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Title: Siblings Move Church In The Spirit

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When Dr. Robert Porter founded Sacramento's Genesis Missionary Baptist Church it was with the knowledge that he would not lead it forever.

Upon his untimely death in 1999, sons Ellington and Tecoy, Sr. were appointed as pastors of the church their highly respected father had led for nine years.

Genesis is now billed as "the church for today's generation." The new outlook, the pastors say, doesn't mean they've lost sight of the founder's original vision.

As stated in the South area church's 21st Century Church Declaration, "We will never change our message, but will adjust our methods to meet the needs of a diverse and changing world."

The declaration also stresses a commitment to addressing and finding solutions for issues such as the Digital Divide, crime and poverty. In order to meet those goals, the church must grow along with the community it seeks to serve.

The church's "Living Vision" is the creation of the Dr. Robert Porter Center.

The new edifice's features will include worship space for approximately 750 people, eight classrooms that will expand Sunday morning Christian education programs, expanded parking, a business wing for church pastors and administrative staff and space for programs such as late night basketball leagues that would give youth an alternative hanging out spot on Fridays and Saturdays.

The facility will allow the church to expand upon existing outreach efforts such as the S.H.A.R.E. food distribution program and the seven-year-old Meadowview Enhancement Center, which provides homework help and computer activities for young people.

Across the country, gospel music is being credited for introducing, or reintroducing, young people to the word of God. Genesis' music ministries are well known and have been fostered by past and present leadership.

The Porters have an extensive background in music. Rev. Tecoy Porter traveled the world with the University of the Pacific's African American Student Union Gospel Choir and holds a bachelor's degree in music from California State University, Sacramento. He co-produced the Genesis Choir's first album "Be Ready: He's Coming Back" in 1995, along with his father and

brother.

At age 5, Rev. Ellington Porter was a featured soloist at the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education Children and Youth Rally. He began playing the piano at the age of 11. Now a published songwriter and voice, piano and organ instructor, Rev. Ellington Porter co-runs Markee-Wes Gospel Productions, a Christian music and entertainment company, along with his brother and sister-in-law Karlette Porter.

Revs. Ellington and Tecoy Porter know Genesis will go on even after they have "gone on" and with the help of dedicated parishioners, they hope to leave a legacy of their own, one worthy of the blessings they have been given.

Genesis Missionary Baptist Church is located at 2801 Meadowview Road. For more information call (916) 4228772.

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