



March 7, 1978

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Death of a Ranger
Can't Shatter Faith

By Debbie Stewart

DALLAS (BP)--The death of Texas Ranger Bob Doherty may have penetrated the Rangers' legend of invulnerability, but the bullet cannot shatter his family's Christian faith.

Doherty, 41, a Baptist deacon and family man, became the first Ranger to die in the line of duty in 47 years when he was shot in the head February 20 during a drug raid near Dallas. Because of the eminent reputation and history of the Texas Rangers as "protectors of the lives and property of Texans" and apprehenders of famous criminals, network television reporters came all the way to Azle, Texas, to interview Doherty's widow.

"If I show anything through my life, that is my way of testimony for my Lord, my family, Bob, and the brotherhood of law enforcement men and their families," said his wife, Carolyn.

Interviews after the funeral yielded more insight to a man gentle enough to scratch his daughter's back and wrestle playfully with his son, and courageous enough to serve with the 94-member Texas Rangers.

Now there are 93 Rangers.

"I tell you, Carolyn, Bob is with the Lord Jesus Christ this morning," Pastor Jesse Leonard told Mrs. Doherty and 3,000 law officers, friends and family at the funeral. A 750-car motorcade escorted Doherty's body through the barren woodlands northwest of Fort Worth to a small country cemetery.

Law officers such as Ranger Bobby Prince and his family, who have "adopted" Mrs. Doherty and her teenage children, have helped attend to the immediate details in the wake of death. Prince is a deacon at First Baptist Church in Palestine, Texas.

"Bob was an only child in birth, but he sure wasn't in death," Mrs. Doherty said of the 20-year law enforcement veteran and his associates. "He had brothers all over the state."

One of the men who worked with Doherty was Capt. G.W. Burks, leader of Rangers Company B.

"Everyone knew what Bob Doherty was," Burks said of the late Ranger's sure but gentle Christian testimony. Faith in the redeeming quality of every human being helped Doherty to counsel people who crossed the law.

"Rangers believe in God, and carry him with us at all times," Burks said. "That's why we really don't have any fear. We know we are doing a service for people, and that's what the Lord wants us to do."

Burks described Doherty as an excellent Ranger, competent, constantly involved in criminal investigations, working many more hours than ever required.

Soon after Carolyn and Bob became high school sweethearts, Doherty began his law enforcement career, with the goal of being the best--a Ranger. Mrs. Doherty and their children, Buster and Kelly, understood the 12-hour work days that ran into nights. The family was very close.

"Bob was in the Lord's will," said Mrs. Doherty. She prayed many times for her husband's safety on the road home at night.

"We crowded a lifetime of happiness into 20 years," she said. "The Lord knew we weren't going to be together all that long."

Friends, family, and hundreds of anonymous admirers are helping the family that Bob Doherty loved so much. Notes of tribute accompany many of the contributions to the educational fund established at an Azle bank for Kelly, a 17-year-old National Honor Society high school senior, and Buster, a 16-year-old student and football player.

Mrs. Doherty knows her husband would have especially liked the contributor's message that read: "I can think of nothing better than to be a Christian and a Texas Ranger."

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Membership Hotline
Keeps Them Informed

Baptist Press
3/7/78

WEST COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--Northside Baptist Church, West Columbia, S.C., has developed a new tool for sharing information and special prayer requests with the membership.

The service, called NBC Newslines, lists a phone number connected to a recording device. Members can call 24 hours a day to learn who is in the hospital, get progress reports of critically ill or surgery patients, and learn of funeral plans, activity schedules, special prayer requests and other information or promotion of the church's programs.

"When members call, they get a recorded message that varies in length from 20 seconds to one minute," explains Lonnie Shull, pastor of the 1,700 member church. "We feel that by our members being able to use their phone once or twice a day they can be knowledgeable about the church family in a way that allows them to express Christian concern and carry out ministry promptly. With members scattered in two counties we just cannot rely on word of mouth to get matters of prayer to all who are interested."

The recorded message is updated as often as five times daily. The only church expenses incurred for the service are the simple telephone answering device and an extra telephone line into the church.

