Eleven sermons over 15 nights (Sunday and Thursday nights were off) were preached by nine home-grown evangelists at the Porterville church this spring. Titled “The Red Letters,” the original series was first written and preached at the Fresno Central Church this past October.

“We went to support one of our youth that spoke in Fresno. I was impressed and wanted to bring this to Porterville. Justin [Torossian, youth pastor in Fresno] graciously gave us everything,” says Lori Pozo, who organized the outreach. Torossian also helped with training and advice.

Word was spread through 4,000 flyers as youth and others went door-to-door to homes and businesses. Attendance averaged 70 each night with between four to 17 visitors.

The preachers’ ages ranged from 12 to 32. One was a brand new church member. One had to get her grades up to participate. (She did!) Ten youth welcomed the guests. The church members prepared a light supper each evening. “They were very supportive,” Pozo says.

According to Nathan Hernandez, age 12, the experience was “Awesome, amazing.” Marie Ricablance, age 32, says, “I realized that you have to really empty yourself of the world and really focus on every little thing in your life, what you read, watch, say.”

Christian Pozo, age 19, says, “I loved the interaction with the visitors, serving them food and getting to know them. Even though no one came forward during my altar call, there were still those who came afterward wanting baptism.”

Recently baptized Gabino Rodriguez, age 30, says, “I learned more as I studied deep into my subject. It gave me a continuous walk with God.” His parents, who are unchurched, came the night he preached even though they only speak Spanish. At the sermon’s close Rodriguez spoke to them in Spanish. “My speaking to them had an impact. My father has changed. He has become more patient.”

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The speakers for the Red Letters series are introduced to the Porterville congregation by Lori Pozo. They are (l-r) Justin Torossian, Reynando Bibit, Christian Pozo, Daniel Penalosa, Gabino Rodriguez, Krystle Pozo, Marie Ricablance, Ethan Hernandez, and Sapphire Nichols.
Brenda Proetel’s teenage daughters spurned her faith and wanted little to do with her. Until the Turlock Church’s second 40 Days of Prayer, that is.

On New Year’s Eve, 2010, Proetel and 75 fellow church members began a journey through Dennis Smith’s 40 Days: Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming, book. Participants teamed up with a prayer partner, and committed to interceding for five people. Proetel’s daughters topped her prayer list.

Church members began experiencing miraculous answers, but Proetel saw little change in her daughters. Yet she committed to a second 40 days of prayer with her church family, this time reading through 40 Days: Prayer and Devotions to Revive Your Experience with God, Book 2.

Not long into the second 40 days, Proetel’s younger daughter asked to study the Bible. Proetel was ecstatic. A couple of weeks into their studies, her older daughter and boyfriend joined the studies.

“It is thrilling to see how God is restoring our relationship and helping my daughters want to know Him,” says Proetel, a payroll specialist. “I know it’s because of prayer.”

The Turlock church’s two consecutive 40 Days of Prayer led to restored marriages, renewed walks with God, a new enthusiasm for soul-winning, and an intense desire for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among the members.

Members witnessed God-haters on their prayer lists begin to seek Him. Two church members who hadn’t attended in months showed up at church as a result of members’ intercession. One man shared the lessons a church elder had adapted for children with his unchurched niece and nephew. The children so enjoyed the studies they began reminding him to study with them each day.

“People are really excited,” says Pastor Antonio Cano. “More people are sharing current testimonies now than ever before.” Many of the participants gathered nightly during the first 40 days to share the day’s answers to prayer and pray together.

Satan did not take the prayer onslaught lightly. Multiple church members experienced severe attacks. “I thought it would discourage people from praying, but they all told me, ‘The 40 Days of Prayer is the thing that’s taking me through! I’m committed to this and I’m not giving up,’” remembers Cano.

Kathy Mathews and her husband were blind-sided with a very uncomfortable situation during the first week. “The frustration of it was eating us up,” she says, “but the lessons we were learning in 40 Days were so helpful. We were able to talk and pray together about what we were learning and that got us through the incident.”

“This has made me realize how much I need to let go of things so I can be filled with the Holy Spirit,” says Mathews, who teaches third grade at Central Valley Christian Academy. “I am much more at peace. It is such a relief to let the Holy Spirit be in control.” She and her prayer partner continue to pray together regularly for revival in their church family.

“Our people have learned more about the outpouring for the Holy Spirit through the two 40 Days of Prayer,” says Cano. “It’s neat to see the entire church praying for the same thing. We are absolutely seeing the Spirit being poured out. It’s been an incredible journey.”
Full Plates Make You Healthy and Thinner

The Full Plate Diet just may be the answer to losing weight AND keeping it off, especially for those who are desperately wanting to manage their weight.

Successful weight management is based on a simple plan: Eat what you like (you are going to eat it anyway), eat less of it (if you want a cookie, break it in half) and gradually improve your choices (note the word “gradual”).

“All these years I am trying to lose weight. I put it [Full Plate] into practice and eat so many fibers. I've lost 13 lbs!” says Manuao Mauia, pastor of the South San Francisco Samoan Church. He and his church members attended a recent seminar in the Bay Area.

