

# THE SACRAMENTO BEE



## **49 years later, trailblazing religious voice in Sacramento retiring**

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Nearly five decades after accepting the title of pastor of Sacramento's St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. Ephraim Williams is retiring. The native of Summit, Mississippi, has since picked up many other titles.

"Son of the South/ Trailblazer/ Strategist/ Social Engineer/ Community Activist/ Bridge Builder/ Teacher/ Counselor/ Preacher/ Pastor/ Shepherd," reads a church news release detailing his career.

As pastor, Williams led one of the largest church congregations in Sacramento, growing the church from 100 members to over 2,400. He also oversaw more than \$19 million of expansion and renovation efforts at the church and surrounding community.

Williams told KCRA 3 he always stressed the need for self-reliance, providing employment resource fairs, homebuyer education classes and financial literacy classes for the community.

"I always say: 'Don't rely on the government unless you truly need it.' Work hard to help yourself. And then, if you are still in need, then seek help," Williams said. Williams has received numerous awards from national organizations, including earning invitations to the White House from both presidents Clinton and Obama. He delivered his final sermon last Sunday.

"My message was, where would be without Jesus?" said Dr. Williams. "I also hope my lasting message is to be kind to one another." Due to current restrictions related to the pandemic, a retirement ceremony honoring Williams this Sunday will be livestreamed on the church's Facebook page.



**DR. EPHRAIM WILLIAMS**  
ST. PAUL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