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Broadway Church On
NBC, March 19

Baptist Press
3/7/78

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Baptists will be on national television March 19 when a Palm Sunday worship service from Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, is broadcast on the NBC network.

C. Welton Gaddy, Broadway pastor, will preach the sermon, "Who is He?" The worship service is being produced by NBC in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

"The Scripture narrative of the Passion contains many questions asked of, and by, Jesus after his triumphant entry into Jerusalem," said Gaddy. "Even then, many people still didn't know who he was." The sermon will detail some of the roles Jesus adopted during his ministry--prophet, teacher, healer, liberator, troubler of the religious establishment, and savior.

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BAPTIST PRESS

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Southern Baptist Convention
Georgia World Congress Center
June 13-15, 1978
Atlanta, Georgia

Theme: "Bold Mission Thrust--If it is to be, it's up to me!"

Tuesday Morning, June 13

- 9:00 Music For Inspiration--Sons of Jubal and Jubalheirs, Paul McCommon and Wade Davis, Atlanta, Ga., directors
- 9:30 Call to Order
Congregational Singing--Paul McCommon, Atlanta, Ga., director
Scripture
Prayer
- 9:45 Report of Registration and Constituting of Convention--Lee Porter, Nashville, Tenn.
Report of Committee on Order of Business--Marian Grant, Raleigh, N.C., chairwoman
- 9:55 Welcome --George Busbee, Governor of Georgia
- 10:05 Response
- 10:10 Recognition of Fraternal Messengers from Other Baptist Bodies
- 10:20 Convention Photograph
- 10:25 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Committee on Resolutions,
Committee on Tellers
- 10:30 Congregational Singing, Paul McCommon, Atlanta, Ga., director
- 10:35 Music--Lanny Allen, San Antonio, Texas
- 10:40 President's Address--Jimmy R. Allen, San Antonio, Texas
- 11:10 Report of Executive Committee (First Section)--Porter W. Routh, Nashville, Tenn.
- 11:40 Business:
Introduction of Resolutions
Miscellaneous Business
- 12:30 Benediction

Tuesday Afternoon, June 13

- 2:00 Music For Inspiration--Brewton-Parker College Choir, Mt. Vernon, Ga.
Hildegard Stanley, director
- 2:30 Congregational Singing--Charles Muller, Columbia, S.C., director
Scripture
Prayer
- 2:45 Election of Officers
- 2:55 Reports:
Executive Committee (Final Section)--Porter W. Routh, Nashville, Tenn.
- 3:35 Home Mission Board--William G. Tanner, Atlanta, Ga.
- 3:55 Sunday School Board--Grady C. Cothen, Nashville, Tenn.
- 4:15 Education Commission--Ben C. Fisher, Nashville, Tenn.
- 4:25 Business:
Introduction of Resolutions
Miscellaneous Business
- 4:45 Benediction

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Tuesday Evening, June 13

- 7:00 Music For Inspiration--The Centurymen, Buryl Red, N.Y. City, director
 7:25 Congregational Singing--William J. Reynolds, Nashville, Tenn., director
 7:35 Scripture
 Prayer
 7:45 Business:
 Election of Officers
 Miscellaneous Business
 8:05 "My Church in Bold Mission Thrust"
 --The Centurymen, Buryl Red, N.Y. City, director
 --Jeannette Clift George, Houston, Texas
 --William G. Tanner, Atlanta, Ga.
 --Grady C. Cothen, Nashville, Tenn.
 "If it is to be, it's up to me!"
 9:30 Adjourn

Wednesday Morning, June 14

- 9:00 Music For Inspiration--Singing Churchmen and Women of South Carolina,
 Thomas H. Westmoreland, Columbia, S.C., director
 9:30 Congregational Singing--James C. McKinney, Fort Worth, Texas, director
 Scripture
 Prayer
 9:45 Election of Officers
 Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
 10:15 Reports:
 Committee on Committees
 10:20 Committee on Boards
 10:25 Foreign Mission Board--Baker J. Cauthen, Richmond, Va.
 10:45 Annuity Board--Darold Morgan, Dallas, Texas
 10:55 Christian Life Commission--Foy Valentine, Nashville, Tenn.
 11:05 Woman's Missionary Union--Carolyn Weatherford, Birmingham, Ala.
 11:15 Congregational Singing--James C. McKinney, Fort Worth, Texas, director
 11:20 Music--William R. O'Brien, Richmond, Va.
 11:25 Annual Convention Sermon--Jesse C. Fletcher, Abilene, Texas
 11:55 Miscellaneous Business
 12:15 Benediction

