

Bethany Bible

Santa Cruz County

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Builder buys Bethany College

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SCOTTS VALLEY — Bethany College officials have until June 1998 to find a new site for the Christian school under terms of a sales agreement reached earlier this week.

San Jose developers Barry Swenson and John & Bruce Nicholson plan to turn the college's 79-acre Scotts Valley site into a neighborhood community that blends approximately 190 new single-family homes with some of the existing facilities.

Bethany College President Tom Duncan would not say how much Swenson and the Nicholsons paid for the site in northern Scotts Valley. It's likely lower

than the \$12 million asking price that temporarily soured the deal last year.

Duncan did say, however, that the developers expect to submit a detailed plan to the city of Scotts Valley within the next two weeks. The plan is expected to include some housing for low-income families.

None of the developers was available for comment on Thursday.

The college has been for sale since early 1990. Directors said they wanted to move because of soaring housing costs and the fact that Scotts Valley was too remote from the population base of the Assembly of God Church in California and Nevada. The church operates the college.

Negotiations with Swenson and the

Nicholsons to buy the site began in mid-1992. Duncan said one factor in the long negotiations was the developers' desire "to present a development plan to the city ... that would have broad support and that would contribute positively to the community of Scotts Valley."

College officials have been scouring the Sacramento area for a site since deciding to make the move. They signed an agreement to buy the Beverly Garland Hotel near Cal Expo in July for about \$6 million. The deal fell through, however, because officials could not close the deal to sell their Scotts Valley campus quickly enough.

Duncan said he hasn't contacted hotel owners since finalizing the sale this

week. He added, however, that there were other people interested in the hotel site, and Bethany may have already missed out.

Other sites in the Sacramento area are being considered, said Duncan.

Bethany was founded in 1919 as part of the Glad Tidings Temple, a San Francisco mission run by Robert and Mary Craig. Some 600 students attend classes at the Scotts Valley campus. Fields of study include church leadership, business, education, psychology and music.

"Bethany has been part of this community for 45 years, and we intend to continue to grow and expand here even while we plan for our new facilities in Sacramento," said Duncan.