

Iron Rose Sister Ministries Newsletter

Fall 2020

Volume 8, Issue 3



Good News to Share!

- Thank you! You helped make things happen in 2020
- Equipped, encouraged, and inspired—Fabiola de Gómez
- “Beyond Borders” for Giving 2x2 Tuesday, Dec. 1

Inside this issue:

- A Selection of our 2020 Online Conferences **2**
- Leave a Legacy for Women Across the Americas **2**
- A Way to Bless on Giving 2x2 Tuesday **3**
- Calendar Updates **3**
- 2021 IRSM Destination Retreat **3**
- Online Resources **4**
- A Note from Michelle **4**

"Thank you! You helped make things happen in 2020"

2020 was challenging in many ways... But the work at Iron Rose Sister Ministries didn't stop.

A walk down memory lane reminds us of the victories and challenges through which God has walked with us, as a ministry. Here are a few highlights:

- **Impacted/equipped more than 1,500 women** across the Americas, through 16 events (3 In-person, 13 virtual—via Zoom or Google Meet).

**Due to the nature of the events, we may never know how many congregations were impacted.*



- Continued, steady growth of **Cuban followers** of the IRSM blog, used as devotional material in small groups across the island.

- Released a Kindle version of *In God's Right Hand*, in both English and Spanish.
- Increased participation of **volunteer writers** that contribute to IRSM's blog, both in English and Spanish.
- Expanded into a third language, **Portuguese**. Started the translation project into Portuguese of two IRSM books: *Called to Listen* and *Human AND Holy*, with the collaboration of volunteers from Brazil, Namibia and the United States, to serve sisters in Brazil, Angola, and Mozambique.
- Published a **new ePetal study** written by Wendy Neill, *Heaven on the Horizon*, as a free download resource on our website.
- Heard countless **stories of women** who were equipped who are now equipping others to equip others.
- Celebrated our **7th anniversary** as a ministry on July 26th!

To Him be all the glory and honor!

Equipped, encouraged, and inspired—Fabiola de Gómez

Fabiola de Gómez (Faby), a Venezuelan living in Colombia, attended one of our women's conferences on Zoom. The topic was Prayer, highlighting the importance of listening to God as part of our communication with Him.

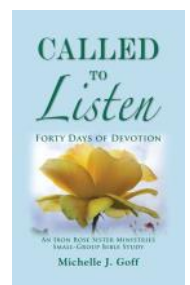
It was also the kickoff of 40 days of listening, guided by the book, *Called to Listen: Forty Days of Devotion*, written by Iron Rose Sister Ministries' Director, Michelle J. Goff.

Faby was so inspired by the event that she gathered a group of women from several area congregations and over the next forty days they

shared daily in a WhatsApp group (like texting) -even multiple times a day- what they were hearing and learning from God through Scripture, meditation, and other forms of listening.

With a vision of equipping women to connect to God and one another more deeply, Iron Rose Sister Ministries loves to see when women like Faby are equipped and inspired to equip others.

*Called to Listen:
Forty Days of Devotion*
6-week study;
40 listening exercises



Fabiola de Gómez (center) surrounded by family



Looking for a gift idea or a new recipe for the holidays?

Visit IronRoseSister.com under "Resources, Online Store"

(All proceeds go toward the work of Iron Rose Sister Ministries)

IRSM Vision:
Equipping women to connect to God and one another more deeply in English, Spanish, and bilingual contexts across the Americas

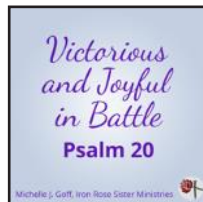
IRSM Board Members:

- Katie Forbess, Pres.
- Julio Cedeño, Elder
- Cynthia Cedeño, Treas.
- Gabriela Hogue
- James Huff
- Mark Vaughn
- Roberto Batres, Advisory

A Selection of our 2020 Online Conferences

When the pandemic hit, we were able to quickly and effectively pivot from in-person Bible studies and retreats to online studies.

A "bright side" of this adjustment was women were able to attend these events from anywhere, instead of coming to an in-person event. We were able to meet women where they were during a time of isolation to encourage them in their faith and to allow connection with other women.



"Victorious and Joyful in Battle" - We released a nine-episode video series in English and in Spanish where each episode covered a verse from Psalm 20. Women were encouraged to watch the videos, then to discuss via Zoom what we learned, and to share our homemade "Victory Banners." Taught by

Michelle J. Goff. (English and Spanish)



"God's Guidance for the Lonely" – We studied David's cry of loneliness to God in the midst of illness and conflict in Psalm 25. Then we related that to our current culture with quarantines and racial conflict concluding God is still our source of comfort. Taught by Wendy Neill. (English)



"Heaven on the Horizon" – Everyone needs hope during difficult times, and Heaven is one of our greatest sources of hope. We went through Revelation 22 and used our "informed imagination" to picture the scene. We were encouraged to look beyond our current circumstances to

the wonderful home He is preparing for us. Women left the study with big "unmasked" smiles. Taught by Wendy Neill. (English)



"Wearing God Glasses" – We studied various people in the Bible and women in history who looked at their trials, at other people, and at themselves through the lenses of God's goodness and eternity. Taught by Wendy Neill (English) and Brenda Brizendine (Spanish).

While easing back into her roles, Michelle taught three Spanish seminars in October and one in November.

