

Moving proposition for new Bethany president

New Bible College leader faces challenge of real estate

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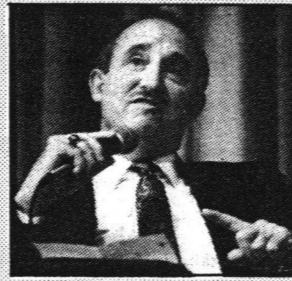
SCOTTS VALLEY — If the new president of Bethany Bible College doesn't have any real estate experience, he'll get a quick lesson when he arrives here from Missouri.

Tom Duncan, 36, of the Missouri Department of Economic Development, will take over in July at

the 550-student Assembly of God campus, which is up for sale.

He will replace Richard Foth, who said he is resigning because he doesn't have the energy to move the campus.

"I have been here 14 years and really feel it is time to hand off the baton to someone who can take the college to the next level, which is a major move to the city



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— Retiring President Richard Foth

of Sacramento," the 50-year-old Foth said.

"We made the decision two

years ago to move for economic and demographic reasons. I have a more clearer vision of what the

school could be, but the energy to take it there and lead it, I don't have at this time," he added.

Foth and his wife Ruth will be moving to North Carolina, where they will take a year sabbatical to rest and work on a book together on Biblical male-female relationships. They will also travel overseas, where Foth will conduct conferences for his church.

When Bethany's move was announced two years ago, trustees said that soaring housing prices in this area made it impossible to attract and keep qualified instructors. Trustees noted that Scotts Valley is too far from the

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church's population base in the southern San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento.

Duncan will face these difficult realities and a slow real estate market in June when he leaves Missouri, where he has spent his academic and professional life.

Director of the Division of Professional Registration for his home state, he was valedictorian of his high school class in Camdenton, and earned a bachelor's degree in government from Evangel College, an Assembly of God school in Springfield.

He earned his master's degree in political science from the University of Missouri in Columbia, where he is working on a doctorate, also in political science.

From 1980-84, Duncan was an assistant professor of government and public administration at Evangel College. He joined the governor of Missouri's staff in 1985, serving as the governor's assistant for education and policy management until taking his present position in 1989.

Duncan will come to the campus in mid-June to work alongside Foth until Foth officially resigns June 30. If the campus has not been sold by then, the new president will take over the task of trying to find a buyer.

Foth said the customer base for selling an existing college is rather slim. That is why he met Tuesday with Scotts Valley city staff to dis-

cuss what other types of uses would be acceptable to the city.

The site is designated for public and quasi-public use in the city's general plan, and is zoned the same because of its historical use as a college, said Planning Director Bob Hanna.

Among the ideas discussed at the meeting were using the site for housing or a conference center. About 35-45 acres of the 109-acre site is buildable, said Foth; the rest

consists of steep, wooded slopes.

Hanna said the city's main concern is with traffic because the only access to the campus is a two-lane residential road.

The campus, which boasts a new \$1.5 million administration building and a \$500,000 preschool and day care center, has attracted some "interested parties" but no potential buyers since it went on the market in 1990, Foth said.