

Iron Rose Sister Ministries Newsletter

Summer 2016

Volume 4, Issue 2



Good News to Share!

- Equipping others and seeing their growth.
- Women's Renewal Retreat on "An Attitude of Rest" takes on added personal meaning.
- Special thanks to all who are a part of IRSM!

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It's all about the JOY!

Partnering with Health Talents International, Michelle returned to Guatemala this summer to continue teaching seminars on the book of **Philippians**.

In **Chichicastenango**, and at the **Clínica Ezell**, women were hungry to learn and eager to participate in the small group discussions.

What a **joy to reconnect** with women who attended last year, and meet a number of new sisters. Women leaders from fifteen congregations



More than 70 Quiche sisters gather to learn from **Philippians**, in Chichicastenango, Guatemala

attended the seminar in Chichi. At Clínica Ezell, a first visit for Michelle, the

women were equally filled with joy to learn of Paul's joy, only found in Christ.

Equipping to Equip to Equip...

"So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth" (1 Cor. 3:7). IRSM strives to plant and water among women, **equipping them with the tools to connect to God and one another more deeply, trusting that God will bring the growth.** And what a blessing when we get to see some of that growth!

Katie Lynn Finch, IRSM's Summer 2015 intern, spent this summer working in Guatemala city with the Amor Sin Temor (Fearless Love) congregation.

For small group and one-on-one studies with women of all ages, she used ***In God's Right Hand***, 2nd IRSM book, which she had taught from and helped with during the final stages of production last summer.



Dorcas and a friend she invited to the women's class, San Cristobal, Guatemala

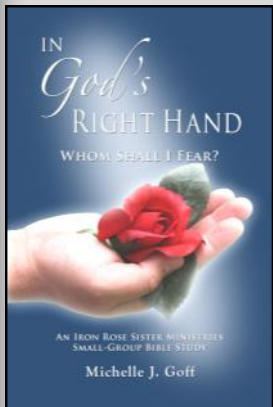
As the third stop in Michelle's Guatemala trip, she was honored to **see the fruit of seeds planted and watered**, through Katie Lynn's work, a Sunday afternoon seminar for the women, and other small group and one-on-one studies she was able to teach.

One brief God story to share is of **Dorcas** (pictured left). **Michelle** worked with **Katie Lynn** last summer, who studied with **Dorcas** this summer, who is now **spreading the good news, and encouraging the women** she reaches through her local store.

Equipping to equip to equip...



Katie Lynn Finch, Dorcas, and Michelle



Order *In God's Right Hand* or *Human AND Holy* for your women's small group today!

"I loved the fellowship among English- and Spanish-speaking sisters!"
~attendee,
Abilene, TX



Michelle Goff teaching at a bilingual event in Abilene, TX, University Church of Christ, June 17-18

Women's Renewal Retreat

Hispanic women workers from eight south and central Florida congregations came together to be renewed and inspired to keep fighting the good fight—a reminder that **we are not in the fight alone**, in the same way that Elijah needed to be reminded.

As a prophet of the Lord, **Elijah faced his greatest need for renewal after the mountaintop experience** in 1 Kings 18-19.

Mount Carmel was a high point, but after speaking for God at such a large-scale event, he was exhausted and depressed.

And the first thing that God provided for him? Rest.

The event theme was **"An Attitude of Rest"** (see pg. 4), which was put into practice through **quiet time, lessons, small group discussions, meditation, and prayer.**

The transformation in their faces from Friday night to Saturday morning, after the



initial practices of rest, was amazing!

Michelle was inspired by their **longing to make the most of this opportunity to learn an attitude of rest.**

Missionary Care



Maribel (& Carlos) Preciado Pompano Beach, FL

Who doesn't love to receive an encouraging visit from a friend?

One of the resources IRSM offers is **Missionary Care visits—praying with, encouraging, and being a safe, listening ear for the local missionary.**

Having served as a missionary in Caracas, Venezuela, Michelle is able to minister to these missionary women in an empathetic way, as well as support the local congregation through IRSM resources.

It is an honor to partner with these women and churches across the Americas.

Leah Mayhall, Dominican Republic



What is a "bilingual event"?

The growing Hispanic population in the U.S. affirms the need for **opportunities and activities that bridge both the Anglo and Hispanic languages and cultures.** And as

a bilingual women's ministry resource, **IRSM strives to encourage and equip women from both groups.**

A question we get a lot is: Are IRSM bilingual events exclusive to women who are bilingual? Not at all!