You can watch the videos on:



Leave a Legacy for Women Across the Americas

As a result of this global pandemic, many of us have found ourselves pondering some of the bigger questions in life. One of those questions might be **"What kind of legacy will I leave behind when it is my time to go to the Father?"** If you believe in the work God is doing through this ministry to encourage, equip, and empower women to connect to God and one another more deeply in English, Spanish and bilingual contexts, we invite you to consider us in your plans. Here are some possibilities:

- Bequest through your will
- Name Iron Rose Sister Ministries as a beneficiary of all or a portion of...
 - * A life insurance policy
 - * A financial account (bank, CD)
 - * A retirement account



Learn more at IronRoseSister.com under "Be a Part, Leave a Legacy."

A Way to Bless on Giving 2x2 Tuesday, December 1st, “Beyond Borders”

The virus may be spreading beyond all borders, but so is **HOPE!**

Women all over the world are hungry for hope and connection to God and others. Your donation helps this ministry deliver that to them. The pandemic may have cancelled our in-person events but using the internet has allowed us to reach more women beyond more borders.

Your donation this year will also help us encourage, equip, and empower women in Brazil, Angola, and Mozambique as we translate our Bible study resources into Portuguese!

Like many other women in the world, Dina Delfino found herself suddenly without work due to the pandemic, as a translator for the Angolan Embassy. But God had other plans for her. Nathan Holland, a long-time supporter of Iron Rose Sister Ministries and former missionary to Angola, had been talking with Michelle Goff about translating our studies into Portuguese. Nathan was able to provide Dina with work by hiring her to translate *Called to Listen*.

In 2021, we will see *Called to Listen* distributed to Portuguese-speaking women through Nathan and other close contacts we have in Africa and Brazil. **With your Giving Tuesday**

Donation, we can continue translating our other resources for these women. **An anonymous donor will match the first \$1,500 donated for Giving Tuesday!**

P.S. Consider making Giving Tuesday the beginning of a **monthly** financial commitment. For just \$30 a month, you can help fund the translation of another of our Bible studies into Portuguese.



2021 Calendar and Plans

February 2021

Prayer month: *Redefined by Prayer*.
Calendar with daily topics and verses.
Join us during the 24 hour Prayer-a-thon!

November 5-7, 2021

IRSM Bilingual Destination Retreat
(Details below)

IRSM Booths

WWWG Conference: April 16-17, 2021
EQUIP Conference: July 22-25, 2021

We continue to be prayerful about virtual or in-person events, but please contact us if you are interested in partnering with us to equip the women in your area or in a mission point in Latin America that you support.
ironrosesister@gmail.com

amazon.com
Smile

Christmas shopping?
Don't forget to go to smile.amazon.com and select Iron Rose Sister Ministries as your charity of choice.

Mark Your Calendar: 2021 IRSM Destination Retreat, November 5-7th

Attendees of the 2019 Destination Retreat said:

“It was good to have both Spanish and English singing, seemed to bring an atmosphere of unity.”

“The small group time was very edifying. The prayer class was also very beneficial. I was very uplifted by both.”



Total cost: \$140 (2 nights, 5 meals, and more).
Reserve your spot with a \$20 deposit.

Camp cabins available for 50 women. Nearby hotels in Conway, AR.

Invite your Spanish-speaking friends too!

www.IronRoseSister.com



Tax-deductible contributions:

Iron Rose Sister Ministries
(IRSM) P. O. Box 1351

Searcy, AR 72145

For online contributions:

www.IronRoseSister.com

Advisory eldership:

Downtown Church of Christ
Searcy, Arkansas

Contact us:

501-593-4849

ironrosesister@gmail.com

Ways to Contribute



Prayers: Our prayer warriors are our biggest advocates! 2 Cor. 1:11



Financially: Your bank's BillPay, Checks, ACH (monthly withdrawal; forms online), PayPal, AmazonSmile (choose IRSM)



Time and Talents: Contact us about getting involved by spreading the word, starting a small-group Bible study, planning an event, volunteering, and other opportunities.



All financial donations are tax-deductible.

www.IronRoseSister.com



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A Note from Michelle: Refined and Redefined

"In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:6-7).

The trials we face, the hardships we endure, the challenges we overcome in Christ, and the pain that comes along that journey are all a testing of our faith—the refining process of sanctification. When we talk about this on a theological or theoretical level, the refiner's fire (Mal. 3) presents beautiful imagery of **the Refiner sitting by the fire until all the impurities are burned away, and He sees His reflection in the precious metal.**

However, in the practical sense of the application of that process, there is a lot of pain involved. It is not an overnight process. And our

perseverance is tested time and again.

The year 2020 has presented a myriad of trials and refining fires: a global pandemic, illness, loss, financial difficulties, and more. **God knows each of our unique circumstances, sees us, and has not left us alone to endure such suffering.**

After the refining process, we come out redefined and ready for a greater purpose—one that results in praise, glory, and honor to God. Therefore, for 2021, as a ministry, we will focus on what it means to be **Redefined**. Our vision remains the same, but we may be redefining some of the roles and other facets of how God fulfills that mission through us.

Thank you for your prayers for me, personally, and for the ministry. You have made it possible for many redefined aspects of the ministry to continue this past year (e.g. from In-person to virtual conferences).

As a shirt made for me by Katie, our

Board President says, **"God's Got This!"** (The rest of the shirt includes the titles of each of the books written thus far.)

Blessings and thanks to each of you!
M.

