

Iron Rose Sister Ministries Newsletter

Spring 2022

Volume 10, Issue 1



Good News to Share!

- 2022 Theme
- Save the date: IRSM Destination Retreat (Nov. 4-6)
- Next steps for Portuguese resources

Inside this issue:

Workshop-style Events	2
Teaching to Teach	2
Going Bilingual and Consultation Services	2
IRSM at "BLOOM"	3
Calendar Updates	3
Brazil Update	3
A note from Director, Michelle J. Goff	4

Our Story in God: HIStories and DIOSorias

Stories are powerful, impactful, and even transformative. The best stories are the ones God authors—whether Bible stories or our own stories.



Our 2022 theme is "Our Story in God." We are equipping women to take a fresh look at the characters of the Bible, and we are empowering them to tell their own stories, with God as the main character.

One outlet for storytelling is through our **blog**, which is being shared in English and Spanish on Tuesdays and Thursdays, AND twice a month in Portuguese!

We invite you to read—and also to write a Bible story on Tuesday and/or your own

HIStory on Thursday. We refer to them as **HIStories** because they are a part of God's big picture story, seen from Genesis to today in our own lives.

This topic has facilitated opportunities for mentoring and guidance through the writing and editing.

Additionally, when women are **equipped** to dig deeper into the Word, they are **encouraged** by the big picture story of the Bible, as well as **empowered** to recognize God's living and active hand at work today.



Find the HIStories of these ladies at IronRoseSister.com, under "Blog."

Bilingual Destination Retreat: Celebrating God's Story

Postponed by COVID in 2021, the 2022 Destination Retreat will now take place **November 4-6** at Camp Areopagus, near Conway, Arkansas.

We will be **Celebrating God's Story**, connecting our stories to God's and to one another's... the in-person facets of our 2022 theme. Sunday will culminate in the ultimate celebration of God's story through the sacrifice of Christ and the weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Bilingual worship, challenging Bible-centered keynote lessons, breakout classes, small group discussions, and opportunities for lifelong friendships from various congregations all characterize this biannual event.



"Since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect"
Hebrews 11:40

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

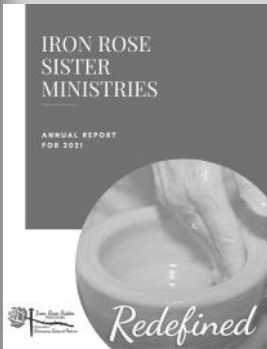
Location: Camp Areopagus (same as 2019 Destination Retreat)

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

Unable to join us in person? Video and audio recordings will be made available after.

Invite your Spanish-speaking friends too!

Register at IronRoseSister.com, under "Be a Part," "Destination Retreat."



2021 Annual Report summarizes the God stories and accomplishments (available at IronRoseSister.com under "About IRSM," "News and Past Events")

IRSM Vision:

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



Join us in welcoming Juana Hall, our new Financial Assistant!

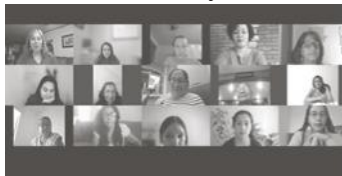
Workshop-style events characterize teaching style in 2022

"Zoom" is a household term that has taken on many forms:

Verb: I'm going to Zoom with my Iron Rose Sisters.

Noun: I thank God for Zoom and the way it has helped us stay connected during the pandemic.

Adjective: The Zoom sessions with Iron Rose Sister Ministries are on the first Saturday of the month this year.



How to Facilitate Small Groups Workshop in Spanish—March 5

As popular as this virtual connection tool has become, it cannot replace the blessing of in-person interactions, so how can we use the best of both worlds?

At the start of the pandemic, virtual events followed a teacher/student format that did not facilitate interaction.

Creative ways to invite greater participation within and amongst the attendees became a priority.

Whether through our own events or in partnership with other equipping ministries, we teach part of the session, then the women break into small groups to discuss.

