

Iron Rose Sister Ministries Newsletter

Summer 2022

Volume 10, Issue 2



Good News to Share!

- IRSM 10th Year Tour!
- Brazil Soft-Launch in South Florida, Sept. 9-10
- Workshops on “How to Prepare a Bible Class”

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10th Year Tour as IRSM Celebrates our next Birthday



July 26th was our 9th Birthday!!! Each year, we celebrate by reflecting on all God has done, thanking Him for your prayerful support, and asking Him to continue guiding us to answer His call to equip women to connect to Him and one another more deeply.

During this 10th Year as a ministry, we are looking forward to a 10th Birthday Celebration that will properly commemorate our first decade of service, all to God’s glory.

Will you celebrate with us?

Since we can’t all gather on the actual date, we will be conducting a 10th Year Tour over 10 months: Sept. 26, 2022–July 26, 2023.

Visit our website to see if we already have a **Birthday Dinner** planned in your area. Or contact us for how to plan one yourself!

Each month, a new “**passport page**” will be released virtually, highlighting stories from our journey up to this point.

We have a **Birthday Wish List**, also on our website, that expounds upon the ways you can **partner with us for the long-term sustainability of Iron Rose Sister Ministries** for decades to come. Can you imagine the thousands more women to be equipped, encouraged, and empowered?

Join us in the four primary goals of our 10th Year Tour!

- **Celebrate** all God has done!
- **Thank** our partners—individuals and churches—that’s YOU!
- **Inform** others about who we are and what we do and invite them to join.
- **Fundraise** for the long-term sustainability of Iron Rose Sister Ministries.

Brazil Soft-Launch Event in South Florida—Sept. 9-10

Trust in the Lord with all your heart [...]; in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6.

When planning for the Portuguese ministry of IRSM, we lean on God and trust Him with our hearts, hopes, and plans... and He makes the paths straight.

We have learned, through COVID and airplane prices, to not despair but to wait.

In our waiting, an idea sprung in our hearts. What about an event in South Florida?

Tatiane Borba and Patricia Lira, alongside their respective families, have been serving the

Church in that area and they were just as excited as we were with the opportunity to do this event with **The Springs Church of Christ in Coral Springs**.

The event, titled **Women Connected in Christ**, serves a double purpose: to launch **Ministério Irmã Rosa de Ferro** (Iron Rose Sister Ministries in Portuguese) and to encourage the growing group of Brazilian women in South Florida!

This event will occur on **September 9th and 10th**. Pre-registration and more information are available on our websites.

This is a hybrid event (virtual

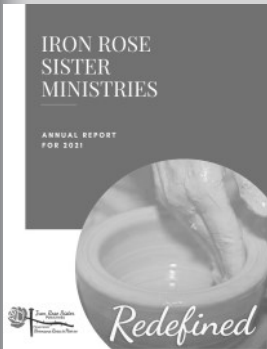
and in-person), and a bilingual event (Portuguese and English).

If you or someone you know is interested in this event, contact us via our website immarosadeferro.com or via email at info@immarosadeferro.com

Women Connected in Christ
The Springs Church of Christ, Coral Springs, FL.
A bilingual event: Portuguese and English
"In-person and via Zoom"
(Small Groups also in Spanish!)

852 1986 3308
Friday, September 9th at 6:30pm
& Saturday, September 10th
from 8:30am to 2:00pm

Michelle J. Goff
IronRoseSister.com



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, Portuguese, and bilingual contexts across the Americas



Join us in welcoming Kathy Thompson, our new Office Assistant!

"Unashamedly Unveiled" in Houston, TX

Nearly 60 women from 5-6 congregations gathered during a Friday night and Saturday all-day conference hosted by the West University Church of Christ in Houston, TX in May to learn about what it means to be "Unashamedly Unveiled" through the power of the gospel (Rom. 1:16-17; 2 Cor.

ch. 3-4). Together we explored the history of veils in Eastern culture, the veil that was torn at Jesus' death, and how the gospel grants us the power and confidence to live unashamedly unveiled in righteousness!

Michelle J. Goff and Amanda Nitsch taught lessons, women discussed the topics

more in-depth through the time in Small Groups and also during Quiet Time with God.

Newest Team Member, Kathy Thompson, drove down with Michelle from Searcy, AR. She loved getting to meet the sisters from other places, and delighted in learning first-hand some of the ways she can help serve women across the Americas through her role as Office Assistant. The lessons from the event can be viewed on West University Church of Christ's Facebook page.



If you are interested in hosting an in-person conference, we would love to plan one with you!

Destination Retreat—Celebrating God's Story—Nov. 4-6

What is your favorite Bible story? How do you see your own story interwoven into the tapestry of God's big picture story over time? What celebration traditions do you, your family, or your local culture have?

These and many other questions will be answered and shared during our fourth biannual Destination

Retreat, in Conway, AR, at Camp Areopagus, Nov 4-6.

Gather a group of women from your area and take a road trip to be equipped and encouraged, all while celebrating God's story, thus deepening our connections with Him and with one another—in English AND in Spanish!

Registration information and details can be found on our website.



Spirit-led and God-promised Peace shared through Virtual Event

The global pandemic has affected some countries more intensely than others, whether a taxed health system, economic impact, or other tragedies that hit closer to home.

In a tumultuous world, there are many things that attempt to steal our peace.



Gideon (Judges 6-8) faced internal and external conflict, yet ultimately found peace and victory through God's strength.

Paul, in his letters and through his story in the book of Acts, described and reflected a peace that surpassed all understanding in the midst of major trials in his life.

