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FEATURES
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76-180

Model Plane Buff's Hobby
Helps the Lost Find Christ

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The airplane overhead suddenly slides into a mid-air barrel roll and the crowd of children and parents, mouths agape, respond with gasps and groans.

On the ground, the "pilot" takes great delight in watching the crowd's response as he moves the controls of the small radio transmitter signaling the aircraft to land.

As the sputtering craft bounces and rolls to a stop, the crowd surrounds a model airplane and it's pilot, Eck Calder.

Radio controlled aircraft is a ministry-hobby of Calder, a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The native of New York City once owned a hobby shop specializing in model aircraft.

The store, Calder says, contained nearly every type of aircraft model and kit available.

"I was always trying to get the best airplanes that I could. No price was too high, I spent nearly all of my income on planes and plane engines. I didn't know Christ as my personal savior at the time, I had no time for him.

"My hobby business was going broke," Calder recalls, "and my family was ready to leave as a result of my greed to have 'that' engine or 'that' plane..I had nearly \$30,000 worth of planes, but my family had nothing.

"I found that the devil can use a hobby against a person. Even after I became interested in what God might have to offer me, I still found myself lured away to air meets on Sundays. Many times this sort of just doing something else would keep me away from the church and it's influence. Soon I didn't care, but the day came when I had to make a decision...put up to me by my wife..either my family or my planes."

Eck decided in favor of his family--a wife and daughter--and recalls, "I felt like taking all of them (the planes) out and burning them, but it occurred to me I could use these things to glorify God. Since that day my hobby has taken on a new meaning, I still have greed feelings from time to time, but then I just remember how it used to be and with God's help I can fight them."

The plane Calder uses most in his ministry is white, with purple lettering ("For the Royalty of the Lord"), and has a five foot wingspan. Across the wings the letters read, "Jesus Saves," and on the sides of the plane is lettered, "John 3:16."

"I've found the plane to be a very effective tool in church evangelism, Calder says. I go to a church and fly the plane from the parking lot. Soon, people from the surrounding community, young and old, come out to see the plane.

"Most coming over to the church parking lot don't attend church anywhere, and others don't know the Lord.

"The gathering gives church members an opportunity to talk with those near-by about Jesus. They get some local names, and later the opportunity presents itself to visit people they met in the parking lot," he notes.

The Calder apartment on the New Orleans Seminary campus has one room set aside for the housing and maintenance of his planes, and Eck can turn to yet another talent for ministry--piano.

In his early teens he learned to play jazz-style piano."I used that gift of God for any purpose but to serve him."

In 1972, Calder asked Christ into his life. He has since dropped his old repertoire of barroom songs and now is asked to play for evangelistic meetings.

His planes and piano-playing now are controlled by the master-pilot--Jesus Christ.

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Record Budget Projected
At Golden Gate Seminary

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--A record 1977-78 budget request of \$1,120,084 was projected by the executive committee of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's trustees meeting here.

In their fall meeting, which coincided with the school's annual Founder's Day, the trustees were informed of an all-time enrollment high of 400, which is 10 percent more than the school's then-record fall enrollment figure last year.

The 1977-78 budget request is an increase of \$51,584 over 1976-77, which will set a new high for Golden Gate by the Southern Baptist national Cooperative Program unified budget, a school spokesman said.

In other action, the trustees' executive committee accepted recommendations for future faculty to be announced when the full board takes action in early 1977, approved a program of longevity recognition for employees and elected three new members to the seminary's Development Council.

A plan program to recognize long-term seminary employees was approved, with the first recognition ceremony set for the trustees' annual meeting early in 1977.

Elected to the seminary's Development Council were Clifford Bascom of Ventura, Calif., H. J. Flanders Jr. of Waco, Tex. and Mrs. J.E. Connally of Abilene, Tex.

Interim reports were received from the seminary's long range planning and presidential search committees.

A highlight of Founder's Day activities at Golden Gate was the installation address of academic dean W. Morgan Patterson, who was installed by trustees' chairman Charles W. Carter of Jackson, Miss.

In light of Golden Gate's record enrollment and others being noted among Southern Baptist seminaries and denominational colleges, Patterson said:

"At the moment enrollments (in the seminaries) have reached an all-time high, and there are indications there will be an increase of about 10 percent during the current school year.

"The large number of (Baptist) young people in the colleges who have committed themselves to church-related vocations suggests that seminary enrollments have not yet peaked."

Patterson began duties at Golden Gate on Aug. 1, and came to the school from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, where he was director of graduate studies in the School of Theology and was the David T. Porter Professor of Church History.

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Baptist Med Center Plans
\$12.7 Million Facility

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RIVERCHASE, Ala. (BP)--The Birmingham Baptist Medical Centers (BMC) announced plans to construct an ultra-modern health care complex in the center of Alabama's population growth area--the town of Riverchase, in North Shelby County.

Application for permission to build the 144-bed, \$12.7 million facility has been made to the Alabama Bureau of Health Development. The complex will include a hospital with 132 private rooms and 12 intensive care beds, a primary care group practice facility and other physician office space.

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CORRECTIONS

In the BP story of 10-20-76, headlined, "Missouri Baptists Debate Religious Liberty," graf 4, line one should read "Herbert Clinton" (vice Quentin); graf 11, line 3, should read "Gardner C. Taylor," (vice Webb). Thanks--Baptist Press

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