(NO SESSIONS WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON--OPEN FOR OTHER EVENTS)

Wednesday Evening, June 14

- 6:30 Music For Inspiration--Union Baptist Church Choir, Atlanta, Ga.
 Mrs. Emma McCall, director
 6:55 Congregational Singing--William J. Reynolds, Nashville, Tenn., director
 7:05 Scripture
 Prayer
 7:15 Presentation of Past SBC Presidents
 7:30 "My Life in Bold Mission Thrust"
 --Sarah Frances Anders, Pineville, La.
 --Missionaries
 --Baker J. Cauthen, Richmond, Va.
 "If it is to be, it's up to me!"
 9:00 Adjourn

Thursday Morning, June 15

- 9:00 Music For Inspiration--Louisiana College Choir, Pineville, La., Arnold
 Epley, director
 9:30 Congregational Singing--John V. Glover Jr., director

Thursday Morning, June 15 continued

- Scripture
Prayer
- 9:45 Reports:
Radio and Television Commission--Paul M. Stevens, Fort Worth, Texas
- 10:00 Six SBC Seminaries--Landrum Leavell II, New Orleans, La.
- 10:15 Stewardship Commission--A. R. Fagan, Nashville, Tenn.
- 10:25 Music--Joseph Blanton, Raleigh, N. C.
- 10:30 "The Power of Television, a Status Report"--Media presentation with well-known TV personalities (to be announced)
"Morality in Television--A Plan for Action"--Harry N. Hollis Jr., Nashville, Tenn.
- 11:00 Reports:
Historical Commission--Lynn May, Nashville, Tenn.
- 11:10 Southern Baptist Foundation--Hollis E. Johnson, Nashville, Tenn.
- 11:20 American Baptist Seminary Commission--Ben C. Fisher, Nashville, Tenn.
- 11:25 Brotherhood Commission--Glendon McCullough, Memphis, Tenn.
- 11:35 Committee on Baptist State Papers--H. Franklin Paschall, Nashville, Tenn, chairman
- 11:45 Business:
Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
Miscellaneous Business
- 12:15 Benediction

Thursday Afternoon, June 15

- 1:30 Music For Inspiration--Parade of Evangelistic Singers
- 2:30 Congregational Singing--Richard Barrett, Bremen, Ga., director
Scripture
Prayer
- 2:45 Reports:
Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs--James E. Wood Jr., Washington, D.C.
- 2:55 Baptist World Alliance--Robert E. Denny, Washington, D.C.
- 3:05 Denominational Calendar--William T. Branon, Glendale, Ariz.
- 3:10 Music--Cynthia Clawson, Nashville, Tenn.
- 3:15 "America's Need for Spiritual Awakening"--Martin Luther King Sr., Atlanta, Ga.
- 3:45 Prayer Service for Spiritual Awakening--Forrest Feezor, Shelby, N. C.

Thursday Evening, June 15

- 7:00 Music For Inspiration--Massed Men's Choir, Paul McCommon, Atlanta, Ga., director
- 7:25 Congregational Singing--William J. Reynolds, Nashville, Tenn., director
- 7:35 Scripture
Prayer
- 7:45 "My Family in Bold Mission Thrust"
--D. Elton Trueblood, Earlham, Pa., "The Family in Crisis"
--Ken Medema, Upper Mont Clair, N.Y.
--Angela Cofer, Baton Rouge, La.
--Jimmy R. Allen, San Antonio, Texas
"If it is to be, it's up to me!"
- 9:30 Adjourn

Convention Officers

- Jimmy R. Allen, SBC president, pastor, First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas
- Olan Runnels, SBC first vice president, pastor Swope Park Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.
- Richard Sutton, SBC second vice president, physician, Topeka, Kansas
- Martin Bradley, SBC recording secretary, manager, research services department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, consultant, Sunday School department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- Porter W. Routh, SBC treasurer and executive secretary-treasurer, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.
- W. C. Fields, SBC press representative, assistant to the executive secretary and director of public relations, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.
- William J. Reynolds, SBC music director, church music secretary, Baptist Sunday School Board.

