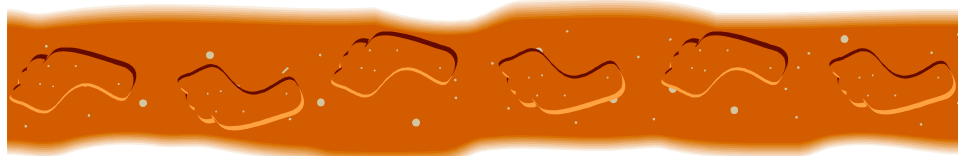
Listen to the instruction given by Jesus. He simply says, *“Come with me, and I will teach you to catch men”* (TEV). And yet, as we look at these words, they can be classified as far more than a ‘simple’ instruction. Will the disciples leave their home, their families, their familiarity and follow this stranger who speaks with authority and who portrays a confidence in something far greater?

We are not left to wonder. About Simon and Andrew, Mark in verse 18 tells us, *“At once they left their nets and went with him”* (TEV). Then in verse 20, we read of the response of James and John: *“they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and went with Jesus”* (TEV).

Would we be so eager to follow this stranger into the unknown? *Are* we eager to follow Jesus when He beckons us to leave all and to follow Him? Sometimes we do so, but with dragging feet; sometimes we do so, but we complain all along the way; sometimes we do so, but our hearts are still back in the old way of life. Thus we are caused to ask ourselves, *“Have I really left all to follow in the footprints of Jesus?”* And in our hearts, we recognize the true answer, even if we never verbalize it.

Our place of employment may be at the beach; it may be in the fields; it may be in the city; it may be \_\_\_\_\_! Yet, Christ still calls us to *“Come with me, and I will teach you.”* What a life-changing experience! Take courage—follow Him!

**Chorus:**                    *Reckon on me following thee*                    (Salvation Army Songbook Chorus Section 49)



**Game:                    How many Shells are in the bottle**

Have bottle filled with shells; woman with the most accurate guess is given a prize.

## ***Footprints in the Sand***

***One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.***

***Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.***

***In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.***

***Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,***

***Other times there were one set of footprints.***



***This bothered me because I noticed***

***That during the low periods of my life,***

***When I was suffering from***

***Anguish, sorrow or defeat,***

***I could see only one set of footprints.***

***So I said to the Lord,***

***"You promised me Lord,***

***That if I followed you,***

***You would walk with me always.***



***But I have noticed that during***

***The most trying periods of my life***

***There have only been one***

***Set of footprints in the sand.***

***Why, when I needed you most,***

***You have not been there for me?"***



***The Lord replied,***

***"The times when you have***

***Seen only one set of footprints,***

***Is when I carried you."***

## *Mary's Story*

(<http://www.footprints-inthe-sand.com/index.php?page=Bio.php>)  
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Mary was born November 8, 1922 in the Philadelphia suburb of Chester, PA. She had many brothers and sisters, but was still able to maintain her individuality and strong headedness. This became even more difficult after the loss of her mother at age six, which forced her father to raise all eight children by himself. Most of her childhood was spent during one of this Nation's toughest and most trying times, The Great Depression.

It was in her early teens when she first wrote "Footprints in the Sand" having been inspired by the many things that had affected her young life. She was so moved by the power of the words she wrote that she felt the need to share its meaning with those who could gain strength from it in their time of need.

At age sixteen she got into an abusive marriage that resulted in her flight and finding refuge on an Indian reservation outside of Claremore, Oklahoma with her infant son. She was able to return home after getting word that her husband had gone off to fight in WWII. During his absence she was forced to support herself by working at Philadelphia's Troc as a stage performer and dancer. Because of this her husband was able to take their son away from her upon his return from the war using his influence with local officials. She spent many years trying to get her son back.

Mary eventually moved to Los Angeles in the late 40's where she met her future husband Basil Zangare whom she referred to as 'the love of her life'. It was at this time that she first saw 'Footprints in the Sand' in print with 'Author Anonymous' as the only credit. Several attorneys discouraged her from pursuing her claim to it for lack of proof. But her greatest battle was with polio and the accident that almost took Basil from her.

In 1959, the year after her second son Basil jr. was born the family moved to Orange County, just southeast of Los Angeles. Over the years Mary kept herself busy as a nurse and working in the community volunteering for many activities. She was recognized many times for her work including "Vietmoms" which she organized to send personal supplies and home baked items to servicemen stationed in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

In January 1980 she lost her husband Basil in his battle with heart disease. Mary continued on with her work but decided it was time for a change of scenery. She moved out of the home she shared with her family for over twenty-five years. During the move she came across a small forgotten valise filled with many of the poems she had written over the years. Among all this was a lost copy of 'Footprints in the Sand' that she hadn't seen since moving into the house in 1959.

She decided to pursue her claim to authorship and later in the year was awarded a copyright for her poem. Eleven years later her 1939 copy of "Footprints in the Sand" was authenticated as genuine by a forensic specialist and said to be approximately fifty-plus years old. This would pre-date any claims made by others of authorship including Margaret Fishback-Powers who has said to have written it 1964.

Mary worked for many years to gain recognition for creating 'Footprints in the Sand', which has continued even after her passing in January of 1999.