Each portion of the overall theme is accompanied by a small group discussion time (using a pre-prepared handout with questions).

Our own speakers are using a similar workshop style and are inviting other Iron Rose Sisters to participate by sharing part of their own stories during the classes or their thoughts about a Bible verse after reading it aloud.

We are striving to bring the dynamics of small group Bible study to larger virtual gatherings—meeting the need to equip and encourage, no matter the format!

Teaching to Teach, Liliana's story

For more than a year, Michelle and Liliana worked together on the Spanish version of *One Single Reason*. Beyond the research, editing, and other related tasks, their work included a pilot study of the material, a virtual small group gathering on the topic.

Also during that time,

Michelle was mentoring and equipping Liliana in other areas of ministry.

Liliana continues to be one of our key volunteers in Spanish, no matter the need.

In March, she served as the presenter for our virtual workshop, "How to Facilitate Small Groups."

We love to see the growth God provides when we are teaching to teach to teach!



Liliana and Michelle

"Going Bilingual" and other Consultation Services

Iron Rose Sister Ministries has always been passionate about modeling bilingual worship and fellowship, as well as equipping and empowering women to connect despite language barriers. IRSM served as a bilingual consultant for the **Women of Hope Conference -WHO-** in Nashville, TN (March 25-26) and the **Be1 Experience** in Arlington, TX (April 1-2). Both events were bilingual (Eng./Span.)

for the first time this year!

IRSM worked with the organizers to guide them in how to best transition from an English event to a bilingual event.

Are you interested in hosting a bilingual event or starting a bilingual ministry but don't know where to start? We now offer consulting in bilingual, women's, and singles' ministries and

events. Contact us if you'd like more information info@ironrosesister.com



Sisters interpreting the WOH Conference into Spanish

Iron Rose Sisters “Bloom” at event hosted by Harding University



Jocelynn Goff shares HIStories from her life (left).

The annual Bloom Conference for women was held at Harding Univ. February 18-19. The theme was “Unveiled” (2 Cor. 3:18).

Iron Rose Sister Ministries played a major role in encouraging these women from various states and congregations. We presented four breakout sessions, equipping women to find creative ways to tell their story or to tell a Bible story. Each of these sessions can be viewed on our

Iron Rose Sister Ministries Facebook page by clicking the “videos” tab:

- “Created to Create” with Teresa Castleman
- “Creatively Crafting Bible Stories” with Michelle J. Goff, Chrystal Goff, and Wendy Neill (demonstrating the use of video and drama)
- “Finding Peace in the Pieces” with Nancy Tackett (demonstrating the use of crafts)
- “Creatively Narrating Your Own Story” with Katie Forbess, Jocelynn Goff, and Emma Myhan (demonstrating the use of art and storytelling)

Michelle was featured as a keynote speaker on Saturday morning. Romans 1:16-17 was the primary text, inviting

us to live “Unashamedly Unveiled” through the power of the gospel. She discussed the use of veils in different cultures, and also talked about single and single-again women who unashamedly share their stories in our latest book, *One Single Reason*.

Michelle’s “Unashamedly Unveiled” keynote can be viewed from the “BLOOM” Facebook group, under “Media, Videos.” It is the second video.



Breakout Class attendees

2022 Calendar and Plans

IRSM Virtual Events:

First Saturday of the month

In English:

Apr, June, Aug, Oct.

In Spanish:

Mar, May, July, Sept.

Bilingual:

Jan & Feb — Nov & Dec.

Other Virtual Events:

May 28—Ladies Class in Spanish at IdC Cabudare, Venezuela

In Person Events

Mar. 25-26—Women of Hope Conf.—Healing Hands Int’l, Nashville, TN

April 1-2—Be1 Experience at Woodland West CoC, Arlington, TX

May 20-21—Ladies Day at West University CoC, Houston, TX

June 23-25—(Tentative) Mid-TN Singles Retreat in Pensacola, FL

Sept 23-24—Singing Oaks CoC Ladies Retreat, Denton, TX

Sept 25-28—Harding Univ. Lectureship, Searcy, AR

Nov. 4-6—Bilingual Destination Retreat (Details on pg. 1)

Interested in partnering with us to equip the women in your area or in a mission point in Latin America that you support? Contact us: info@ronrosesister.com

“We (the Montellano ladies’ group in Guatemala) are really enjoying the Llamada a Escuchar study.”