SBC Week Highlighted By
Carter, King, Bold Mission

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists will participate in a week of activities including an address by the president of the United States, the preaching of Martin Luther King Sr., and vivid multi-media presentations on the Bold Mission Thrust goal to evangelize the world when they gather in Atlanta for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June.

The 121st annual session of the 133-year-old SBC will run June 13-15 at the Georgia World Congress Center but activities and meetings related to it will get underway on Sunday afternoon, June 11, and close on Friday afternoon, June 16.

Jimmy Carter will speak at a rally during the National Conference of Baptist Men at the Omni Coliseum on June 16, the day after the SBC closes. That meeting is sponsored by the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

Besides King, personalities for the main meeting include Georgia Governor George Busbee, Atlanta; Quaker theologian D. Elton Trueblood of Earlham, Pa.; an interview on tape with British social critic Malcolm Muggeridge; Christian actress Jeanette Clift George, Houston, Texas; Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio, Texas, who will deliver the SBC president's address; Jesse C. Fletcher, president of Hardin Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, convention sermon; Forrest Feezor of Shelby, N.C., retired executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; Harry N. Hollis Jr. of the SBC Christian Life Commission, Nashville, Tenn.; and Sarah Frances Anders, who chairs the sociology department, Louisiana College, Pineville, La.

The multi-media sessions, built around the convention theme of "Bold Mission Thrust-- If it is to be, it's up to me!" will feature a wide range of effects, according to Marian Grant of Raleigh, N.C., who chairs the SBC committee on order of business. Lloyd Householder, director of the office of communications at the SBC Sunday School Board, chairs a committee of persons from five Southern Baptist agencies who are designing the sessions as a package for continuity during the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night SBC program slots.

"We want to show Southern Baptists some of the heart of Bold Mission Thrust and specifically how the church, the family and the individual can commit themselves to the cause of making Christ's name known to every person in the world by the year 2000," Householder said.

The evening sessions will feature testimonies, interviews, filmed sequences showing persons at work in Bold Mission Thrust all over the world, a variety of guest musicians and speakers, music written for the occasion by William J. Reynolds of the SBC Sunday School Board's church music department, specially orchestrated and recorded accompaniments, and set designs by Peter Wolf and Associates of Dallas. It will include use of drama and a variety of multi-media techniques.

"The sessions will follow the struggles of people who are in the process of committing themselves to world missions or who have already given boldly of their lives," Householder said. "We hope we can vividly portray what's going on in Bold Mission Thrust so that people can have a vicarious experience of becoming identified with the issues. People, for example, will be challenged to take a positive action concerning world hunger."

Special features of the convention will involve a segment on the power and influence of television and a "Prayer Service For Spiritual Awakening," Mrs. Grant said.

The first portion of the television segment on Thursday morning will include a media presentation on "The Power of Television, a Status Report," featuring well known television personalities to be announced and the taped interview with Muggeridge. It will explore the power and influence television has over the minds of children and adults.

Harry N. Hollis Jr., director of family and special moral concerns for the SBC Christian Life Commission, will follow that with an address on "Morality in Television--A Plan for

Action." It will deal with how Christians can take action to affirm what is good about television and change what is wrong with it.

The "Prayer Service For Spiritual Awakening," which resulted from an action by the Kansas City Convention in 1977, will take place Thursday afternoon, following an address by Martin Luther King Sr., a Baptist preacher and father of the slain civil rights leader. King will speak on "America's Need for Spiritual Awakening."

Feezor, 85-year-old interim pastor of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, N.C., and retired Texas Baptist chief executive, will lead the prayer service, designed to set a spiritual tone for Southern Baptists' worldwide efforts for evangelism and social concern.

The convention will feature expanded time for business, resolutions and reports from SBC agencies and shorter daytime sessions, in response to grassroots feedback to the committee on order of business, Mrs. Grant said.

