

# Bethany College planning to expand, not relocate

BY TERRI MORGAN  
Special to the Mercury News

A small, private college that has called Scotts Valley home for 45 years is canceling its plans to move to the Sacramento area.

Bethany College President Tom Duncan has recommended that trustees for the Bethany College Corp. rescind a 1989 decision to sell the 73-acre campus at the north end of Scotts Valley and

move the school to Sacramento County by 1998.

If the board approves his recommendation early next year as expected, school officials will pursue an expansion that would allow the campus to accommodate nearly 400 more students. Bethany now serves about 625 students and employs nearly 100 people.

See **BETHANY**, Page 2B

# Bethany College planning to expand

SJMN DEC. 5, 1995

## ■ BETHANY

from Page 1B

City officials said they are pleased that the school, which had planned to move to an area where housing is more affordable for students, will remain in Scotts Valley.

"I think it's wonderful," Mayor Joe Miller said. "They're a good neighbor, and we're pleased to have them stay. They bring some cultural benefits and a lot of nice, young people to the community."

Bethany students also provide a "wonderful labor pool" for the city's retailers, Miller said.

### Arrived in 1950

The four-year Christian college, one of 13 campuses nationwide owned by the Assembly of God church, has been operating in Scotts Valley since 1950.

Founded in San Francisco as the Glad Tidings Bible Institute, the school was renamed Bethany Bible College after it was moved to the church's Bethany Park campground in Scotts Valley. The word "Bible" was dropped from the school's name in 1989 to reflect the broad base of academic programs offered, Duncan said.

School officials had been negotiating for three years with a real estate development company that planned to convert the campus to a residential area, Duncan said. He asked trustees to take the property off the market after soil and technical reports indicated that soil instability would require costly work before certain areas of the campus could be built on.

### Not financially feasible

"It appeared this was not going to be financially viable for the prospective buyers to do," Duncan said. "We weren't in a position to lower our sales price any more, and without a sale, there is no way we can relocate."

Instead of moving, Bethany officials are revising the master development plan for the school, which calls for the campus to accommodate about 1,000 students. Duncan said several one- and two-story buildings on campus would be replaced with two- and three-story structures and three or four more buildings would be erected.