

# Iron Rose Sister Ministries Newsletter

Spring 2023

Volume 11, Issue 1



## Good News to Share!

- God's provision and answers to prayers through team members, open doors, and in-person events
- Portuguese language resources growing in reach and impact
- New Board members

## Inside this issue:

Angola Opportunity	2
<i>One Single Reason</i> Audiobook	2
Three New Board Members	2
Ladies' Retreat in AR	3
2023 Calendar	3
10th Year Birthday Parties	3
IRSM Team Members	4
A note from Director, Michelle J. Goff	4

## 30+ Congregations in Houston, Sisters Connected in Christ



"We need more of this!" "I didn't think I had the gifts to facilitate a small group, but I stepped up and really enjoyed it!" **"This is what it is all about!"** "I didn't know God could use me to lead other women in bilingual worship!"

Friday night and Saturday, March 3-4, around 200 women of all ages and walks of life gathered at the **Memorial Church of Christ** for a time in worship, lessons from Michelle J. Goff, small groups, fellowship, and food. They truly were "Sisters Connected in Christ," which was a testimony to several non-Christian women who also attended.

Special thanks to **Memorial Christian Counseling Center** and others from **West U** and **Memorial** churches of Christ on the organizing committee.

**John 15** and **1 Corinthians 12** served as the primary texts for women being more equipped in their relationships with God and with one another.

Take a moment to imagine the **ripple effects** of these encouraged women returning to their families, friends, and home congregations having been filled by their time in the Word with Christian sisters!

## God Provides a Creative Director and Brazil Coordinator!

Two new team members! "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think..." (Eph. 3:20a)

These words continue to ring true for **Iron Rose Sister Ministries**. God has



Bailey Vesperman in College Station, TX

continued to grow our team "far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think"—we can do nothing but praise Him! In March, we added two new team members, **Bailey Vesperman** (pictured to the left), **our new Creative Director**, and **Beliza Da Silva** (pictured to the right), **our new Brazil Coordinator**. After months of searching to fill these positions, we decided to take the month of February, our prayer month, to cast these requests to the feet of the Father.

When we turned our full attention to Him, He provided in greater ways than we imagined! We are overjoyed to have these two gifted

women join our team and partner with us in equipping, encouraging, and empowering women in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and bilingual contexts across the Americas. You can find out more about them at [IronRoseSister.com/about-irsm/team](http://IronRoseSister.com/about-irsm/team).



Beliza Da Silva in João Pessoa, Brazil



Michelle J. Goff and Wendy Neill teach in Bentonville, AR

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

**IRSM Board Members:**

*Current:*

- Katie Forbess, President
- Bill Richardson, Elder
- Tabitha Barnes
- Kat Bittner
- Laurie Diles
- Rossana Hernandez
- Fernando Sandoval
- Mark Vaughn

*Advisory:*

- Cynthia Cedeño, Treas.
- Julio Cedeño, Elder
- James Huff

**Portuguese Expansion Opens Doors in Angola, Central Africa**

As a ministry, we always knew that Portuguese would be our third language (with an emphasis across the Americas). What we didn't know was that Africa would be our third continent!

**Angola and Mozambique are two African countries that list Portuguese as their official language.** We have shared stories like how Marlene prayed to God to teach her to listen, and our book, *Chamada a Escutar (Called to Listen)* arrived at her door in her own language! Thanks again to **Jordan Yarbrough** who prayed for God to lead her to someone who needed that book and followed the Lord's guidance!

Iron Rose Sister Ministries has been offered a special opportunity to partner with the Churches of Christ in Angola, LAMP International (Luso-Africa Mission Partners), and Global Share Missions.

The Gathering will take place in **Luanda, Angola, June 1-5**. IRSM will equip women who attend through a **series of 12 classes**. Other resources will be provided and more copies of *Chamada a Escutar* will be distributed.

