

OLIVET UNIVERSITY

Classes set to begin at ex-Bethany site Sept. 12

School transferring SF home base to SV

Bethany

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SCOTTS VALLEY — Roughly 300 Olivet University students — most of them from overseas locations — will begin the fall quarter Sept. 12 at the site formerly occupied by Bethany University, studying everything from Internet technology and theology to journalism and business.

Olivet is moving its home base from San Francisco to Scotts Valley, with plans to operate its former headquarters as one of 10 branches spread out across the country, Olivet's president, Dr. William Wagner, said in an interview Friday. Escrow at the Scotts Valley site is expected to close at the end of November.

Up to 12 full-time staff members will be employed at the new campus, and

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Wagner said school officials should have a better idea by next week which former Bethany staff and faculty will be offered positions there. Bethany employed more than 80 people.

Dr. Ray Tallman, Olivet's vice president and an instructor in the theology department, estimated tuition at \$5,000 per quarter. But Olivet has a strong entrepreneurial spirit, and most students are enrolled in a work-study program in which they partner with about 300 online businesses established by Olivet students and alumni.

"All of these different sites are run by Christians, but they're not Christian sites" and do not bear Olivet University's name, Wagner said.

Olivet receives its funding through these "ministries," which report on Christian topics, as well as through tuition and private donations.

Wagner would not estimate the total number of students enrolled at Olivet, a four-year university that offers bachelor's and master's degrees in seven subjects: journalism, information technology, art and design, music, theol-

ogy, business and language. He also declined to discuss its operating budget or purchase price of the approximately 60-acre campus.

But he did say Olivet is affiliated with the Evangelical Assembly of Presbyterian Churches and "hopes to continue the Bethany legacy in the future," referring to possibly making use of its predecessor's name at some point in the future.

"It has a very international student body,"

OLIVET UNIVERSITY

■ Olivet University was a small Bible college from 1992 until 2000, when Olivet Theological College & Seminary was launched.

■ The university is affiliated with the Evangelical Assembly of Presbyterian Churches.

■ Up to 12 full-time staff and faculty will be employed at the former Bethany University campus.

■ Most of the 300 students enrolled for the fall quarter come from China and South Korea.

SOURCE: olivetuniversity.edu

with branches in China, South Korea, Japan, Australia, Kenya and England, he said. "I think we're very evangelical. We're out to win the world to Christ. That's our mission."

Because most of Olivet's students come from abroad, they are required to take English courses as part of the basic curriculum, Tallman said.

Olivet is now accredited through the Association for Biblical Higher Education, but officials plan to apply for accreditation from the Western Association of States and Colleges — Bethany's former accrediting agency — a process Wagner estimated could take up to two years.

Randall Bell, director of the Association for Biblical Higher Education's commission on accreditation, estimated 200 institutions are now accredited through that agency, with dozens more pending. Whether credits earned at Olivet University can transfer over to secular institutions is determined on a case-by-case basis, he said.

Wagner, a Petaluma resident and Southern Baptist, came to Olivet in 2004 as its academic dean, and has served as its president for the past five years. He previously served as a pastor, missionary and professor of evangelism at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, according to his website.