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## BAPTIST MINISTRY WAS A FAMILY AFFAIR FOR CHURCH FOUNDER ROBERT PORTER

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By Judy Tachibana Bee Staff Writer

--For the Rev. Robert Porter, the ministry was both his inheritance and his legacy. Like his father, the south Sacramento pastor was drawn to a religious life, as were his brother, two sons, and nephews and cousins.

"He had a very close relationship with his father and was with his father in his ministry," said his youngest son, the Rev. Ellington Porter. "He grew up in the church."

He founded and led Genesis Missionary Baptist Church in south Sacramento until his death Monday. The Rev. Porter, 55, died at Sutter General Hospital of pheochromocytoma, a rare disease that attacks the adrenal glands.

The Rev. Porter was the 12th of 13 children born to the Rev. V.E. Porter and Nettie Porter Love. Raised in Kansas City, Kan., he earned a bachelor's degree in sociology at Bethel College in St. Paul, Minn., and later received a doctorate in Christian counseling from Servive Theological Seminary in Denver, Colo.

The Rev. Porter was ordained in the ministry in 1968 and became pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in St. Paul, where he served for 18 years. He came to Sacramento in 1988 as pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. Two years later, he started Genesis Missionary Baptist Church with 200 members. The church now has 1,200 members, said the Rev. Ellington Porter, who is co-pastor. In 1989, the Rev. Porter organized the United Pastors of Sacramento, his son said.

Under the Rev. Porter's leadership, the Genesis Missionary Baptist Church family and music ministry in 1995 produced a live recording of original gospel music, "Be Ready - He's Coming Back!" and a year later followed up with a second recording, "Genesitical."

"He was known for his great singing style," his son said. "Everybody loved to hear him sing."

The Rev. Porter traveled throughout the United States, Canada, Haiti, England, Taiwan and Africa conducting revivals and giving lectures and seminars. He taught for and was on the publishing board of the National Baptist Convention of America, where he also served on the group's equal rights advisory committee.

Survivors include his wife of 30 years, Hazel Rebecca Terry Porter; daughters Thelma Cash and D'Andrea Walker, both of Kansas City, Kan.; sons Robert Porter Jr. of Oakland, the Rev. **Tecoy Porter** of Elk Grove, and the Rev. Ellington Porter of Sacramento; brothers Walter Porter of Kansas City, Mo., the Rev. James Porter of Minneapolis, Richard Porter and Floyd Porter, both of Kansas City, Kan.; sisters Margaret Fields, Betty Love and Hazel Ford, all of Kansas City, Kan., and Ethel Brown of Gray Court, N.C., Rosetta Chandler of Pueblo, Colo.; and seven grandchildren.

Services will be held at 7 p.m. Friday at Genesis Missionary Baptist Church, 2801 Meadowview Road, and 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, 3996 14th Ave.

The family requests that any donations be sent to Genesis Missionary Baptist Church, 2801 Meadowview Road, Sacramento 95832.

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