



Money and help pour with slowness to Haiti

Money and help pour with agonizing slowness into crumbled Haiti.

Imagine, if you will, a disaster even more immense than Hurricane Katrina smashing the Gulf Coast, swamping New Orleans, washing away 200 years of history.

Remember how long it took to restore order, stop looting, provide food and water, begin organized rescue efforts, bring in the Army, then re-establish civilian control.

Now, put this disaster in the middle of one of the world's poorest, most overcrowded, least-well-governed nations. Destroy the port, ruin roads and bridges, topple buildings into the streets, jam the only airport with relief and military flights. Wipe out the forces of law and order, the government, the international presence meant to keep things going.

And there you'd have Haiti today. Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas. Its government barely functions. (A United Nations peacekeeping force, run by a Canadian Mountie, stood between the nation and lawlessness, little else. The Mountie and his two top aides are dead.)

Some blame the United States. Some say we've done too little for Haiti. Some say we did too much. It matters little now; the millions of survivors fighting for food and water do not care.

To their credit, President Obama and world leaders moved quickly to send unprecedented aid to Haiti in the days following the quake Jan. 10. This is as it should be. The civilized world can and should give from its abundance when something like this happens.

Mr. Obama ordered six to eight U.S. ships

carrying aid and work crews, at least 10,000 Army and Marine Corps troops to restore order and keep the peace, and huge amounts of food, water and medical supplies into motion.

Relief agencies, everything from church groups to the American and International Red Cross organizations, sprang into action. Nations around the world sent what they could, from a few rescue workers to whole military units.

The bloodied infrastructure of Haiti is hardly up to this influx of help. The one airport is jammed. Reports say it can take six to eight hours to unload a single plane. There are no ramps and stairs, no crews.

One International Red Cross/Red Crescent team landed in the nearby Dominican Republic and proceeded to attempt a border crossing by road. They estimated a 12-hour trip. (Haiti and the Dominican Republic share the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.)

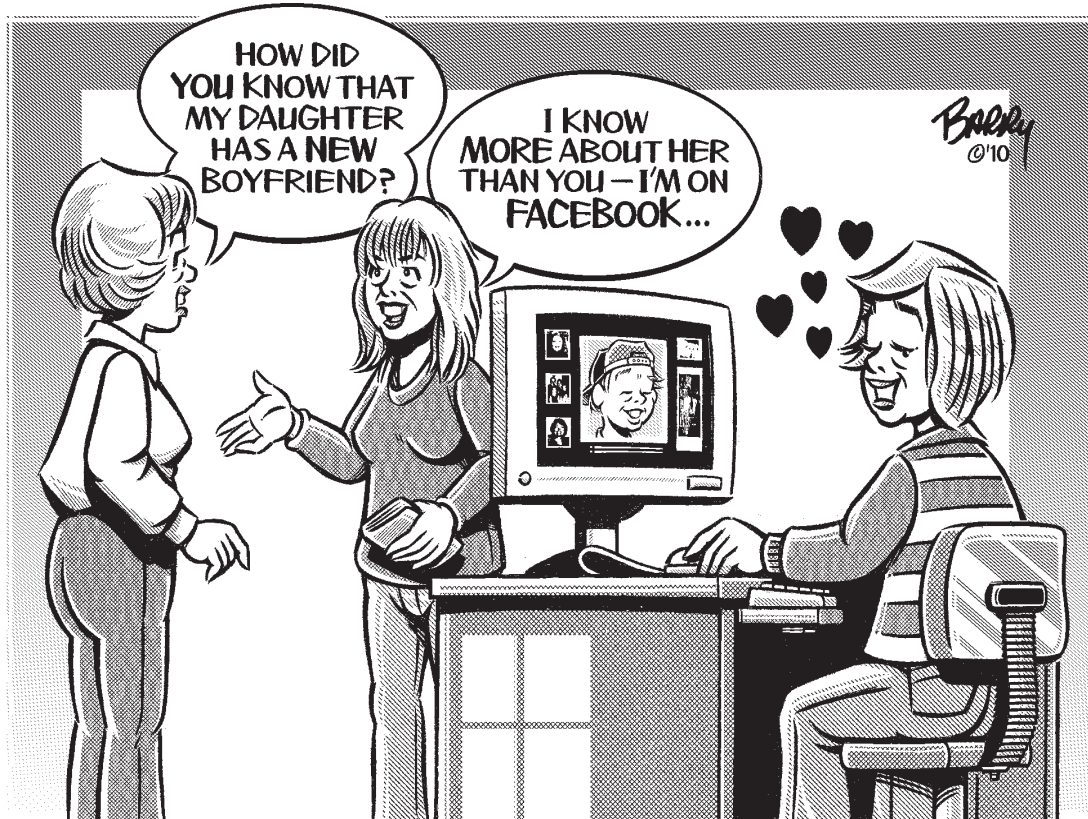
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met with Haitian President Rene Preval at the airport near Port-au-Prince and promised more help. Her husband Bill, heading a U.S. relief effort along with former President George W. Bush, was due any time.