At the end of May, Michelle shared these

truth-filled promises with a group of Venezuelan women at a virtual event.

As a former missionary to that country, Michelle is burdened by the effects of the less-than-peaceful circumstances that surround her people.

However, the peace that surpasses all understanding is one that unites us and blesses us in spite of any situation we face.

“How to Prepare a Bible Class” Workshops

Jesus established a plan of multiplication and equipping, beginning with His followers. **Amongst His most faithful disciples were women who learned at His feet** (e.g. Mary and Martha, Luke 10:38-42).

While *Iron Rose Sister Ministries* does not serve as a theological seminary, we ARE all about women equipping women to teach women who teach women... (2 Tim. 2:2).

Our virtual workshops in 2022 have been instructional and practical in the “How to” of various women’s ministry areas. **Equipping women to use the resources we have available has been an empowering blessing for dozens of women.**

For the July 9th workshop in Spanish and the tandem English workshop on August 6th, we offered an additional activity for five women, in each language. They were invited to prepare a class and then receive affirmations and constructive criticism in areas for growth.

For women, this kind of training and feedback are not as readily available from Christian women who have experience teaching, especially in many of the congregations across Latin America

and within smaller congregations around the U.S.

We continue to seek God’s guidance and listen to the greatest needs among women’s ministries, in order to equip, encourage, and empower in those specific areas for future resources and services. Thank you for your prayers to this end!

Michelle J. Goff (left) and Débora Rodrigo (right) facilitating the How to Prepare a Bible Class Virtual Workshop in Spanish July 9th



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, Dec.

Other Virtual Events:

Aug 20—Follow-up event from “How to Prepare a Bible Class”

In Person Events

Sept 9-10—Brazil Soft-Launch at The Springs CoC, Coral Springs, FL

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

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

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

10th Year Tour Stops

Sept 6—Huntsville, AL

Sept 7—Holly Hill CoC, Daytona Beach, FL

Sept 11—South Florida Birthday Dinner

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@ironrosesister.com

“I am so impressed with what God is doing through your work and with the efficiency of your organization.”

Sandy Harvey
Westbury CoC Ladies’ group teacher/leader and attendee of the WestU CoC Ladies Conference in Houston

Host a Birthday Party!

As you read on the front page, we are entering our 10th year as a ministry, and we plan to have a ten-month-long party! We wish we could travel to all the locations where we have supporters, but that would take years, not months.

Do you have the gift of hospitality? If we are not coming to your area, **would you be willing to host an Iron Rose Sister Ministries birthday party?** Invite women to your home or church, decorate with roses, fix some yummy Latin American food, and share the great news about what God continues to do through this ministry.

We will have a “Party Planner Packet” for you with handouts, videos, “passport pages,” games, recipes, and our birthday wish list to share with your guests.

Even if you can’t make a big donation, you can play an important role in the long-term sustainability of this ministry, just by throwing a party! Contact Wendy Neill, our Advancement Coordinator, at wendy@ironrosesister.com if you are interested.





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

IronRoseSister.com

**Register to Receive the Blog,
and Write to Share your HIStory!**

(IronRoseSister.com/blog)

Iron Rose Sister Ministries, in the year 2022, is *sharing stories*—stories from the Bible and stories from our own lives. We invite others into their own God story. We are being equipped to recognize our story as a part of God's bigger story, "*Our Story in God.*"

- * Blog posts **Tuesdays/Thursdays**
- * **Tuesday** posts are the story of a *Bible character*—seeing their story through the lens of one facet of their life and journey with God
- * **Thursday** posts are to hear from an *Iron Rose Sister*, seeing her personal story through that same lens used on a Bible character that same week
- * Spots are available for *September, October, November, and December*. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at brenda@ironrosesister.com



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Iron Rose Sister Ministries

A Note from Michelle: Time flies when God guides

I remember the sleepless nights and countless prayers in taking the initial leap of faith. Supportive family and friends, faithful prayer warriors, and tireless cheerleaders characterized the launch of Iron Rose Sister Ministries, a bilingual women's ministry resource.

We have not wavered in the vision of equipping women to connect to God and one another more deeply across the Americas. God made that very clear to me, from the beginning, and the first group of Board Members shared my passion for making that vision a reality.

While serving in other church ministry capacities over the years, **I saw the need and hunger for women to be encouraged and empowered in their own spiritual walks.** And none of us can walk that narrow road alone—God never designed for us to, either.

My health may be described as a thorn in the flesh that has hindered certain facets of growth, but as illustrated in IRSM's

Common Threads and in 2 Cor. 12-7-10, that thorn has allowed for other areas to bloom, giving God the glory. It has also provided constant opportunity to model Iron Rose Sisters serving as iron sharpening iron in my life and through my role within IRSM.

Remembering is an exercise practiced weekly by the Jews, in order to recall God's faithfulness before moving



Michelle J. Goff and Katie Forbess, Board President, at first bilingual event, Nov. 2013

forward (a Sabbath rhythm of rest).

To pause at the beginning of our 10th year as an officially registered nonprofit is to **humbly celebrate God's faithfulness in the fulfillment of His vision.** He has used us in all 19 Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America, more than half of the U.S. states, Brazil, and even two Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa!

Who does that in such a short amount of time?! God does. And **we cannot wait to see what He does and where He leads over the next 10, 20, and even 100 years!** Yes, beyond my lifetime, I pray that God will multiply His vision and efforts for women equipping women to connect to Him and to one another more deeply.

THANK YOU for your support! And time certainly flies when you're having fun!
In Him, *M.*