



WHEN WE'RE AT HOME...
WE'RE

REALLY AT HOME

By Paul Thompson

Dr. John Doster and his wife Sydel pose for Anderson Life with their five children. (From left to right) Luke and Jack, 8; C.J., 10; Delilah (with Sydel) and Zeke, 6.

Most people want to keep their work lives and their home lives separate. And when work deals with one of the most difficult subjects any family has to face, that is even truer. For Dr. John Doster and his wife Sydel, cancer is part of the very fabric of their lives. John is an oncologist, treating adult cancer patients, and Sydel is an infusion nurse, who spends even more time with people suffering from the disease. Their jobs are difficult, not just from the workload, but from the emotional investment they have to make in their patients.

This is why their home life is so important to both of them. "Work can be very stressful," says Sydel. "That's why we really want things to be laid back when we get home. When we're at home, we leave work behind. We are really at home."

But home life for the Dosters is not some relaxing, take-it-easy-and-unwind situation. Not with five children under the age of 10. John had two boys, as did Sydel when they married. They now have five children — C.J., 10; Luke and Jack, 8 (and born within two weeks of each other); Zeke, 6 and a daughter — Delilah, whose name was inspired by the Plain White T's hit *Hey There Delilah*.

With intense work pressure, family is an important outlet for the Dosters. Water sports, golf and other family activities center around their new Victorian-style home on Lake Hartwell. Inside there is a home theater as well as a game room, and outside there's the lake and all the water sports that

go with it, along with bike rides and football games. Family is the focus of just about everything the Dosters do.

Mealtimes take place at a unique circular dining room (designed around a circular table), but eating out is a welcome diversion. For family dining, Creekside Barbecue is a favorite — very children-friendly with a smell that stimulates anyone's taste buds. When John and Sydel want some time away from the kids, a frequent choice is Nami Asian Bistro where sushi is a favorite.

The Doster home is very family-oriented. Located in a rather secluded area on the end of a cul-de-sac, the house provides plenty of privacy. A long wooded walkway connects the back of the house to Lake Hartwell, with a dock, boat, and a covered dock and gazebo-like structure, complete with a picnic table. Everything's about as family-friendly as it could be.

And with two demanding medical careers and five children under the age of ten, is that any wonder?

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