The world response is impressive. It is an example of the best in humanity.

For many, it will be too little, too late, for the nature of disaster forecloses a truly prompt response. Nonetheless, it is our duty, the rest of the world, to do what we can. And we will.

Help is on the way. Little else can be done now but pray for the survivors and move the mountains of rubble that block the way.

— Steve Haynes



News From the Past

30 years ago - 1980

Wiley's Apothecary opened in St. Francis on Jan. 1. The Wiley's took over the operation of Getty's Pharmacy. The Gettys had operated the store since May of 1958.

The St. Francis PRIDE Committee was left a sum of money

in the will of the late Minnie Neitzel to be used for community projects. The latest presentation of checks was held recently. A check for \$400 and a new record player and records were given to the Scouts. Better Homes EHU received a check for \$1,000 to be used with matching funds for

a play structure for the courthouse park and The Reading Is Fun Program, accepted a check for \$1,200 to be matched with federal funds to provide a book for every child in grades one through six in the St. Francis Elementary School.

State budget will be main topic

By Ralph Ostmeyer
January 15, 2010

The state budget will no doubt be the main topic of the 2010 Legislative Session.

Will we raise taxes or make further cuts? There is an opinion by some that further cuts will only make the hole deeper.

I tend to agree with Winston Churchill's statement, "Taxing your way to prosperity is like standing in a bucket and lifting the handle." The business community is struggling and doesn't need higher taxes to slow the economy

even more.

The governor's speech on Monday was delivered better than the nine prior State of the State addresses. He was firm upfront and sometimes cautious as he spoke.

I had hoped he would not have asked for tax increases as solutions to the current fiscal crisis. Our receipts still have not leveled off, and we need to be cautious of raising taxes, adding further burdens on the people of Kansas.

Businesses have no one to bail them out and I hope we don't increase their burden this Session.

When we finish the 2010 Legislative Session, I hope we have made policies that will serve Kansas best with the least harm.

I always appreciate the contacts from my 40th Senate District. The office room number has changed this year to Room 225-East. However, we are still in the same room as before.

My email address is: Ralph.Ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov

My secretary's email is: judy.crapser@senate.ks.gov

The office telephone number is: (785) 296-7399

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwksans.com

Seeing the devastation that the earthquake brought to Haiti brings many thoughts to mind. Since I get to fill this space, here we go...

I've never been to Haiti but I did have a chance to visit Puerto Plata on the Dominican Republic side of the island. I can't imagine they are a whole lot different, it's just that the Dominicans have had a little less political upheaval over the years.

It was back in the 1980 and my only memory is of going into a small rum factory where one per-

son's job was to throw defective bottles on the concrete floor. Also, everywhere you looked there were soldiers with machine-guns. It wasn't the kind of place you wanted to stay for long.