Our new Brazil Coordinator, **Beliza Da Silva**, will travel from Brazil to teach and will partner with **Jordan** who is living and serving as a mis-



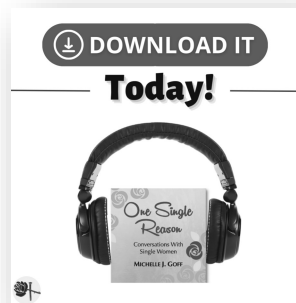
sionary in Angola. Join us in thanking God for this unique opened door and for His provision to answer this call.

**One Single Reason, Our 1st Audiobook, is Released**

The opportunity to facilitate a conversation is one of the primary goals of *One Single Reason: Conversations with Single Women*.

Read by the author, **Michelle J. Goff**, *One Single Reason* is now available on your favorite platform: Audible, Spotify, iTunes, Chirp, Nook, Google Play, and oth-

ers! (All links are available on our website.)



**Download your copy today!** And thanks for rejoicing with us over the growing reach of this tremendous resource!

FYI: Many preachers and church leaders have been blessed and equipped by joining the conversation.

Paperback and eBook are still available for sale.

**Three New Board Members**



**Tabitha Barnes** lives in Houston, TX, and is a high school English teacher. She grew up as a missionary kid, speaks Spanish fluently and is growing in her Portuguese language skills.



**Laurie Diles** is fluent in Portuguese, and is the daughter of missionaries to Brazil, Howard and Jane Norton. She is the Chair for the Communications Dept. at Harding Univ.



**Fernando "Butch" Sandoval** was a missionary in South America for nearly 30 years before returning to the U.S. with his wife, Trish. They currently live in Troy, OH.

## Standing at the Crossroads, Jer. 6:16-17, Retreat in Bentonville, Arkansas

Michelle J. Goff and Wendy Neill were thrilled to be the speakers at the Bentonville Church of Christ Ladies' Retreat, January 13th and 14th. The theme was "Standing at the Crossroads." Michelle taught about "Seeking the Ancient Paths" and following "In His Steps." Wendy's lessons were about "Listening to the Good Shepherd" and keeping our

eyes on "The Final Destination." There were 135 women in attendance! It was a great time for the women of that congregation to reconnect and for 24 new members and guests to meet other Christian women. Five women from a nearby drug recovery program came and were able to find new community in Christ.



**Women grow in their relationship with God and one another through small groups**



**135 women participated in the Bentonville CoC Ladies' Retreat, AR**

If you are interested in having us speak at your next ladies' day or retreat, you can learn more at [ironrosesister.com/resources/seminars](http://ironrosesister.com/resources/seminars), and then email us at [info@ironrosesister.com](mailto:info@ironrosesister.com).

## 2023 Calendar and Plans

### Virtual Events:

"Teaching and Learning through Relationships"

May 20—Spanish

July 15—English (doubles as follow-up event for Women Walking With God, WWWG)

Oct 7—Portuguese (amongst others)

Gathering, Luanda, Angola

June 9-10—Eng/Span Ladies Conference, Longmont, CO

August—Brazil trip (Beliza and Michelle)

Sept. 24-27—(Booth & Class) Harding Lectureship, Searcy, AR

Oct. 13-15—Ladies' Conference, Rochester, MN

### 10th Year Tour Stops

June—Colorado

*"I was so nervous to lead a prayer in front of people. God gave me strength and now I want to help lead singing next year!"*

Marisol from Bilingual Houston Conference 2023

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](mailto:info@ironrosesister.com) or visit our website for more information [IronRoseSister.com/resources/seminars](http://IronRoseSister.com/resources/seminars)

### In-Person Events

Apr 14-15—Michelle J. Goff, speaker, WWWG, Wichita, KS

June 1-5—Luso-Africa Global

## 10th Year Tour Birthday Parties in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas



A favorite and most-anticipated part of the Birthday Parties is the time in which God stories are shared from all God has done in our 1st decade!

