



## *"The coldest winter . . .*

. . . I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco." So Mark Twain was famously supposed to have said (although according to [Snopes.Com](http://Snopes.Com), he didn't). Well, many years ago, I worked in an office located at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. I went to work, pretty much year-round, in a 3-piece wool suit -- the

weather/climate dictated that: it was often cold (moist air, lack of sun, etc.). As a "native", I was perversely amused by watching the sweatshirt shops do a brisk (pardon the pun) mid-summer business with the tourists who got their ideas of northern California weather by watching television shows of southern California.

I was reminded of Twain's "quote" the other day when I was standing on the bank of the S. Platte River looking at ducks -- at a Barrow's Goldeneye, in particular. The snow was coming down -- but the ducks seemed to take no notice. Their feathers and down provided good insulation for the sub-freezing situation.

I thought of it again this morning as I went out to get the paper. Temperature outside my house at that time was 0 degrees. I was in my bathrobe, and I knew it was COLD! And I also knew that I was 30 seconds from being back in my house where the temperature was about 70 degrees warmer.

How lucky I was to be able to return to my warm house! And I wondered about those folks that I've seen sleeping under the bridges on the Cherry Creek Bike Path. Where were they spending these VERY COLD nights? I know that there are many shelters for those less fortunate than me. I can only hope that there are enough. And I wonder what I can do?

The New Testament records that people came to John the Baptist and were convicted by his message to repent. They asked "What can we do?" Part of his answer was "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise" (Luke 3:11). Seems like a good suggestion these days--John was asking for a change in resolve.

We have the opportunity, here at DU, over the next couple of weeks, to "share that second coat" with the "Pioneer for People Coat Drive" (see below). Food pantries are crying out for donations, as the economy still hasn't improved to the point where demand on the pantries have decreased (if you need a suggestion as to where to donate food, let me know!).

It's the new year! Resolve to make this cold winter a little warmer for someone not as fortunate as you. It's an act of generosity. It's an act of compassion. It's an act of faith.

Blessings!

Gary