Perhaps the Dominican Republic has changed over the years and we were only next door to the French side of the island. But seeing and hearing about Haiti today makes it pretty clear that it qualifies as a "Third world nation."

Luckily our country is strong

and can send a great deal of relief to the little nation. We are not alone as France, Israel, the United Nations and others are chipping in too.

It's a shame it happened in such a terribly poor place. And the aid we are sending will not bring people back to life or negate the damage. But it is still good to see the powerful help the weak.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Delores Zuege, Haigler, Neb.; Katie Willers, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Gary Neilan, Las Cruces, N.M.; Debra Harper, St. Francis; Harold Nolan, St. Francis; Richard Horwege, Norfolk, Va.; Emma Brunswig, Haigler, Neb.; Doralene Kidwell, Fullerton, Calif.

GOD SAYS
But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.
Matthew 12:36

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Lezlie McCormick Production
Peggy Horineck Office Manager
Margaret Bucholtz Columnist

Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



My New Bike

margeb@cityofstfrancis.net

Last summer I rode my granddaughter, Lauren's, bike and it was so much fun. It was easy to pedal and it didn't wear me out like the old bike I have.

After having my knee surgery, I rode my stationary bike between 2 and 6 miles a day. I also programmed it so it was like riding up hills.

I told Kurt we needed to look for a bike for me to ride when I go after the mail. That started the hunt. It was just a hunt looking at different kinds of bikes until last Saturday evening.

Kurt and I were in Wichita and I found just the bike I wanted. It was a cruiser with 7 gears — just like Lauren's, but it was a retro bike. It had fenders and a seat to take passengers on just like those

in the 50s.

We bought it and when we got to Dina's and Darrin's, Kurt unloaded it and went for a ride. I couldn't wait until he got back so I could show Darrin's how I could ride my new bike.

Because it was already dark, I chose not to go out in the street as Kurt had. I took the bike over on the south side of the yard and then waited for them to come out.

As they got out on the patio, I took off. As soon as I had to pedal with my new knee, it hurt! My front wheels wobbled and I zoomed right into the deck and fell over.

Everyone was around me just like they would a little kid, asking if I had hurt my knee. I really didn't fall on that side, but my other knee was swelling up and my pride was very injured.

I jumped up and assured everyone I was fine and asked Kurt to put the bike in the garage. Darrin said I should take a picture before it gets all crunched up!

When we got home, I was really afraid to try again but I did and it was fine. Today I decided I would get the mail. I was sure I could make the hills since I had been practicing on the stationary bike.

I made the first 1/8 of a mile and down the first hill with ease. Halfway up the next hill I crawled off and pushed the bike back up the hill I had just come down. Then I rode on home.

I am not sure if I will ever be able to ride after the mail, but I bet I will keep on trying. After all, it's the first new bike I ever had.

Article makes it to West Coast

To the Editor:

Just the other day, we received a letter from Dale's sister with the article Bonnie Cram, had put in *The Saint Francis Herald* months ago. The article being "Wake Up, America." Joan wanted to know if we knew this lady. She didn't know the lady but certainly recognized the town St. Francis, Kansas.

Letter to the Editor

Joan now lives in Boonville, Calif., which is about 150 miles north of San Francisco, Calif. They just recently moved to Boonville from southern California so I don't know which place she was referring to when she said it was from one of the local newspapers some time ago.

I don't know how Bonnie's article got to the West Coast but our thought was Praise The Lord and we hope it got to the East Coast, north and south and every place in between.

Deloris Faylor
St. Francis

Praise the Lord

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<p>United Methodist Church Office 332-2292, Church 332-2254, 512 S. Scott Pastor Morita Truman Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Sunday School 10 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday</p>	<p>St. Francis Community Church 332-3150 204 N. Quincy Street www.sfccfamily.com Pastor: David Butler Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>
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