

Goodbye 1988...Hello 1989...

(Continued from Page A1)

inquiries about the lives of families we featured in articles so we hope you enjoy an update on their lives.

Sam & Kathy Doak

Sam and Kathy Doak, herdsman from Bernville, are on the move again. They were offered a farming job in Chester County. After months of planning, packing and finalizing their current employment, their potential employer terminated the agreement six hours before moving date. The owner decided to sell instead of hiring help.

"Half my stuff was already loaded on the truck," Kathy reported. "It was devastating."

Said Kathy, "We'd like to remind farmers that hired help has feelings, too."

Fortunately, Sam was offered numerous other jobs. Kathy recounts, calls came from as far away as Ohio by farmers saying: "We heard Sam is the number one herdsman in Pennsylvania and a hard worker. We want him to work for us."

Such comments helped heal the Doaks' disappointment. They finally chose to work for a farmer in Lebanon County.

"In the end, everything worked out," Kathy reported.

They will be moving within a few weeks. And Kathy is estatic that she can quit working outside the home and assist Sam on the farm again.

Mel & Marilyn Nissley

One couple, Mel and Marilyn Nissley of Elizabethtown, whose



Treva Whorl

story appeared in the May 7 issue, "A New Way Of Thinking Brought A New Way Of Living," said that 1988 has been a relatively good year. They started the year out with a brand new baby, born December 31 just in time for a tax deduction. Marilyn said, "Watching our baby grow has been a highlight for the whole family."

The Nissleys just returned from vacationing in St. Thomas. They said, "We found it refreshing to get away from daily pressures and are looking forward to vacationing in Hawaii later in the winter."

The Nissley's anticipate becoming more directly involved in farming during 1989. Marilyn said, "We also look forward to spending more time with the children the Lord has blessed us with and to watching them mature and become servants of the Lord's."

Glen & Shirley Sauder

Shirley Sauder, Manheim, who donates many hours quilting for benefit sales and other projects, and who was part of the family featured in the cookie baking project on December 3, was quick to rejoice, "We were blessed with a harvest despite the severe dry summer weather."

She, her husband Glen, and two sons are looking forward to an addition to their family in March.

Treva Whorl

Treva Whorl, who leads an active life in York, said, "It's been a busy, busy year."

She's part of the Society of Farm Women. She explained, "Our motto is doing for others and happiness, and that keeps me busy and happy." She is busy with church activities and, one day a month helps serve street people in York.

She works in her own beauty shop three days a week and said, "I have four married children and seven grandchildren."

The Whorls welcome 1989 by celebrating serving the Lord and having the family together."

Richard & Betty Gerlach

Richard and Betty Gerlach not only survived the midwestern farm crisis (featured in the June 11 issue) but also have experienced a successful transition to the Lancaster area. One of the highlights of their year was seeing their son Nelson, who still has farming on his heart, exchange places with their oldest son James, who farms in Missouri. During his stay, Nelson enjoyed harvesting corn, beans, and honey. He repaired fences and bought two quarterhorses to train for the rodeo. The crops in that area had less than one inch of rain during the entire growing season. James, who farms organically, harvested 15 bushels per acre while conventional farmers topped at six bushels.

More recently, Nelson got an offer to live on a 40-acre farm in Manheim where he will work the land.

Betty said, "It's a delight to see our children walk with God. With three children, life is full of surprises." James announced his engagement on Christmas Day. Daughter Carolyn had a dream fulfilled by vacationing in Hawaii with a friend.

The Gerlachs expect 1989 to be a great year. One question they are asked the most is will they build a



Dean and Mary Ann Hoover, Lebanon, reflect on old and new friendships that made 1988 special.



Not only did the Gerlach family survive the midwest farm crisis but also they have adjusted well to Lancaster County.



Remember Wayne and Joanne Erb from Mount Joy? They're the couple who hand out monster cookies to celebrate the birth of a boy, and sugar and spice if it's a girl.



Shirley Sauder who volunteers much of her time making quilts is looking forward to a new baby.

new house since Richard now earns a living in carpentry. They respond, "At this time, we find more fulfillment in giving to others rather than building our own dream home. We are content where we are (renting) and have no plans to build."

Their daughter's story, "A New Home For Maria," was featured in the September 24 issue. The Hoovers hope to adopt another child from Korea in 1989 and to vacation at places they've never been before.

Wayne & Joanne Erb

Remember the couple who had three boys? They celebrated their births by handing out Monster cookies. Finally, this year, they received a chance to hand out a sugar and spice cookie when their baby girl was born. "It's great having a girl," Marilyn reports.

The Erbs aren't sure what the future holds, but they said, "We're trusting the Lord to show us the way."

Dean & Mary Ann Hoover

Remember the Hoover brothers who form partnerships to dissolve? Well, Dean and his wife Mary Ann said this past year brought much fulfillment in both old and new friendships that are part of their lives. Of special joy was visiting with close friends who returned from Africa after a three year mission stint.