

Iron Rose Sister Ministries Newsletter

Fall 2024

Volume 12, Issue 3



Good News to Share!

- *Agora vai!* Iron Rose Sister Ministries is achieving goals in Brazil!
- Building Momentum for 2025, End-of-Year Fundraiser

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Iron Rose Sister Ministries is Achieving Goals in Brazil!

Written by Beliza Kočev

Portuguese has an expression, *Agora vai!* which literally translates as “Now it goes!” We use it when we are finally able to make something work after several attempts. The expression does not indicate a completion of an activity, but rather it emphasizes that a method of achieving a certain goal has been discovered!

Iron Rose Sister Ministries is achieving goals in Brazil! We are participating in women's events and receiving invitations to provide lectures and workshops! We are getting to present the ministry to women from so many different places. We are planning to visit all five regions of Brazil. Every year, we plan to release books in Portuguese. We are



in the final stages of registering as a religious organization in Brazil with our own Board of Directors. Many sisters have sent positive feedback, impacted by the resources we have made available.

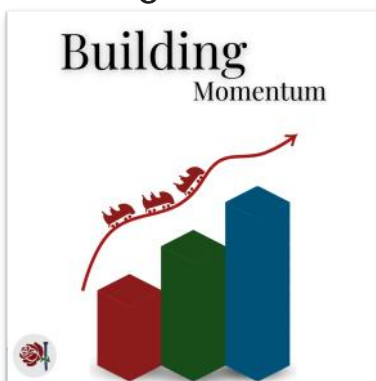
As I think about the goals that have been achieved in Brazil, as well as the ones we plan to achieve by God's

Michelle and Beliza teaching at the XXXII Northeast Women's Conference in Belo Jardim, Pernambuco, Brazil August 2024

grace, I think to myself: *Agora vai!*

“...to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Eph 3:21

Building Momentum for 2025



Written by Wendy Neill

God has given us a vision for 2025, and we are building momentum for an incredible “ride!” Join us on the adventure, following God to equip more women in Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, the United States, and all across the Americas.

To meet the growing demand, our board anticipates

a 36% growth in expenses. **Will you make an end-of-year or Giving Tuesday donation to help us build momentum?**

Some of you participated in our “25% for 2025” fundraising campaign and we want to say, **“thank you!”**

By the end of the campaign on Oct. 31, we had 11% more monthly donors, short of our goal of 25%. We had a few existing monthly donors increase their amount by 25%.

We still have more of the hill to climb. Here's how you can help:

1. Become a NEW monthly donor.
2. Raise your current monthly donation.

3. Make an end-of-year or Giving Tuesday donation.

Use the enclosed pledge card to send a check, or give online by scanning the QR code below. See the back side for other options.

God always provides, and you have been such faithful partners. We look forward to all He will do in 2025.





Katie Forbess, IRSM Board President, speaking at the Rochester CoC Ladies' Conference

IRSM Vision:

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

Board Members:

Current:

- Katie Forbess, President
- Bill Richardson, Elder
- Kat Bittner
- Fernando Sandoval
- Mark Vaughn

Advisory:

- Cynthia Cedeño, Treas.
- Julio Cedeño, Elder
- Laurie Diles

Please pray for the selection of Brazil Board Members!

Practice like a Wise Woman: 2025 Theme

Written by Michelle J. Goff

After a focus on being Committed to Christ, 24/7 in 2024, we are ready to put things into practice as His faithful disciples. Students do not do things perfectly the first time, maybe not even the dozzenth time. It takes practice.

"Whoever hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man..." (Mt 7:24).

The first step is to hear Jesus' words through His teaching and the Scriptures. It takes practice to listen, which is where many will start the year, using *Committed to Listen: Forty Days of Dedication*.

After reaffirming the priority to listen to God and one another, we now must take what we've heard and put it into practice, like wise women who build their houses on the Rock.

We are disciples under construction seeking God's guidance to practice following in the steps of the Son (1Pe 2:21).

Throughout the year, we will encourage and equip women as iron sharpening iron—to grow in godly wisdom, put these things into practice, and thus be transformed more and more into the image of Christ.



Return Visit and Conference in Rochester, Minnesota

Michelle J. Goff and Katie Forbess, taught the lessons on "Committed to Christ" that were followed by small group discussions, all from the book of Colossians. Small groups were "prayerfully random," and women rejoiced in the opportunity to get to know other women they greet on Sundays but have never really gotten to know.

Forty ladies from two congregations in the Twin Cities gathered for the weekend workshop hosted by the Rochester Church of Christ in Minnesota.



Some of the attendees of the "Committed to Christ" workshop - Rochester CoC - October 26, 2024

Subscribe and Connect with Iron Rose Sister Ministries

Join our vibrant community by selecting one of our diverse membership options! Whether you would like to receive **monthly online updates** or **quarterly newsletters** about what God is doing in our ministry, learn about **upcoming events**, or find encouragement through our **blog** content, there is a perfect fit for you. You can also join our prayer warriors for **monthly online prayer and thanksgiving updates**. Don't miss out—subscribe today to discover all the ways you can support Iron Rose

Sister Ministries!

We are also active on social media! Follow us for daily encouragement on **Facebook** (Iron Rose Sister Ministries) and **Instagram** (@IronRoseSister), or catch recorded videos of previous classes on our **YouTube** channel: Iron Rose Sister Ministries. Scan the QR code to subscribe!



Selah: Pausing to Worship in Three Languages!

Written by Beliza Kočev

Our **trilingual virtual event** in October, “A Commitment to Listen” provided a wonderful opportunity for teaching and fellowship with sisters across the Americas.

We focused on the Hebrew word “**Selah**,” which signifies a pause. In a noisy world where distractions abound, taking a moment to pause and listen to God—and to each other—can be challenging, yet it is vital for our spiritual growth. Jesus himself modeled this for us.

