Iron Rose Sister Ministries Newsletter

Spring 2016



Good News to Share!

- 2015 Annual Report now available!
- Interview on National Nicaraguan TV
- Mother's Day
 Celebration
- Growing Intern Program and Volunteers

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Opportunities in Nicaragua–Including National TV!

Eufemia and Marjorie are Christian sisters at the Francisco Meza congregation in Managua, Nicaragua.

One or both of these two ladies were with Michelle every step of the way and by the end of the trip, were the ones who were **stepping up and serving** in ways they had felt hesitant to before.

Michelle spent one-on-one time with Eufemia, Marjorie, and about seven other women, in addition to the **Bible** studies in homes most mornings, conferences in five congregations with over a dozen churches represented, in the evenings, and on the weekend, all during the 10 day trip in January!



Honoring Moms

What better way to help accomplish the goal of equipping women to connect to God and one another than by honoring those that are helping make this happen in their homes and their churches?

Whether a **mother by birth**, an adoptive mom, foster **mom, or spiritual mother**, we want to THANK YOU for your example to other women—young and old.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8, and on this special



Host congregation, Francisco Meza, Managua, Nicaragua

In addition to the teaching opportunities, Michelle was invited to be **interviewed on national Nicaraguan television**. The 18 minute interview on the Nicaraguan version of the Today Show is available (in Spanish) on our **new YouTube channel** (Iron Rose Sister Ministries).

Michelle was able to speak directly about God and the church, including IRSM books and resources available. Women called in, texted, and **one woman was connected with a church in her area** through the IRSM website.

Eighteen minute Interview on Canál 11, national Nicaraguan television



occasion, you have the chance to not only **honor a special mom in your life**, but also bless other women through a donation to IRSM's Intern Program.

Our new **Rose Cards** are available (details inside and on our website) that can be framed, mailed, or handdelivered for that special day.

Thank you to those who have risen to the challenge of being a spiritual mom! And thank you to those who help make it possible for us to train more spiritual moms for the future!



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

"Thank you for sharing the enlightening insights you share through your blog." ~Luciana, Buenos Aires



Michelle Goff and Hasandra Heyward, Director of Women's Online Growth Group

Downtown Retreat and New Website

Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy, AR, held its Women's Retreat Feb. 5-6, with the theme "This is My Story."

Michelle served on the committee and helped direct the story sharers, two of which are now **IRSM Volunteers**! (Wendy Neill, Carla Sumner, and Carole Gastineau)

Women shared how they have come to know God



more intimately, things they have learned through their story, including their favorite verses, songs, and the hope with which they can now tell their story in order to bless and equip others.

Small Groups helped a facilitate even more time for sharing and getting to know each other on a deeper level.

> Wendy and Michelle connected through similar aspects of their respective stories, and were able to grow closer when



Wendy Neill, Downtown member, accompanies Michelle to Atlanta

Wendy accompanied Michelle to Atlanta in March.

Wendy is also a professional web designer who is helping transform the IRSM website! Stay tuned as we will be unveiling it next month! Help us make more online resources available by a contribution to this project.

Women's Online Growth Group (WOGG) Human AND Holy class

Tuesday nights, starting March 22, Michelle leads a **conference call to discuss a chapter a week of Human AND Holy**, the first interactive Bible study book she authored.

Women call in from across the U.S. and participate in the discussion. There is a mother in California whose daughter calls in from North Carolina. A small group of women in Denver call in together on speaker phone so that they can have additional prayer time and conversation after the weekly call.

We would love for you to join us—a FREE class from the comfort of your own home.

Call: 302-202-1119 Conf. Code: 324981 Time: Tuesdays, 6:30 Central, 7:30 Eastern (final class Tue, June 7) The first three chapters are recorded and available. Chapters 4-13 are not/will not be recorded for confidentiality.

Contact us to **register, order your book, and call in** this Tuesday!



Falling in Love with Jesus in Two Languages

North County Church of Christ in Escondido, CA, hosted their first Ladies' Retreat with a bilingual speaker, which increased the attendance by Spanishspeaking women.

Friday night and Saturday, the two groups, totaling over **120 women**, joined as **one voice in two languages** for worship, prayers, and fellowship.

