

Iron Rose Sister Ministries Newsletter

Spring 2024

Volume 12, Issue 1



Good News to Share!

- Ministério Irmã Rosa de Ferro becoming known across Brazil
- Let's Go Deeper, Spring Fundraising Campaign

Growth through our New Branch in Brazil

Written by Beliza Kočev, Brazil Coordinator

Since 2023, we have invested a lot of time and effort in expanding the ministry in Brazil. Many of IRSM's resources are innovative for Brazilian women. As the sisters learn about our purpose of encouraging, equipping and empowering them, their response is great - **full of excitement and positive feedback!** This indeed is very encouraging!

Our virtual events and ministry presentations have been particularly appreciated. They have led to further opportunities to participate

in other events throughout the year. The first of these was the **XXV Grande Ceia [Great Supper] Retreat** at the end of March. The event is part of the calendar of the Churches of Christ in the state of **Paraíba**. This event has been occurring annually for 25 years now, and this year it was held in Cajazeiras. I was invited to share more about **Ministério Irmã Rosa de Ferro** and its resources, and to teach a class which included small group discussions. There was also a table dedicated to having further conversations as well as selling copies of the book **Chamada**

a **Escutar (Called to Listen)**. I was excited for the opportunity to equip and empower more sisters in their spiritual journeys!



Let's Go Deeper



Written by Wendy Neill, Advancement Coordinator

You have a special opportunity to go deeper with us in ministering to women in Central and South America. Like Paul's missionary journeys, we plant seeds on our first visit to a country, then go back for second and maybe third visits, growing deeper roots of faith and relationship (Ac 15:36).

From April 29th - May 6th, help us raise **\$15,000 toward our summer ministry trips to Brazil and Colombia**. Your partnership allows us to **equip** women to dig deeper into Scripture as small groups, to **encourage** them to stand firm in trials, and to **empower** them to teach others. Brazil and Colombia are countries where we have started roots. It's time to go **deeper**.

If you aren't sure what to get a mother figure in your life for **Mother's Day** (May 12), donate in her honor. We will send her a beautiful **Mother's Day** card, notifying her of your gift.

Dig deep with us and give your most generous donation using the enclosed pledge card. Watch our website/social media, then **share** with others.

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. (Eph 3:16-18 NIV)

Sisters of all ages participating in one of our events in Central America



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Michelle J. Goff reads verses about God's desire to heal us (Women's Spiritual Health)

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
- Kat Bittner, Secretary
- Tabitha Barnes
- Laurie Diles
- Fernando Sandoval
- Mark Vaughn

Advisory:

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

Trilingual Virtual Prayer Event

Pray without ceasing. (1Th 5:17 ESV) was our reminder to remain **Committed to Prayer 24/7 in 2024.**

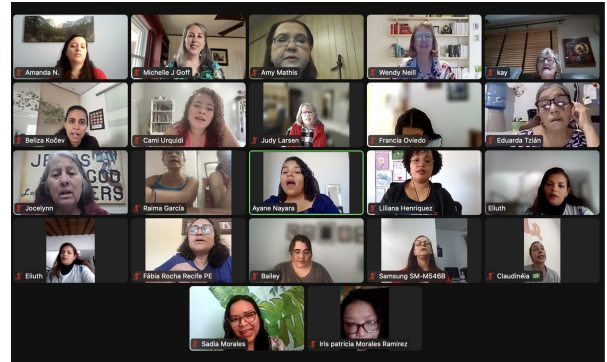
On Saturday, February 3rd, at least **56 women**, young and old, representing 8 countries were part of our Trilingual Prayer Month Virtual Event. Yes, trilingual!

We gathered to pray, worship, and read scriptures in **English, Spanish, and Portuguese**, while being encouraged to remain "Committed to Christ" through prayer. We rejoice when we have these meetings because they allow us to have a little taste of what Heaven will be like!

We also thank God because the **23 volunteers** lined up to lead us through each of the event activities, were able to participate without any connection issues!

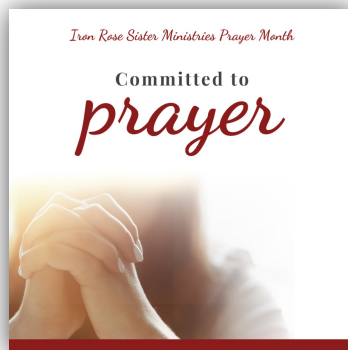
We encourage you to be part of our future virtual

events, to join our **IRSM Prayer Group** on Facebook, to sign up to receive the monthly Prayer Updates via email, and to find someone you can partner with to pray. Please include Iron Rose Sister Ministries in your prayer time!



A few of the 56 ladies that participated on Feb. 3rd

IRSM Prayer Month



The theme for the year, "Committed to Christ 24/7," was applied in our annual prayer month through trilingual worship, virtual prayer rooms, and the 24-hour Prayer-a-thon. In anticipation of our prayer month's spiritual battle, we intentionally laid out the layers of the ministry for

transparency and prayer support through our Prayer Calendar. We know from experience that February is a holy month filled with spiritual warfare. Yet the battle is surpassed by our thankfulness for 10 years of faithfulness and the assurance of God's will being carried out in this ministry.

Pilot Studies for Committed to Listen in ALL THREE languages!

Listening to God and to one another is a universal blessing. **The challenge of dedicated listening is not unique to any one language.**

Beliza Kočev, our Brazil Coordinator, is translating and facilitating her first women's small group through the **Portuguese** version. We rejoice in the women who have already been touched deeply by the truths from scripture and the encouragement

received from sharing what they've heard!

