

# Iron Rose Sister Ministries Newsletter

Summer 2023



## Good News to Share!

- Portuguese resources expand across Angola and Brazil!
- Partnering with new ministries, churches, and organizations
- Upcoming in-person Board and Team Meeting

## Inside this issue:

- Bilingual Event in Longmont, CO 2
- Iron Rose Sisters in Latin America 2
- Publishing books in Brazil 2
- IRSM & WWWG 2023 3
- 2023-2024 Calendar 3
- Meeting Jesus for Tea 3
- 10th Year Tour Final Report 4
- A note from Director, Michelle J. Goff 4

Volume 11, Issue 2

## Equipped and Impacted in Angola



**Beliza Patrícia**, our Brazil Coordinator, enjoyed her opportunity to meet many “incredible, strong women, full of faith from across Africa.” While teaching them, she was enchanted with their thirst to learn and enthusiasm when listening to biblical truths.

**Tabitha Barnes**, new IRSM Board Member, loved their reactions to the Word of God being read aloud.

**Jordan Yarbrough**, missionary to Angola, remarked how life-giving it was to see her dear Angolan friends being equipped and valued.

These three women represented us June 1-5 at the Luso-African Global Missions Gathering. They equipped ~30 women, twice the anticipated number,



**Beliza, Tabitha, and Jordan**

with the attendance growing each day out of hunger for the teaching and resources.

Each woman was gifted a copy of *Chamada a Escutar* to take home. This is the first IRSM book distributed widely in Africa.

## One Kingdom... across the Atlantic

Written by *Beliza Patrícia*

On the last day of lessons, we learned that Jesus is our King and that His kingdom is eternal. I gave them letters written by Brazilian sisters who didn't know them, and who may never be able to give them a hug or sit down for team, but who are praying for them—excited for them to receive encouragement through their words, and love from the other side of

the world.

**I will never forget their joy in receiving the letters!** Then we proposed an activity: that they write letters in response so that the sisters in Brazil could get to know them too.

This activity took longer than we expected due to the pure delight and affection when writing their letters to another part of the body across the Atlantic.

The best reaction was when I showed the sisters a photo of the group of women who wrote the letters. Each wanted to put a face to the sister who had written her letter. I shared some things about them. **As my eyes flickered between the photo on the screen and the animated group in front of me, they fooled me.** They made me



think they were different. But as I described my Brazilian sisters, I realized how similar my African sisters are to them. I managed to see daughters and mothers, daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law, young women, old women, some studying, others working, and still others looking for a job, some waiting for their grandchildren, others suffering from a painful grief. But above all, I saw women who love God and who strive to do His will. We are one in the Kingdom and are not alone (Col 3:11).





Jordan Yarbrough teaches the Common Threads in Angola

**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

**Bilingual Event in Longmont, Colorado**



Friday night and Saturday, June 9-10, Iron Rose Sister Ministries was thrilled to partner with **Longmont Church of Christ in Colorado** for a bilingual ladies' retreat with the topic "**Women's Spiritual Health.**" We had 3 lessons taught by Michelle J. Goff, a monologue presented by Wendy Neill, and time in worship, small groups, fellowship, and food.

We also had **Rossana Sosa**, member of our Board of Directors, emceeding the program. We rejoiced seeing how different sisters volunteered to lead different prayer times and want to extend a special thank you to **Ada and Raul Zamora** for creating the big beautiful roses for decorations! Thank you to the entire team at Longmont for making this

event happen. Thank you also to the men of the congregation for taking care of the tech, watching the kids, and preparing the meals, allowing the women be spiritually nurtured.

About **80 women** were equipped with tips and tools to improve their spiritual health. When women are spiritually healthy, those around them will be blessed!



Michelle, Brenda, and Wendy

**Latin American Women Report with Thanksgiving**

After studying *Llamada a Escuchar*, **Aileen and her small group in Ecuador** have new small groups started by each of the original group. **Sadia and ladies in Mexico** gather for cooking or art classes after studying the Bible through *¿Quién tiene la última palabra?* **Lisanka and women in**

**Venezuela**, recipients of BOGO (Buy One, Gift One) books, held a birthday party for IRSM to celebrate what God has done with her group through their Bible study (pictured).

**In Canada**, **Nila** prayed for ladies to respond to the call to study *Humano Y Santo*

together. Only two signed up, but later the group grew!



**Brazil trip and EBNESR for Publishing**



**EBNESR** is an acrostic in Portuguese for "National Bible School to Equip the Servants of the King" and for the last 22 years has been training Christian workers and ministers through advanced studies in diverse biblical and ministerial topics. Headquartered in **Recife**, the institute has its own **publishing**

**house**, and it is through a partnership with it that we will print and distribute the first Bible study book in Brazil: *Chamada a Escutar* (*Called to Listen*).

During Michelle's visit to Brazil, she will teach women at SerCris, a Training School for Christian Service (**Campo Grande**), and AME - Adventurers in Evangelistic Missions (**João Pessoa**), in addition to participating in the 31st Women's Seminar in the

**Northeast**. **Beliza**, our Brazil Coordinator will partner with Michelle for the entire trip.

**SOUTH AMERICA**



## Women Walking with God (WWWG) and July 15 Virtual Event

Iron Rose Sister Ministries has had a booth at the Women Walking With God (WWWG) conference in Wichita, KS since 2014. This year, we were thrilled they asked **Michelle to be a Featured Speaker on the topic of Outreach and Bible Study.** That's what Iron Rose Sister Ministries is all about! They also let her choose one other topic to speak on. Michelle



Wendy, Jocelynn, Katie, Brenda, Judy

chose to expand our conversation with **single and single-again women.** She taught a breakout session and called it **Normalizing Singleness.** Many women expressed their gratitude for these lessons.