Business items on the agenda of the nation's largest Protestant denomination, with over 13 million members in all 50 states, include a vote on a proposed \$75 million national Cooperative Program unified budget and election of officers. Allen, elected in Kansas City last year, likely will be re-elected to a traditional second one-year term as SBC president. Some 16,000 persons are expected to register as messengers. Last year's registration in Kansas City, Mo., totaled 16,271, and a record 18,637 persons registered in 1975 at the Norfolk convention.

Convention music, directed by Reynolds, will feature a variety of individuals and groups, including Cynthia Clawson, concert and recording artist, Nashville, Tenn.; Ken Medema, blind singer and pianist, Upper Mont Clair, N.Y.; The Centurymen, directed by Buryl Red, New York; Lanny Allen, minister of music, First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas; Sons of Jubal and Jubalheirs, directed by Paul McCommon and Wade Davis, Atlanta; Brewton-Parker College Choir, Mt. Vernon, Ga.; Singing Churchmen and Women of South Carolina, directed by Thomas H. Westmoreland; William R. O'Brien of Richmond, Va.; Angela Cofer, concert artist, Baton Rouge, La.; Union Baptist Church Choir, Atlanta, Ga.; Louisiana College Choir, Pineville, La.; and Joseph Blanton, Raleigh, N.C.

Mrs. Grant said that in response to reactions from a variety of Southern Baptists, the program will include a wide range of persons from the rank and file reading Scripture and giving prayers and benedictions. They include a child, an Indian chief, a layman, pastors from a small church, a mission and a rural church, a bi-vocational pastor, a Chinese pastor, a Korean pastor, a black pastor, an Indian pastor, a woman minister to the deaf, a Japanese woman, a woman missions writer, a WMU state president, a woman student, and a summer missionary.

Besides Householder, the coordinating committee planning the evening sessions includes Ed Seabough, SBC Home Mission Board; Catherine Allen, Woman's Missionary Union; William R. O'Brien, SBC Foreign Mission Board; and Rosser McDonald, SBC Radio and Television Commission.

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University Board Takes No
Action On Alley Resolutions

Baptist Press
3/7/78

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The University of Richmond's board of trustees received an undisclosed number of resolutions related to a controversy surrounding Robert S. Alley, former chairman of the department of religion, during their March meeting.

The controversy erupted after a Dec. 6, 1977, speech to a group of atheists in Richmond in which Alley reportedly told the audience at First Unitarian Church, "Jesus never really claimed to be God or related to him." In the height of the furor, university president, Bruce Heilman, who apologized for Alley's comments, said Alley, a tenured professor and department head, had been transferred out of the department of religion, at Alley's request, to the chairmanship of the university's area studies program.

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The furor eventually resulted in a series of resolutions from various quarters which reportedly express pro and con sentiment on faculty and student resolutions urging Alley's return to the department of religion.

"The board took no action on the resolutions from churches, faculty, students and other groups," a spokesman said, "except to affirm the intention to maintain open lines of communication and specifically to meet with representatives of the Arts and Sciences Council and AAUP (American Association of University Professors) Chapter of the University of Richmond."

No word is available about what next step the trustees, who earlier reaffirmed the university's statement of purpose as a Christian institution, may or may not take. They meet next during university commencement exercises which take place May 14.

No statement has been issued as to contents of communications with the board but it is a matter of public record that a faculty resolution requested the reinstatement of Alley. The resolution was based on support of academic freedom, not support of Alley's statements, reports indicate. Although no figures are available as to attendance of faculty or how they voted, the resolution reportedly was not unanimous.

A student petition in support of Alley was also submitted to the administration.

Students, on Christmas vacation when the furor erupted, returned to the campus and joined battle on both sides on the pages of "The Collegian," campus newspaper. They staged a brief demonstration at the home of Heilman, Jan. 20, and the student petition supporting Alley gathered 880 signatures out of 3,500 fulltime students enrolled.

Editorials in "The Collegian" and letters to the editor have expressed both support and condemnation for Alley's statements and university actions.

The faculty reportedly had two meetings to discuss the matter before asking the trustees to reinstate Alley. Alley was quoted as saying he was willing to again assume the chairmanship of the religion department if requested to by the board but is not seeking it.