

ELISHA 2023

PERSONAL MESSAGES & TESTIMONIES OF
ELISHA 2023 PARTICIPANTS



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LEADERSHIP
CENTRE

I have learnt so much, not just about being a Christian Leader, but also about myself as a disciple of Jesus. ELISHA has helped me to become more aware of my own tendencies in my relationship with God and how to listen better to the movements of the Spirit within me. ELISHA has also equipped me with skills in decision making and facilitation to be a better leader, one with the heart for Jesus and his people.

JERYL

It has been a blessing to be on the ELISHA journey! The program equipped me with the relevant skills and growth in spiritual life to lead like Jesus. Through ELISHA, God tended to my inner wounds and deepen my walk with Him. Courses like “Building Trust in Community” and “Discerned Decision-Making” impart valuable life skills. Journeying together with others from the various parishes and church groups, listening to the similar and different challenges faced by them, has been insightful too. My feelings in attending ELISHA has changed from inertia, reluctance and guardedness at the start, to openness and anticipation, to realising that I’m receiving so much, to freedom and security, gratitude and appreciation, and feeling empowered. I have come to encounter a God who desires so much for me, a generous, fun-loving God. In response, I have become more open, receptive and trusting in the Lord’s invitation (in big and small ways), feel healed and more integrated, and gaining a better understanding and confidence of myself as a leader.

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This ELISHA journey has allowed me to gain clarity on the person that God created me to be. It has made me reflect deeper on the vocation and desires that God has placed in my heart – how to be a missionary disciple in my roles as a daughter, sister, granddaughter, girlfriend, community leader, social worker, colleague, and friend while remaining secure in my identity in Christ. God has been so gentle with my raw heart, tending to my wounds and needs. The areas that needed to be revealed or surfaced came up in spaces where I was held. ELISHA has equipped me with greater awareness and insight into where my heart is – my feelings, intentions, and baggage. It has made soul-searching come more instinctively and has become second nature now.



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CLARISSA

The ELISHA journey is about authentic Christian leadership in community, which extends beyond Ministry and Church. I gained valuable insights and practical tools that I can apply wherever I am; to always serve with humility, gratitude and courage. I strongly recommend ELISHA for both emerging and seasoned leaders!

CLARICE

One of the high points that I have encountered in this ELISHA journey happened during the “At the Feet of the Good Shepherd” Retreat, the reminder of who am I and whose am I. Having a vision of how God created me into being, formed me in my mother’s womb – cell by cell – piecing me together. He willed me into existence and I am created for a purpose. I felt empowered and a sense of clarity during this journey. The tools provided for me to be a better leader to be more confident in how I lead, leading from my identity that is unique and special and asking where am I leading from, especially at times when I experience negative emotions. There were times when I felt that I should not be a leader and maybe the Lord made a mistake in making me one, but I realised that I was running away because I didn’t feel like I belonged, that I was being forgotten and unimportant. During this ELISHA journey, God has been calling me me back to Him. Recognising that He is a God who wants to spend time with me and to speak to me, mould me and guide me made me want to really make time to sit at His feet and commit that time to Him. Moving forward, I desire to continue to lead by placing people first. And not just those I work closely with but all whom I come into contact with.

B.



What I liked about ELISHA were the new friends from other parishes, the 1-to-1 session with the Spiritual Director and sacrament of Confession, being reconciled with God and the church from what hindered me from carrying out my mission. I moved from fear at the beginning, to clarity, learning attainable steps in leadership, from self-doubt to being reassured, learning from others' sharing, from feeling alone in my struggles as a leader, to knowing other leaders also face similar obstacles/struggles, from having no idea what is in store, to still not knowing but now have companions on the journey. I desire to apply what I've learnt in church to my family and work.

BRYAN



A core point of the journey for me was when we pondered on our values and personal mission statement. Learning more about self leadership and the things God has placed in my heart gave me clarity and peace. The low points came in moments of discouragement, like seeing what ideal leadership, communication and working together looks like, and comparing that to the cracks I see in my day to day activity. I've encountered a God who appoints but does not abandon. In the ministries I have committed to, it's easy for me to fall into striving and take things into my own hands because of all my inner wounds. But this journey opened me to reclaim God as being a trustworthy shepherd again. He calls me to a task and gives the graces necessary. Growing in this dependance on God helps me to be less fixated on outcomes and more focused on the heart of it, which is how the people in the ministry, including myself, grow closer to God. I recognise once again that everything is grace and we love others because He first loved us. My heart's desire is to move in courage to wherever God calls me to go. To be open to the places He wants to plant me and to love people He sends my way.

HANNAH



Through the ELISHA journey, I feel overwhelmingly that I am not alone through the incredibly supportive community and sessions on how to build trust in community. This and the inner healing which I received during the retreat turn me towards the fact that God is a real and living God whom I have experienced because He reached out to me where I was and touched me. A lot of doubt about God and His love has been erased. I feel blessed and grateful for this journey, that I could experience Him in new ways. I feel God's hand in everything, the highs and the lows. I feel Him asking me to remain in Him so that He can remain in me. I desire to see His hand in everything in my life. I realise that life is easier when I lean on God and let Him do the heavy lifting for me. Consistently in these few months, I feel the work of the Holy Spirit moving in me and the rest of the ELISHA cohort. I would like to bring this to all areas of my life, not just church work, but also in the world where it seems that the call and greatest challenge is to be 'salt of the earth', to be a leader like Christ wherever we go.

REGINA



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The high point of ELISHA was that the 5 of us could journey and learn together as a leadership team. It has shaped the way we hold meetings and relate to each other. I treasure spending time together as a team, the shared moments, laughing and embracing our quirks but growing together.

GRACE

What I have learnt in ELISHA apply not only in ministry work but also in many aspects of life – relationships, at work, family etc. I felt discomfort in recognising that my own wounds played a part in who I am today and acknowledge that I most certainly cannot do leadership alone. I feel affirmed that I am guided and under the wings of God my protector. I feel heard and seen in my struggles as a leader and feel held as a leader journeying with fellow leaders. God is my role model, my infallible mentor. Jesus is the true servant leader. Jesus is Lord in all areas of my life. I desire to be a nurturing, encouraging and loving servant leader who's serves with humility and justice to the people entrusted to my care. My heart's desire is to be a more intentional and discerning leader, one who is able to delegate and also learn to trust. I desire to continue to be held in a community and to be more formed in the faith to better represent the Church.

RONALEEN



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