Several of our team members, board members, and volunteers were able to attend on April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Our booth was a beehive of activity, so we were thankful we had a big team to equip these women with resources. We sold around \$2,000 in Bible studies, received contact information from 120 women so we can continue to encourage them, and had many meaningful and uplifting conversations.

WWWG also has follow-up **virtual** events throughout the year. **On July 15,** we hosted a two-hour session

on Zoom entitled **The Key to Loving and Leading with the Bible: Relationships.** We looked at mentoring relationships in the Bible in the book of Acts. Then we demonstrated how to lead a small group discussion. The video of this workshop is a fantastic resource.

We are grateful for this opportunity to reach more women through this partnership with WWWG.



Singles Class attendees

## 2023-2024 Calendar and Plans

### Virtual Events:

*“Teaching and Learning through Relationships”*  
Oct 7—Portuguese

### 2023 In-Person Events

August 7-26—Brazil trip (Beliza and Michelle)  
Sept. 15—17—Team and Board Meeting, Searcy, AR  
Sept. 24-27—(Booth & Class) Harding Lectureship, Searcy, AR  
Oct. 13-15—Bilingual Ladies’

Conference, Rochester, MN  
Nov. 3—Michelle to be honored as Outstanding Alumni, Harding University, Searcy, AR  
Mid-Nov.—Michelle to Honduras to record content videos and resources in Spanish

### 2024 In-Person Events

Jan. 26-28—Ladies’ Retreat, Hardin Valley CoC, Knoxville, TN

*Please pray for the September Board/Team Meeting!*

*“We would like more women to be here, listening and learning what we have learned.”*  
**Angolan Sisters** at Luso-African Global Missions Gathering 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)

## If Jesus Met Me for Tea... in Searcy, Arkansas, or in Campo Grande, Brazil

The day before Mother’s Day, the **Westside Church of Christ** hosted a Ladies’ Tea. Mothers attended with their daughters of all ages, as well as at least one table of single ladies. All delighted in their tea, listened to the lessons, and participated in small group discussions. When prompted to fill in the blank, “If Jesus met me for tea...”, one sixth-grader, at a table of her peers, said that Jesus would ask her what book she was reading and if she liked it.



At a Tuesday morning IRSM Team Meeting, several responded that they would meet

Jesus for tea outside. Who do we see in the Bible that Jesus met for a drink or that God saw at a source of water?

Beliza and Michelle will present these and similar questions to ladies from **three congregations in Campo Grande, Brazil, Saturday, August 12.** Yet again, we can celebrate the connections across continents and languages!

How would you finish that sentence? “If Jesus Met Me for Tea...”



**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*

**10th Year Tour Final Report**



Our 10th Birthday was July 26th! And what a wonderful decade it has been!

**Thank you** all for supporting this work with your prayers, your talents, and your financial means. God has used **all of us** to encourage, equip, and empower thousands of women over the past 10 years across the Americas and even in Africa. There is no greater honor than being used by God in His kingdom-building work.

If you would like to contribute or be a monthly supporter to help us launch the next 10 years, visit our website at IronRoseSister.com and click on "Donate."



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**A Note from Michelle: Bilingual Events and 10-Year Full Circle in Colorado**

One of my favorite things we do as a ministry is bilingual events. We joke that I get to be Michelle and "Michel" (Spanish pronunciation of my name). Yes, I get to be my Latina self while acknowledging my gringa roots, but it is more about being a bridge between languages and cultures. **We facilitate an opportunity for women to come together and recognize that every nation, tribe, and tongue are one in Christ.**

Our first bilingual women's conference was November 2013, hosted by the **Northwest Church of Christ** in Westminster, CO. Ten years later,

during the final stops of the 10th Year Tour, we held our most recent bilingual event, hosted by the **Longmont Church of Christ** and their Spanish counterpart, **Iglesia Luz de Esperanza.**

**Ada and Kimberly Zamora**, mother and daughter (pictured right), attended both events ten years apart. They are a shining example of the **generational impact and attitude of service among women.** Pictured below are the roses they made to beautifully frame the stage. Ada and Kimberly, now 19, also introduced me, in Spanish and English respectively. I was tearfully grateful for their testimony of faith and the opportunity to witness their service.

**It was a true reflection and rejoicing "10 years later..." (Ps. 92:4).**

**Ada and Kimberly introduce Michelle before she speaks**

Iron Rose Sister Ministries began in a basement in NW Denver. It was a tremendous blessing to return to the state and make visits from Colorado Springs to Longmont, and in between.

As you read this newsletter, Beliza and I are in Brazil, equipping women in our **third language, Portuguese.**

Can you imagine our visits there 10 years from now? **I cannot wait to hear the God stories 20, 40 or however many years from now God grants me.** Thank you for your vital part in this!!!

Love, *M.*



**Ada Zamora and daughter, Kimberly, far right in 2013**