“Full Plate has a large array of plant based whole food choices. High fiber food will fill you up,” explains Steve Horton, vice president of ministries. “And the food looks good and tastes good.”

People want to feel better, look better and think clearer. “People want to know how to manage their weight and rid themselves of the health challenges of excessive weight,” says Horton.

“It’s a winner,” says David Hudgins, Pastor of East Palo Alto and San Francisco Central. “It’s a great way to connect with the community.”

At camp meeting, the Full Plate Diet author and her team will make a presentation on the last Friday, July 22. You can learn about better choices. It’s simple!

Visalia Bilingual Ground Breaking

Groundbreaking for the Visalia Bilingual church on April 23, 2011 fulfills an 18-year dream for the now 120 member English-speaking congregation and approximately 80 member Spanish-speaking group, reports Pastor Justine Aguilar. In 1997 under the leadership of former Pastor Frank Valdez, land was purchased and paid in full by 2003. Now, the plans are approved and surveyors have completed their work for grading. The best news is that skilled tradesmen are beginning to volunteer. An electrician has offered to oversee the electrical work and a plumber has offered to prepare the list of materials to be purchased and to gift his talent for installing the new plumbing. The hope is that volunteers will be available for as much of the construction as possible. Aguilar says the goal for completion is 15-18 months.

Pathfinder Bike-a-thon

More than 300 Pathfinders line up for the start of the April 17th Bike-a-thon in Merced. On the far right is Ramiro Cano, president of the Central California Conference. “My kids were impressed as they passed him,” says Thom Garner, pastor of the Watsonville and Salinas churches, about Cano. One lap was 1.3 miles and riders rode as many laps as possible. Each rider solicits sponsors for fundraising. For those who are interested, President Cano rode three laps and had a great time!

Camp Meeting Prayer Walk at Soquel

Join Ramiro and Maryellen Cano and Joyce and Keith Mulligan.

July 9 – 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. & 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Bring your own lunch. Dress is casual and comfortable.

For more information, call Joyce at (559) 696-3692
What is ministry? In its simplest biblical form, ministry is the act of serving others. The Greek word for ministry is “diakonia,” which means service. If you are serving others, then you are a minister. That said, let me share the following thoughts with you:

One of San Francisco’s most identifiable landmarks is the iconic Golden Gate Bridge. It is a symbol of beauty, strength, daring design, and quality. It took twenty years to plan and four years to construct. When it opened in 1937, it stood as the world’s largest suspension bridge. The 1.7 mile-long stretch of roadway was an engineering masterpiece. There are three design components that can teach us valuable lessons for ministry (diakonia, service).

The first is STRENGTH. The steel railings, massive crossbeams and cement roadways made the bridge’s load heavier than any bridge built to date. To support the immense weight two enormous cables were designed. Each was three-feet in diameter, incorporated 80,000 miles of woven steel wires and was draped from San Francisco to Marin County. Together both steel cables have a tensile strength of 200 million pounds.

Second is FLEXIBILITY. Winds sweep daily through the Golden Gate span with winds of 20-60 mph. And, on occasion, wind-bursts of 100 mph are experienced, causing a mid-span sway of 20 feet. The bridge’s maximum sway span is 27 feet. In addition, the summer’s heat and winter’s cold will expand and contract the golden steel, raising and lowering the bridge by 10 feet.

Third is FOUNDATION. The two-massive towers with its cement platforms—equal to two sixty-five-story buildings—provide the anchors on which everything depends. The south pier, anchored a quarter-mile from shore, sits directly across the San Andreas Fault line. To make the bridge earthquake-proof, the builders blasted and drilled stabilizers 100 feet into the sub-oceanic floor.

These three design components, which make the Golden Gate Bridge so remarkable, are the same components needed in effective ministry (diakonia, service).

1) Effective ministry is established on supernatural STRENGTH: “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.” (Phil. 4:13)
2) Effective ministry is FLEXIBLE: “I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” (I Cor. 9:22)
3) Effective ministry has an immovable FOUNDATION: “… God’s solid foundation stands firm…” (2 Tim. 2:19)

Ellen White wrote in Christ Object Lessons, page 326 (1900) “Christ’s followers have been redeemed for service. Our Lord teaches that the true object of life is ministry. Christ Himself was a worker, and to all His followers He gives the law of service to God and to their fellowmen. Here Christ has presented to the world a higher conception of life than they had ever known. By living to minister for others, man is brought into connection with Christ. The law of service becomes the connecting link which binds us to God and to our fellowmen.”

The ministry, designed by the Chief Architect Himself, is an elaborate structure built for the sole purpose of serving others. It is my prayer that you and I will hear the sweet words of the Master when He will say, “Well done good and faithful servant…”

Camp Meeting Satellite Schedule on the Hope Church Channel

**July 14-23, 2011**

**10 Evening Broadcasts** 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Sabbath Broadcasts** 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

**African American Meeting** 5:15-6:15 p.m.

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