

Iron Rose Sister Ministries Newsletter

Winter 2015

Volume 3, Issue 3



Good News to Share!

- 2015 blessings
- Encouraged missionaries
- Women equipped across the Americas
- Joy in Small Groups
- More open doors in 2016

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Falling in Love with Jesus in South America

"We leave with little hearts in our eyes for how in love with Christ we have become."

Ligia, a sister from **Cochabamba, Bolivia**, shared this comment with the 136 Bolivians in attendance for the **National Family Camp** in thanks to Michelle Goff for the track of classes she taught for the women.

While Michelle traveled to **Buenos Aires, Argentina**, and Cochabamba to teach about ***Falling in Love with Jesus***, in both locations, she learned more than she taught upon encountering women whose lives embodied that love.

One example, pictured above, is **Alejandra** (2nd from right). Quechuan by descent, she never learned to read or write in Quechua or Spanish. But you would never know that for the love



with which she speaks of God and His Word.

She and other Quechuan sisters at the camp were **eager to do their small group assignments** after each class, no matter how many soccer balls or children zoomed past (pictured above).

The women in Buenos Aires also appreciated the **deeper look at Jesus through the gospels of Matthew and**

John, the small group discussions, the opportunity to write a **love letter to Jesus**, and a look at how our love for Christ grows and matures from first love to pilgrim love to enduring love.

Curious about *Falling in Love with Jesus*?

Contact us today to **book an event in your area** on this or many other available topics.

Rejoicing over God's blessings in 2015

Women across the Americas are being equipped to connect to God and one another more deeply. Here's some of how in 2015:

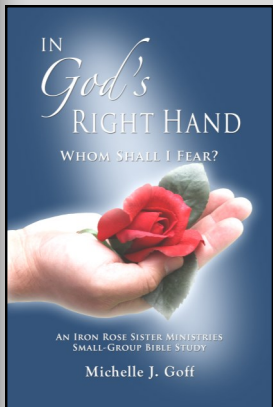
- More than **1500 women** attended 20 conferences or classes in **five countries and seven US states**
- Women from **14 Spanish-speaking countries in attendance** at the conferences, which implies a **further reach than the event itself**
- The publication of the **second book**, *In God's Right Hand: Whom Shall I Fear?*
- **Subsidized distribution** of books to cities in eleven countries
- More than a dozen **private counseling sessions** (face-to-face or via Skype)
- The first IRSM **Destination Retreat**
- **Consults** with women's ministry coordinators



Ladies at Enterprise Blvd. event, Lake Charles, LA

for activities, studies, and events

- A student **intern** for seven weeks
- A personal and ministry **move** to Searcy, AR



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

"I never knew that Scripture could be so practical for my everyday life."
~Quiche sister in Guatemala



Michelle teaching Sisters Connected in Christ, Santiago, Chile

2016 Needs and Opportunities

God continues to open **doors of opportunity** and affirm that **IRSM is meeting the needs of women** and women's ministries across the Americas.

Thank you for your prayers and your financial support to help make this possible! God is using you to bring about the stories in this



Attentive listeners in Buenos Aires

newsletter and many others that bring glory to His name and growth to His kingdom.

Please consider making a **financial commitment** to help us continue to answer this call as missionaries to a demographic group, versus a specific geographic location.

Specific needs in 2016:

- Subsidized **book** and **int'l shipping costs** to fulfill increased requests for materials in Latin America.



Ruth & Sharon from Houston (two on left) who drove to Lake Charles, LA for the mini-retreat

- **Travel** expenses for seminars in Latin America.
- Allow **Michelle** to continue to dedicate herself to **IRSM full-time**.
- Part-time **bilingual secretary** and **training of other women**, including interns

Visiting and Encouraging the Missionaries (from Michelle)

Out of respect for each of them and their situations, I will not go into details, but a less-publicized part of what I do is **encourage the missionaries** that I am blessed to visit.

God always seems to place me in the **right place at the right time** in order to be a **supportive listening ear, encouragement, and prayer partner from someone who understands**. It is a joy to

talk with people who also "get it"—the life of a missionary or the struggles that come with it.