Looking forward to future decades, God has called us into a long-term sustainability model, which is part of why you are witnessing exponential growth through God's provision.

We ask for your continued prayers as we celebrate, inform, thank, and fundraise. We were able to reach our end-of-year goal and would love to share more specifically about our next steps and financial

goals in order to get there.

**Thank you to those who have hosted a party!!!** Since January, we have sung Happy Birthday in NW Arkansas (Southside CoC), Houston, TX (Northwest CoC), Lake Charles, LA (Enterprise Blvd CoC), Baton Rouge, LA (Conference Center with Cornerstone, Goodwood, and South Baton Rouge churches of Christ), and Searcy, AR (College CoC).

Contact us to host a Birthday Party in your area! [IronRoseSister.com/10](http://IronRoseSister.com/10)



**Tax-deductible contributions:**

Iron Rose Sister Ministries

P. O. Box 1351

Searcy, AR 72145

For online contributions:

IronRoseSister.com

**Advisory eldership:**

Downtown Church of Christ

Searcy, Arkansas

**Contact us:**

501-593-4849

info@ironrosesister.com

*IronRoseSister.com*

## **IRSM Team, across the Americas**

Michelle J. Goff—*Executive Director*

Alex Marins—*Portuguese Translator*

Amanda Nitsch—*Operations Manager*

Bailey Vesperaman—*Creative Director*

Beliza Da Silva—*Brazil Coordinator*

Brenda Brizendine—*Volunteer Coord./Spanish Comm. Asst.*

Brenda Davis—*English Editor*

Elina Vath—*Virtual Assistant*

Francia Oviedo—*Creative Assistant*

Juana Hall—*Financial Assistant*

Judy Larsen—*Office Assistant*

Wendy Neill—*Advancement Coordinator*



Like our page:

Iron Rose Sister Ministries



Follow us:

@IronRoseSister

@IrmaRosadeFerro



**YouTube**

Subscribe to our channel:

Iron Rose Sister Ministries

## **A Note from Michelle: Trilingual Prayer Gathering and 10th Annual Prayer Month**



### **Prayer and Communication in Relationships**

**La oración y comunicación en las relaciones**

**Oração e comunicação nos relacionamentos**

Iron Rose Sister Ministries  
Ministerio Hermana Rosa de Hierro  
Ministério Irmã Rosa de Ferro



### **“It’s definitely Prayer Month!”**

For the past 10 years, every February, I have repeated that phrase. Some years more than others, **my expression is an affirmation of the spiritual battle that intensifies, coupled by the overwhelming, yet humbling demonstrations of God’s faithfulness.**

Prayer Month started a little early this year as late January greeted us with personal trials amongst the team.

My grandmother was critically ill in the

hospital, next door to another team member’s father. Another team member’s house flooded and frankly, I don’t want to remember the ways in which our prayer list expanded weekly on behalf of many who were struggling.

However, the first weekend in February, during **our first Trilingual Prayer Event, our “light and momentary troubles” paled in comparison to the glory that God received** through His daughters. We prayed, worshipped, and read Scripture in three languages!!! Women from more than a dozen countries across four continents met virtually! What. A. Blessing.

Any time a Team member felt her faith waver or discouragement creep in, we

would remind one another, “It’s definitely Prayer Month.” **It helped refocus our vision and trust God’s faithfulness in the trials.**

And, oh my friends, He. Is. Faithful. In His timing and in His ways... just look at the countless answered prayers in this newsletter! Before February came to a close, after finally ceasing my own efforts to identify a Brazil Coordinator, God led us to Beliza. And did you notice that repeated prayers for a Creative Director were answered the same week?! **All in God’s perfect timing and way, even serving as an in-person illustration during the bilingual event in Houston!**

Special thanks to every single one of you who pray for us and with us. **Every year when we gather as one voice to petition and thank God in specific ways, we proclaim, “It’s definitely Prayer Month!”**

Love, *Michelle*