

# General College Information

## **Bethany's Mission:**

### **“Preparing Leadership for the Church and Society”**

*The College is irrevocably committed to being a Bible college which gives Christ preeminence in all things and provides post-secondary education and practical training through a four-year, accredited program for the primary purpose of embodying and maintaining historic Pentecostal doctrine, vision, values, and environment in order to prepare students for leadership in the Church and society as envisioned by the founders of the College. The program is designed to train persons effectively as pastors, teachers, missionaries, evangelists, musicians, counselors, administrators, communication specialists, and other roles serving contemporary needs. The Bible is the center of all curricula, providing a basis for life, the focus of ultimate truth, and an integration point for all other disciplines, both formal and informal.*

In order to insure the College's “. . . program is designed to train persons effectively . . .” the College is committed specifically to five characteristics relating to student outcomes:

- Character development: The College provides an environment for the development of personal spiritual disciplines and the formation of Christian character.
- Leadership development: The College is committed to the development of Christian leadership that is responsible to God, oneself, and others. This commitment is to the skills, values, and ethics necessary to influence and lead in any given environment.
- Ministry development: The College emphasizes ministry and service, rather than self-advancement. In the preparation of persons with skills for service within the church as well as society, the College promotes attitudes of sensitivity, dedication, and servanthood.
- Intercultural awareness: The College commits itself to intercultural understanding in its policies and programs. This commitment includes development of cross-cultural sensitivity and international awareness appropriate to a movement that has a worldwide, multi-cultural influence and serves a constituency of diverse ethnic, racial, and cultural groups.
- Professional excellence: The College provides an integrated emphasis on academic and applied preparation for professional effectiveness. The College offers an academic experience for students desiring an accredited Biblical studies and liberal arts education within a Christian context.

## **Bethany's Heritage**

Bethany College was founded in 1919 as the training school for Glad Tidings Temple, an urban church pastored by Robert and Mary Craig in San Francisco. Through the next three decades the church and school enjoyed an international reputation as Glad Tidings Bible Institute, becoming a center of Pentecostal activity on the West Coast and a strategic source of ministers, missionaries, and specialized Christian workers.

Since 1947, Bethany has been operated as the official leadership preparation school of the Assemblies of God, Northern California and Nevada District. The institution was moved to its present site in the Santa Cruz mountains in 1950 and became a four-year degree-granting college in 1955 changing its name to Bethany Bible College at that time. Bethany received accreditation with the American Association of Bible Colleges in 1959 and regional accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in 1966. Since 1968, Bethany's teacher preparation program has been recognized by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing of the State of California. In 1990 the name was changed to Bethany College.

Bethany has the distinction of being the oldest accredited Assemblies of God college in the world. Because of its heritage and the continuing need for effective Pentecostal leadership, the College is committed to providing the finest environment for the spiritual, academic, and professional development of its students.

## **Affiliations**

Bethany is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Bethany College is endorsed by the Board of Christian Higher Education of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri, and is affiliated with the Assemblies of God, Northern California and Nevada District Council. Bethany is recognized by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing of the State of California as a teacher preparation institution at the primary and secondary levels. Bethany is also approved by the Department of Education of the State of California for the training of veterans and war orphans and by the United States Department of Justice for the training of international students. For a full list of the college's institutional memberships and documentation of its accreditation, inquiries should be made to the office of the Vice President for Academics.

## **About the College**

### **The Bethany Community**

*It is the vision of the Bethany College community that the campus culture will promote open communication and dialogue, model*

*critical thinking and expression of ideas which will allow Christians who represent a variety of perspectives and traditions resulting from differences in socioeconomic status, ethnicity, culture, language, and gender, as well as from a variety of religious backgrounds, to develop increased respect for the human tapestry designed by God.*

Bethany's students come from Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Washington, Africa, China, Finland, Sri Lanka . . . . Some of them are searching to find that special place God has for them in His overall plan. Others have known from childhood just what it is God wants them to do.

There are people of almost every age-group, race, and interest. Bethany is like a little cross-section of Christianity, a tightly-knit family within the larger family of God. By the time you leave Bethany, there's a good chance you will know everyone by name, and everyone will know you. You will have prayed with them, ministered with them, played basketball with them, experienced miracles with them, and shared a great deal of your own being with them.

There is a difference between Bethany and other colleges. At Bethany, we believe God is the center of all learning and all activities, that learning occurs both inside and outside the classroom, and that spiritual growth should be an exciting, integral part of your education. We seek to impact our world for Jesus Christ as we are both integratively competent in our fields of study and as we develop a life-style that reflects our Maker. It is the intent of Bethany College that all that is done in the classroom, in co-curricular programs, in relationships established, and in knowledge gained, reflect the unique mission of the college.

## **The College**

Bethany is a comprehensive, Christian college affiliated with the Assemblies of God churches of Northern California and Nevada. While a majority of our students are from Assemblies of God churches, many are from other evangelical, charismatic, and pentecostal churches and denominations. Bethany's pentecostal heritage is evident in our doctrinal statement, our chapels and classes, and in our faculty and staff. We believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and that these are One. At Bethany, we encourage our students to learn about and experience the Holy Spirit, Whom Jesus promised to send to the disciples. We believe that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit so that we could have power to be His witnesses to all the world. The character of Bethany College is distinctly Christian. Therefore, we seek practical ways to live our lives in a manner that follows Biblical principles. Daily required chapel services, residence hall devotions, spiritual emphasis weeks, missions emphasis weeks, and required student involvement in Christian service are all demonstrations of Bethany's commitment to Biblical Christianity.

## **Doctrinal Statement**

Bethany College accepts, without reservation, the "Statement of Fundamental Truths" of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Specifically, Bethany's statement of faith is as follows:

- The Bible is the Word of God, the infallible rule of faith and practice for all. It is superior to conscience and reason, although not contrary to reason.
- There are three persons in the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are One as to nature. They are each coeternally self-existent, yet none can exist without the other.
- The Son of God, who was in the beginning God with God, for the sake of man, became man and was called Emmanuel—that is "God with man."
- "By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12).
- Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory, being crucified, tasted death for all men; He arose from the dead, and ascended to the Father, that whosoever repents and believes in Him may have eternal life.
- Man is justified by faith in Jesus Christ, apart from works.
- The Son of God baptizes believers with the Holy Spirit for life and service according to Acts 2:4.
- Holiness of life is the result of the believer's identification with Christ in His death, resurrection, and present thronelife in Glory. It is attained by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Sanctifier, through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus Christ is the Physician of His people. By His atonement He purchased deliverance from every sickness, and His Spirit effects perfect healing as men believe.
- The imminent return of Christ out of heaven to this earth is the blessed and living hope of all believers.
- The subjugation to Christ of all rule and all authority is the ultimate purpose of the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- "They which are written in the Lamb's book of life" shall enter the holy city, Jerusalem. But "whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15).