As a full-time missionary in Venezuela, other travel for missions and full-time ministry in the U.S., I have been given opportunity to **comprehend on a deeper level some of what the local missionary is going through**. Some challenges are universal to those in full-time min-

istry and some pertain more to those who minister cross-culturally.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to **partner with the missionaries** in their work by learning about their local church, talking with them about life, and providing resources for the women where they serve.

Contact us about visiting a missionary you support.

In the Hands of the Divine Gardener ~ Destination Retreat

Colorado in early October was a beautiful backdrop for the first IRSM Destination Retreat.



Women from **eight states and thirteen congregations** came to know one another and

the Divine Gardener.

This diverse group of women was an excellent representation of all IRSM stands for: English and Spanish-speaking women were **equipped to connect to God and one another more deeply** through lessons, small groups, quiet time, fellowship, worship, and prayer.

Sisters Connected in Christ: More than a Conference Theme

A new Christian seeking resources. A discouraged missionary facing transitions. A sister weighed by burdens in her non-Christian family. Another struggling with her own personal and emotional battles.

These are some of the sisters with whom we are connected in Christ—women who may speak a different language, but who **share a common need for hope, truth, and encouragement.**

During the three-week trip to South America, private time, prayers together, and tearful

conversations affirmed **God's providential timing of the visit** to each city and with each person.

Sisters connected in Christ encourage and inspire one another to be as beautiful as a rose in spite of a few thorns.

Michelle was honored with the opportunity to speak on that topic for the **National Chilean Women's Confer-**



ence in Santiago, but also to live it out as God's instrument in the lives of the many women with whom she spent time outside the scheduled events.

Sisters from Providencia congregation, Santiago, that hosted the National Chilean Conference

"Small groups ARE a blessing! Sharing, caring, nurturing is what we women do best when we are Christ centered."
 ~Stacey Uhlman
Destination Retreat

2016 Calendar

Mid-January—Multiple conferences in Nicaragua

March 4-5—Bilingual Ladies' Retreat, Escondido, CA

March 19—Women's Online Growth Group (WOGG) Brunch, Atlanta, GA (booth)

March 22—WOGG *Human AND Holy* online 13-week study kick-off (Tuesdays)

April 9—Ladies Day, Village CoC, Hot Springs Village, AR

April 15-16—Women Walking with God (booth), Wichita, KS

May 3-6—Pepperdine Bible Lectures (booth and Spanish classes)

June 30—July 3—Equip / Equipar Conference (Eng. &

Span.), Orlando, FL (formerly Spiritual Growth Workshop)

Late July—Seminars for women in Guatemala with Health Talents Int'l



Christmas shopping? Don't forget to select IRSM as your charity of choice.

Women's Spiritual Health ~ International Conf. in Orlando, FL



Video from this class in Spanish is available on YouTube and via Dropbox. Contact us!



Butch & Trish Sandoval, missionaries in Cochabamba, Bolivia



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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

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A note from Michelle:

Small Groups Bring Joy or “Kektmal”

“Your food is getting cold. It’s time to break for lunch.”

That didn’t matter to the Quiche sisters in **Chichicastenango, Guatemala**, attending the conference on the book of Philippians in partnership with **Health Talents Int’l**.

The women were engrossed in the small groups and **hungry** for the ways in which they could **make Paul’s teaching more relevant** to their own lives.

Small Groups were a **novel concept**, but one that the women readily embraced.

Their desire to learn was infectious, as was their

“kektmal”—the Quiche word for “joy.”

Since we were looking at the **book of Philippians**, I wanted to learn the word we would be repeating most often—the focus of the book and our classes.

It had been years since I had **worked with a translator** and usually I was the one doing the translating.

But it was a reminder to trust in the Spirit to communicate God’s message. **We are only vessels of the good news.**

What a blessing to serve as the Lord’s vessel and servant to equip women to connect to Him and to one another more deeply!



At each conference, I am reminded of a different reason **why small groups are key to growth**. In Guatemala, it was the **joy**.

In Lake Charles, LA, it was the connection found through God’s divine coordination of “randomly” putting a group of women together that later discovered how much they had

in common. Through their small group time, they saw **God’s love** and were reminded that **we are never alone**.

Thanks for helping make these connections possible!

Love, Michelle