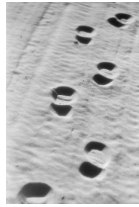


Hamburger Helper, Chili ingredients, Coffee, Canned Soup, Rice, Canned Fruit, Pancake mix, Pork and Beans, Syrup, Shampoo, Flour, Toothpaste, Crackers, Peanut Butter, Tuna, Cooking Oil, Ravioli, Canned Spaghetti, Instant Potatoes, Canned Sweet Potatoes, and Corn Muffin mixes

### **Follow-up tips from “Become Your Legacy” Sunday and Paula’s Sermon Entitled “The Footprints of Our Lives”**

\*Tell your children and grandchildren stories from your life. Better yet, make recordings of your stories!



\*Our stories convey wisdom about life and living, even when they're stories in which we made a mistake but learned something.

\*Collect favorite family recipes and share them.

\*Don't wait to say something that's important!

\*Write letters to family members or friends about why you appreciate them.

\*Tell others (in your family, among your friends, or in our congregation) how they are a blessing in your life.

\*Be deliberate with practices or activities that restore your spirit.

\*Use purchased “fill-in-the-blanks” journals to record stories about your life, your thoughts, and your dreams.

\*Remember that, often, the things most treasured are the small things, or the things of little or no monetary value – like bits of wisdom, or attitudes about life, or some small item that represents a person's spirit, values, or personality.

\*Think about what your values and beliefs are and what you want to share with your children, grandchildren, and friends. Think of creative activities that will convey and teach those values. For example, I know one couple who took their children and grandchildren to a work camp as they celebrated their anniversary. It meant a lot to them to share their joy in service work that way.

### **Prayers for Annual Conference**

The 2009 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren will take place in San Diego, California, on June 26-30.

As the May issue of *Messenger* explains, this year's agenda includes some heavy items. A query coming from the Northern Indiana District observes that the Church of the Brethren has “a history and practice of seeking reconciliation” but that the church “has experienced deep division and brokenness related to the language from the 1983 Human Sexuality Paper that same-sex covenantal relationships are not acceptable.” The query asks Annual Conference “to consider whether it is the will of the church that this language on same-sex covenantal relationships will continue to guide our journey together.”

Delegates will also consider “A Statement of Confession and Commitment,” which was adopted by Standing Committee at the 2008 Annual Conference. This statement confesses the “meanness and fighting” that have sometimes accompanied the church's discussions about human sexuality. It calls for an attitude of Christian care and love toward one another even when there are strong disagreements.

Another agenda item involves proposed changes to a process for dealing with strongly controversial issues. The 2002 Annual Conference asked for an update of the process that was adopted by the 1988 Annual Conference. The proposed process would normally take three years and include the appointment of a “Resource Committee” that represents diverse perspectives on the issue. The Resource Committee would develop study materials, and it would facilitate hearings in districts and at Annual Conference.

The agenda also includes revised by-laws for the Church of the Brethren, a query on “Secret Oath-Bound Societies,” and reports from various church agencies and committees.