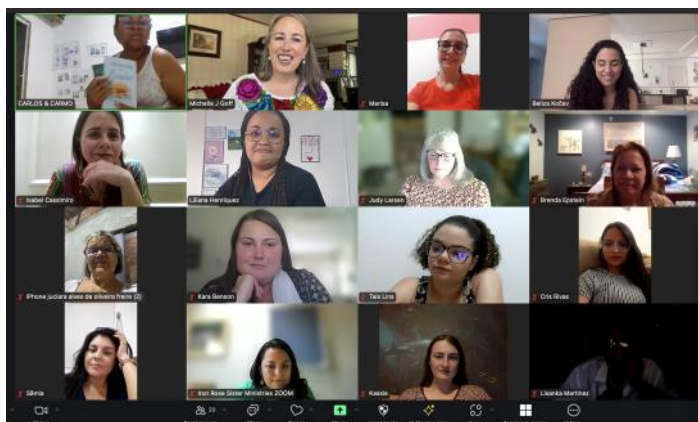
Conversation is an essential part of any relationship. God is always ready to listen to us—no matter the language we speak—

and He communicates with us continually, especially through His Word. However, if we don’t take the time to meditate on the Truth and truly listen, we may miss out on the comfort, strength, encouragement, and exhortation He offers.

During our meeting, we explored the book of Habakkuk and Psalms 3 and 4, putting the concept of Selah into practice.

It was incredible to share moments in our small groups, reminding us that, despite our diverse backgrounds,

languages, and cultures, we are women that face many similar challenges. This event was also the official kickoff of *Committed to Listen: Forty Days of Dedication*.



Some of the attendees of the virtual class

2024-2025 Calendar and Plans

Virtual Events

Nov 14— Spanish, *Who Has the Last Word?* Wrap-up Class

Feb 1—Trilingual Virtual Event to Launch our Prayer Month

Feb 24— Prayer-a-Thon, join us for 15-min slots to pray with and for us.

2025 In-Person Events

Jan 23-25— Ladies’ Retreat, Goodwood CoC, Baton Rouge, LA

March 14-15- (Booth) BLOOM Conf., Searcy, AR

April 11-12- (Booth) WWWG Conf., Wichita, KS

“This was just the shot in the arm we needed. I was so encouraged by your visit. You left me with a lot to think about.”
 ~Conference attendee, Rochester, MN

Interested in partnering with us to equip the women in your area or in a Latin American mission point that you support?

Contact us:

info@ironrosesister.com or visit our website for more information

IronRoseSister.com, Resources, Book a Speaker

Future Plans for Iron Rose Sister Ministries (IRSM)

Written by Katie Forbess, IRSM Board President

As we get close to big holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas, part of me starts getting excited for the next year. **Time has taught me not to say goodbye to one year too quickly or put extreme expectations on the next.** 2024 has been both wonderful and difficult in many ways. For IRSM, there are various amazing opportunities ahead.

There will be some difficult times with staff changes and continuing to find a balance. We are striving for longevity which means more full-time workers and a higher budget. There is excitement about the training of ambassador speakers and continued promotion of our resources in all three languages. I pray the ministry in Brazil will grow and mature and learn from our early experiences.

To God be the glory as we strive to help women grow closer to God and one another!



Ladies at our class at Seminário Teológico EBNSER, Recife, Brazil



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

Ways to Give

We are so grateful for our many faithful donors. Here is a review of the different giving options available to you.

Giving Options With NO Processing Fees

- **Mail a check** to IRSM, PO Box 1351, Searcy, AR 72145
- ***BillPay** through your online banking account (sends a check to us)
- **PayPal Giving Fund** (must use PayPal account)
- **Zelle** to **ironrosesister@gmail.com**

Giving Options With Processing Fees

- ***Via IronRoseSister.com.** You can opt to cover our fees and use debit/credit/PayPal.
- ***Bank-to-Bank ACH** - contact us to request a form
- **Venmo @IronRoseSister**

***allows monthly recurring donations**



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A Note from Michelle: Time and IRSM Are Filled with Swift Transitions

Jennie Wilson begins the hymn's invitation to "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand" with an affirmation: "**Time is filled with swift transition.**" Written in 1913, this song aptly describes Iron Rose Sister Ministries over the past few years.

In a combination of swift and slow-moving changes, we have lost and added a variety of team members, created new positions, rewritten job descriptions, and redistributed responsibilities. It has admittedly made my head spin! But not God's. **His hand is unchanging; His right hand is a source of strength (Ps 118:15-16).**

This year has required me to juggle more administrative tasks than some of the relational tasks. More behind-the-scenes work has happened in preparation for the release of the newest book in all three languages simultaneously!!! Soon, an **increased number of**

Ambassadors, Speakers, and Volunteers will have the opportunity to serve toward our vision of equipping women to connect to God and one another more deeply. Our next anticipated transition will be the addition of a **new full-time staff member: an Operations Manager.** Thank you for your prayers toward this new hire. As I write this, we are unsure of who she is. But God knows. And by the time this newsletter is in your inbox or mailbox, we will have offered her the position with a probable start date of December 1st.

A transition toward the **long-term goal of more Brazilian independence** requires us to be registered there and have a Brazilian Board in place. Additionally, new IRSM Board Members with connections and experience in Brazil are being added.

Our three websites (English,

Spanish, and Portuguese) are in the process of prioritizing and highlighting the **resources most needed by women in each language group.** Updates will roll out in 2025.

"The only thing that is constant is change" (Heraclitus). **May we seek God's unchanging hand to guide us in these changes, transitions, and next steps forward.** Please keep the prayers coming!

In Him,
M.

