

# Bethany move on hold

McClatchy News Service

SACRAMENTO — A planned sale of a Sacramento hotel to a Scotts Valley religious college has fallen through, marking the second time this year that the hotel's owners have seemingly found a buyer, only to have the deal dissolve.

Bethany Bible College recently let its purchase option on the Beverly Garland Hotel lapse because of delays in selling its current campus off the north end of Scotts Valley Drive.

The Beverly Garland hotel, near the State Fairgrounds, is owned by the the Carpenters Pension Trust for Southern California. That group had lent money on the property, and acquired it when the previous owners ran into financial trouble.

Earlier this year, the union had an agreement to sell the site to Home Depot, which planned to raze the hotel and build a home-improvement store. Home Depot backed away from the deal after opposition from nearby businesses worried about traffic.

The person overseeing the Beverly Garland sale for the Carpenters Pension Trust didn't respond to a request for comment.

Bethany president Tom Duncan said the college, which has about 500 students, would still be interested in the property if sale of its existing campus goes through.

"Without that solid sale underneath our feet, the trustees and I felt it was not a good thing to move forward on the Sacramento end," Duncan said.

Bethany is run by the Assemblies of God, a charismatic Protestant church. Two years ago, the school's trustees voted to move Bethany to Sacramento, which would be a more central location for Assemblies of God members.

A group of San Francisco Bay Area developers agreed to buy Bethany's campus for \$12 million and build a mixture of housing and business on the 79-acre site. But discovery of some unstable soil on the land, plus higher-than-expected infrastructure costs, has since caused the buyers to reject the price tag, Duncan said.

"We are still negotiating with them, and we are probably going to receive a revised offer," he said.

If Bethany doesn't move to the Beverly Garland, another possibility is a 32-acre site next to Capital Christian Center, an Assemblies of God church in Sacramento. The land is now owned by the Sacramento City School District.

Robert Parker, corporate administrator for the thriving Capital Christian Center, said he has talked with school district officials about selling the land.

"At this point, it's just an exchange of ideas," he said.