

Tracy Jr, etc.
Hallmanack
19 January, 1991

Dear Family,

Well, here comes a semiannual installment of our edition of the Hallmanack. Don't pass out. Also, don't get any ideas!

We had a truly wonderful visit with Barry and Virginia in September. We enjoyed getting to know their children a little, and B. and V. did too much for us, really, what with a new baby. With our usual extraordinary sense of timing we arrived on the evening of their annual ward lobster dinner. Mmm...mmm! It was heavenly.

A couple of weeks after coming home I contracted pneumonia and was out for the count. Almost two weeks in bed. I hated it. My laryngitis is finally nearly gone now, but I still have a residual cough that hits me occasionally. None of the children got it. I think that's because they had that HIV shot on account of their allergies. I think I better have one. Tracy, too. He had the same bug in a milder version.

That put me somewhat behind for Christmas, but Mary and Lili and Anthony and Spencer did the trees (after Tracy set them up), and Mary and Zina put up a few strings of lights on the outside porch. In fact the children did all the decorating, and I could concentrate on the shopping. And wonder of wonders, I didn't have to do a single "return" this year. We did have a joyful Christmas. Mom's Christmas party was really nice. It was good to see Greg and Laura. I need to figure out a way to see them more often. I was so happy that Tracy volunteered to play his violin.

Mary moved into an apartment with friends (and Zina) over New Year's and has started at B.Y.U. I still see her and Zina nearly as often as I did when they lived at home (they were busy then, too), but Mary's moving out had some symbolic affect on me. It's a turning point in our family. Those first three have been sort of a unit, and a constant joy to us. I was really blue for a couple of days. I told them I just wanted the 3 of them to be 13 again for a few weeks.

Well, I started this because Mom asked us to synopsize the news from Haiti for the Hallmanack. There is a good article in the 21 January issue of Newsweek (p. 41) about the situation. It's grim. Just when I think I won't be surprised by anything down there again, along comes a horrible picture like that one at the bottom of the page.

We learned about the coup at about 7:30 a.m. our time, and spent several extremely anxious hours until we heard the coup had been contained. H. T. has been out in St. Marc since the end of December, and St. Marc has always been a bastion of the Tontons Macoutes (the Duvalier strong-arm). I called the mission office and the elder who answered the phone assured me that they'd gotten the word out to every missionary. He also said that the missionary houses are all in comparatively safe areas. I didn't argue with him because I knew he was trying to make me feel better, but it's utter nonsense. Some of those houses are in known dangerous areas. The branch in Carrefour Feuilles is a

(over)