Brenda Brizendine, our Assistant Director, gathers weekly with women in person and via Zoom to discuss what they've heard through the listening exercises in **Spanish**.

Michelle J. Goff, author and Executive Director, with the

English group, delights in witnessing women being spiritually fed—those hungry for Christian fellowship and intentional time, committed to listen together.

Brazilian pilot group



Celebrating our Volunteers!

Written by Brenda Brizendine,
Volunteer Coordinator

April is National **Volunteers Appreciation Month** in the United States. Join us in celebrating the invaluable contributions our volunteers make each and every day!

We're honored to highlight just a few of the ways that volunteers make an impact in the Kingdom and Iron Rose Sister Ministries' mission throughout the year. We wouldn't be able to complete all that we do without each of our volunteers, THANK YOU! We want to start with the **Board of Directors**, generous leaders that dedicate their skills and time to ensure IRSM's ability to continue *encouraging, equipping, and empowering women across the Americas.*

We also would like to mention our **virtual and in-person event volunteers**. They lead prayers, prepare and/or serve food, decorate entire auditoriums and all the small groups' breakout rooms, They may welcome the ladies that participate in an event, or only do behind-the-scenes work. They each represent God's hands and feet by serving with love and dedication!

We cannot continue without mentioning the **blog volunteers** who find courage to share their testimonies, through personal or biblical stories for our twice-a-week blog entries!

For those that **volunteer for the local office and mailing tasks**, they are like an army of ants that tirelessly make things happen on time!

And we would like to finish by recognizing all those women and men that volunteer their time to pray for Iron Rose

Sister Ministries! Our **Prayer Warriors** bring us before our Father to ensure that all that we do, we do it for the glory of God!

There are **many ways to volunteer with IRSM**. Each of those tasks or activities can create a ripple effect that allows women to connect deeply with God and one another!

**Michelle and a group of volunteers
Congresso Feminino, Brazil**



2024 Calendar

2024 Confirmed In-Person Events

July 16—Aug 1— Colombia: Medellín, Bogotá, Zipaquirá, Bucaramanga, (Michelle, summer intern & local women)

Aug 12—29— Brazil: Foz do Iguaçu (Span/Port bilingual), NE Women's Conf (Michelle speaks), Recife, João Pessoa (classes, Beliza & Michelle)

Oct/Nov— Bilingual Ladies' Conf, Rochester, MN

2024 In-Person Booths

Apr 12-13— Women Walking with God Conf, Maize, KS, USA (Wendy & Michelle)

Apr 19-21— Southern Women's Conf, Gramado, Brazil (Beliza)

Sept 29—Oct 2— Harding Lectureship, "Inspire", Searcy, AR

Nov— National Women's Conf, Brazil (Beliza)

"I was unsure about participating in the pilot study, and now I know why I'm here. I still don't know how I will help, but I know I will be helped."

~Socorro

Comprometida a Escutar pilot study participant in Brazil

Interested in partnering with us to equip the women in your area or in a mission point in Central or South America that you support? Contact us: info@ironrosesister.com or visit our website for more information IronRoseSister.com/resources/seminars

Women's Spiritual Health with Hardin Valley Church of Christ, and in Spanish Online!

Small groups, like the one pictured below, discussed the practical ways in which God invites us into intimate relationship with Him. Many community-based spiritual disciplines were



practiced during the weekend. **Tools with which to practice those and individual spiritual disciplines were provided to take home.**

We are all about equipping women to connect to God and one another more deeply. Hardin Valley CofC women, from Knoxville, TN, were grateful for a weekend in which that was facilitated and experienced.

Everyone left **renewed in their relationships with God**, while also getting to **make new friends and dig deeper in relationships with others.**

"Women's Spiritual Health" has become the most solicited topic, no matter what language group.

We are thrilled to announce a **new video series on this topic in Spanish!** Check out these and other resources on our website.





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

Going Deeper: 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)
- Venmo: @IronRoseSister
- 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

*allow monthly recurring donations



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A Note from Michelle: Rooted and Established

*And I pray that you, being **rooted and established** in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ...* (Eph 3:17-18 NIV)

With more than ten years behind us, establishing ourselves as a women's ministry resource—equipping them to connect with God and one another more deeply, we face yet another restructuring.

“More deeply...” is the facet of our vision in which the Board has guided us to focus our efforts, **“Rooted and established”** sets the tone for the restructuring to go deeper instead of spreading ourselves too thin.

Therefore, in some areas, we face “the uncomfortable in between,” as I've called it. But God is faithful and has affirmed that we are meeting a tremendous need for women across three languages in various cultural contexts.

Messages and pictures, even



Venezuelan women from two congregations finish *Llamada a escuchar*

“¡Gracias!” videos, are a glimpse of the depth of relationships growing with God and with one another. These women are grateful for you, your prayers, your support, and, in many cases, the **small group Bible study books** as an instrument through which they can grow deeper.

Thank you!

Please keep the prayers coming, especially as we navigate the next steps and “dig in” individually and as a ministry. Thank you for your financial support as we dive into establishing a well-rooted new branch in Brazil.

While pruning my rose bushes in February, I checked on the buds and bulbs on my Japanese magnolia tree. I was reminded that plants must traverse a “winter”—**rely on their roots** after shedding their leaves. With the anticipation of spring, my yard gave echo, hope, and purpose to my own feelings. Transitions are hard. **We must let things go so that the new can be formed.** And at those times, we, *“together with the Lord's holy people,”* have the power to be rooted and established in the One from whom all blessings flow.

Thank you for being one amongst the Lord's holy people! Thank you to the Board for their support and guidance. And **thank you for “rooting” with us.**

Love, *M.*

Michelle with bloomed Japanese magnolia

