

THE DOSSSES

It's All About Him

by Barbara Huffman

If there's anything that someone in a serious full-time music ministry will tell you, it's this: "If it's not about the Lord, it will never work." That's just exactly how the trio known as the Dosses feel. They wouldn't be spending their lives traveling all across the country for any other reason.

Now, the Dosses is one of those groups whose members do not actually have the last name of Doss anymore. Dianne Latham was Doss before she married Neal Latham. There used to be more Dosses in the group, but one by one they left and now Dianne is carrying on the family tradition and name. The group is based out of Denton, NC, one of those towns described by Dianne as "everybody knows everybody, and the nearest Wal-Mart is 30 minutes away."

This group originated when Dianne and her brother and sister started singing as a trio back in 1961. Dianne was just three years old back then, but the family was already getting attention by the folks around their hometown. She recalls, "Back then, my daddy would stand behind us and help us with our harmonies. Daddy and Mama sang in a quartet at church, but people kept calling for us kids to come and sing, so they joined us when we started getting busy with appointments."

As things so often go, one by one the family members left the group and went on to other things, but Dianne has always felt the call to keep this ministry alive. "We are just trying to do our part," she shares. "We've been full-time since 1996, and there's never been a time when we have felt like we weren't doing what God would want us to do."

Dianne sings soprano and plays keyboards on stage. She can play several other instruments, but normally doesn't in their concerts. Neal sings the baritone. They are joined by Jessica Stanley, who has been with the group four years. Jessica sings alto and hails from Jacksonville, FL.

The Dosses record for Healing Springs Music and do their own scheduling. Their radio singles are administered by Airplay Radio Promotions. Their most recent chart hit has been "Wall of Fame." Another recent release, "He Couldn't Cross The Bloodline" was a top 40 hit and stayed on the charts 8 months. The group credits this song for opening a lot of doors and giving them national exposure so vital to a group's success. But it is the song "It's All About Him" that best sums up this family's focus.

Dianne has been blessed with writing ability and pens the majority of the group's songs.

Neal is one of those people who always seems to be happy. "I love to laugh," he admits, after sharing his latest blonde joke, one of many that doesn't go unnoticed by the two fair-haired ladies that stand on stage with him each night. Dianne attests to the fact that Neal loves to see people laugh. "That's the comedian in him," she says, "but the preacher in him wants to share Jesus." Neal combines the two very effectively. He explains, "I have a lot of fun and tell some funny things, but it's all with the end result of giving people Jesus. You have to get people's attention before they will listen to you. The humor goes along way to make people listen, and then we just carry them to the cross from there."

The message of hope in Jesus that the Dosses share is one heavy on the personal experience side. Neal says, "I had a son that was involved in drugs and alcohol, always getting in trouble. It was very bad. I'd beg people to help me pray. One day he called and asked if he could start traveling with us. While I



was apprehensive about him being with us, I knew he needed to be in church, so he came along. So part of message is that there are people out there who may not look, talk, or act the way we think they should, but help is in the house of the Lord. My other message is one of hope to parents at the end of their rope. Our story has a very happy ending. Adam is saved and living a life for the Lord, and not a week goes by that he doesn't call me and thank me for not giving up on him."

Neal adds that he and the group are convinced that sometimes God lets us go through those trials and unpleasant experiences so that we might better understand God. It is for that reason that the Dosses stand and share their message. Dianne says, "I want to give God my best. I want to some day be able to stand before God and tell Him that I did all I could do for Him." Why? Because the Dosses truly believe that every song, every testimony, every word of encouragement to their audiences count, and it's all about HIM.

To find out more about the Dosses, check out their website at www.dossesministry.com.