They are, rather, **an opportunity for English- and Spanish-speaking women to worship together, pray together, and hear lessons in their respective languages.** With Michelle as a bilingual speaker, she presents the lessons in each language while the other language group meets in small groups, sharing in guided discussion questions.

As each one does their part... THANKS!

1 Corinthians 12 compares the church to a body. Ephesians 4 highlights the importance of each member doing its part.

And while Michelle's is the face you see in the pictures, the speaker at the events, and the author of the books, she is by no means



accomplishing any of these things alone.

First and foremost, the thanks goes to God!

Special thanks to the Board of Directors; Erica, part-time assistant; the growing group of local volunteers; event coordinators in each location; small group leaders; those who traveled with Michelle (Dena, Carole, Kay, Jocelynn) and served as IRSM booth representatives; Wendy, web designer; Rebeca, summer intern; those who deliver books to Latin America; and

last, but not least, Michelle's family and friends.

The final thanks goes to YOU!

None of this would be possible without your prayers, financial support, and your love for God and His kingdom. THANK YOU!

María translated lessons into Quiche in Chichicastenango



Women at Clínica Ezell, Guatemala, in small group time

2016 Calendar

Sept 16–17—Iglesia de Cristo, Springdale, AR

Sept 25-28—Harding Lectureship, classes and booth

Nov 1-9—Cochabamba, Bolivia, Women's track of lessons at Family Camp

Nov 9-15—Lima, Peru, Area-wide Ladies' Retreat

Mar 31–Apr 1, 2017—Ladies Event, Knoxville, TN

Many other 2017 events are in the works, but are yet unconfirmed in their dates.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! **Destination Retreat 2017**

“Called to Listen”
near Conway, AR
September 15-17, 2017

Contact us today if you are interested in hosting an event in your area, would like Michelle to partner with a mission work you are involved in, or she can make a Missionary Care trip to encourage local missionaries.

More information is available on our website:
www.IronRoseSister.com

“The way Michelle instructs is so encouraging and inspiring, especially because of how she lives what she teaches.”
~sister in Florida

Third Book Coming Soon!



We are blessed so that we, in turn, might bless others.

While in Guatemala, Michelle met a number of women who had been studying the first two **interactive Bible study books, designed for small groups.**

These women are now

among those anticipating the **release of the third book by the end of the year!**

Who Has the Last Word? **Cutting through Satan's Lies with the Truth of God's Word**

It was a joy to connect with these women, pray with them, encourage them, and even sign their books.



Recording for *La Voz Alegre* radio spots at World Christian Broadcasting in Nashville, TN
www.LaVozAlegre.com



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Women's Ministry Resources in English and Spanish:

- Facilitate Christian sister relationships that will be like iron sharpening iron, encouraging and inspiring each other to be as beautiful as a rose in spite of a few thorns
- Provide women's Bible studies simple enough for anyone to lead and deep enough for everyone to grow
- Create a network of Christian women and women's ministries across the Americas
- Conduct seminars, ladies' days, women's retreats, etc. teaching, empowering and inspiring women on their journey as Iron Rose Sisters

www.IronRoseSister.com



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A note from Michelle: An Attitude of Rest

Since moving to Searcy, Ark, life has moved at such a pace that I was often unsure if I was coming or going. The ministry has grown and God has been faithful.

Twenty-four trips in less than a year's time. Wow!

In April, three weekends in a row, I was driving to different

events across the country, with only a day or two at home in between.

By the time I finished speaking at the **Ladies' Day in Rural Hill, TN** (Nashville area), my body let me know that it was done. I regretted cutting my time short with the loving, hospitable church family there, but God reminded me that I had to take care of my body, thus I headed home.

During that next week, I began some **personal study and lesson preparation about rest**, which I shared with the Hispanic women workers in Florida, for their renewal retreat at the end of May.

But really, I was preaching to



Meditating on Psalm 46:10



myself. **We can't do it all. And when we try, we lose connection with our Heavenly Father and his loving provision of rest.**

I want to encourage you with the same verse we meditated on and colored on a page that weekend, from Psalm 46:10: **Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know. Be still.**

As I have settled more into life in Searcy, I am grateful for the **attitude of rest that God provides** no matter where I am, and the blessing of rest when I am home. May you come to know that rest, as well. **Thanks for your support and prayers!**

Blessings, M.