The lessons were shared in each language and the small groups met in the two languages as well.

What a blessing to facilitate these bilingual events!



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Denim & Pearls | Geyer Springs

God's love is like a pair of blue jeans—durable, longlasting, and comfortable. And through his love, he shares **pearls of wisdom**, which we can pass on to others as a demonstration of his love for them.

Denim & Pearls was the theme for the Village Church of Christ Ladies' Day with over two hundred women in attendance. Women from churches in Hot Springs Village and across Arkansas gathered to celebrate God's love on Sat. morning, April 9.

An added blessing was that Village Church of Christ is

where **Katie Forbess**, Board President, and her family attend. Many women that had heard about IRSM were able to see firsthand some of what we are all about.

Katie and her family also assist in the Villagesupported Spanish-speaking work in **Geyer Springs** (Little Rock), AR.

Michelle was able to partner with them and conduct a Spanish **Ladies' Day** in Feb. and has taken several Harding students from Searcy to worship with and encourage that small church on Sunday mornings.



Village Church of Christ Ladies use the Common Threads to apply lessons about God's durable love and pearls of wisdom

2016 Calendar

April 23—Iglesia de Cristo Rural Hill, Nashville (Span.)

May 3-6—Pepperdine Bible Lectures (booth)

May 21-26—Dominican Republic

May 27-28–Renewal Retreat for Hispanic Women Workers, Miami, FL June 17-18—University Church of Christ Bilingual Ladies' Retreat , Abilene, TX

June 30–July 3–Equip / Equipar Conference (Eng. & Span.), Orlando, FL (formerly Spiritual Growth Workshop)

July 22-Aug 2–Seminars for women in Guatemala with Health Talents Int'l Sept 25-28—Harding Lectureship, classes and booth

Oct 28-29–Iglesia de Cristo Tahlequah, OK, Area-wide Women's Retreat (Span.)

Fall trips to South America are currently unconfirmed. Please join us in prayer and spread the word for these upcoming events. "Michelle, you have a wonderful gift from God. Thank you for sharing it with others." ~Joyce, Escondido, CA



Rose Cards

Just in time for Mother's Day, check out our new Rose Cards in promotion of our growing Intern Program.

Rose Cards are available as a family tree of roses or in recognition of an Iron Rose Sister.

Therefore, Rose Cards are available with two, three,

four, or six roses. The 4x6 cards can be framed, mailed, or hand-delivered, each with a personal note and an acknowledgement of a donation made it someone's honor.

Visit our website (www.lronRoseSister.com) to see your options and to place an order.



Katie Forbess, Board President and Michelle at Village Church of Christ Ladies Day

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Iron Rose Sister Ministries Ministerio Hermana Rosa de Hierro

<u>Tax-deductible contributions</u>: Iron Rose Sister Ministries (IRSM) 1 Susan Dr. Searcy, AR 72143 For online contributions: www.IronRoseSister.com

<u>Advisory elders:</u> Northwest Church of Christ Westminster, CO

<u>Contact us</u>: 501-593-4849 ironrosesister@gmail.com 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: Growing Intern Program and Our Volunteers

In our **2015 Annual Report** (which is available on our website or can be mailed to you), I shared that one of the things I am most excited about is our **growing Intern Program and base of volunteers.**

One of our goals in moving



to Searcy was to tap into the network here through **Harding University** and the many area churches of Christ.

This prayer is being answered as **Rebeca Martinez**, Honduran student in the Center for Advanced Ministry Training (CAMT) Program will be interning with us this summer.

Also, women like **Carole Gastineau, my mom** (pictured right), and other women, are stepping up to serve in various ways and travel for IRSM events across the country.

Some of the women with life experience are seeking to grow in their ministry experience and be equipped through IRSM and



Jocelynn Goff and Carole Gastineau in Hot Springs Village, AR

our resources.

We need your help as well! Your prayers, your talents, and your financial support help make it possible for us to continue to equip women in English and Spanish to connect to God and one another more deeply—here in Searcy, and across the Americas.

Thank you for your continued prayers for God'sprovision of workers! Your prayers are beinganswered.Love, Michelle

Rebeca Martinez, bilingual summer intern