Thanks for what you do!”

~Health Talents International

Brazil Update and “Welcome, Sabrina!”



In an effort to be able to print and distribute Iron Rose Sister Ministries Bible study books in Portuguese we have started conversations with a Brazilian publishing house! We ask prayers for wisdom for the next steps in which God is guiding this ministry. We plan to

send our Director, **Michelle J. Goff**, and our Brazil Coordinator, **Sabrina Campos** (pictured right), for two weeks of classes and promotion of the available resources (prayerfully in August/early September).

We are also excited to announce that we started sharing Portuguese blog posts in March! Thanks to our new Brazilian volunteers, we now have more HIStories to share, and now in a third language! Go to our new IrmaRosadeFerro.com website to read

their blog posts in Portuguese every first and third Tuesday of the month or visit IronRoseSister.com or HermanaRosadeFerro.com to read their translated posts.

If you or anyone you know is interested in our Portuguese ministry, please don’t hesitate to contact us via email at info@irmarosadeferro.com, or visit our new website.





Tax-deductible contributions:

Iron Rose Sister Ministries
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

Let's Give Thanks Together

Please pray with us for these blessings:

- Thankful for everything celebrated in this newsletter
- Thankful for Michelle's improving health, especially as we are starting to have more in-person events; prayers for traveling grace
- Thankful for the IRSM Team and for the hope of a new team member
- Thankful for the continued wisdom of the Board of Directors
- Thankful for encouragement for the planning of and participation in the Destination Retreat

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.—2 Thes. 3:1

IronRoseSister.com



Like our page:
Iron Rose Sister Ministries



Follow us:
[@IronRoseSister](https://www.instagram.com/IronRoseSister)

A Note from Michelle: Slow Healing and God's Hand through HIStory in my Life

I started the new year with COVID. Having successfully dodged that virus bullet for nearly two years, it caught up with me. Thankfully, I had a relatively mild case.

Then, on January 31st, I had surgery to help alleviate some of my back and neck pain, as well as to resolve some other matters—all a long-term investment in my health.

As a ministry, we prepped and planned for my 2-3 week departure from the day-to-day responsibilities in order to focus on my recovery. However, just as we were turning a healing corner, I suffered

an excruciatingly painful setback. Tears flowed involuntarily as family helped me dress. Short-lived steps of independence were revoked, forcing my sister to inhabit the mattress on my bedroom floor, only three days after it had moved out from mom's initial two weeks there.

Those who know me even slightly are aware of my fierce independence and my extensive experience with pain and chronic medical issues ... **This time, my total dependence on God for strength and on friends and family for help was unprecedented.**

The marvelous thing on the flip side of this coin is that **God had already seen and known what would happen.** He was not surprised by my pain, the addl. time of healing required, my needs, nor Iron Rose Sister Ministries' needs. **He already had a plan—one He had put in place months and years before.**

All year, our Board President and IRSM Team have stepped in immediately and tirelessly to cover any bases—even when it was the night before a class and I was "just unable to teach."

After the most recent setback, the Board of Directors stepped in and insisted that I maintain a slower pace, especially for travel, exercising extra caution to avoid consecutive events. Not coincidentally, this provides opportunities for other teachers and representatives!

Most of you have had no idea about the way 2022 has gone for me personally... Even still, I have felt your prayers lifting me up. As you have lifted up the ministry, this is part of how your prayers have been answered! **God is good. God provides. God heals. And God uses all things for our good.**

Love, M.



Michelle, her sister Chrystal, and friend Débora