

## **Testimonies from the Participants**

### **Biannual gathering of Mission Partners, Good Shepherd Convent, Bangalore**

#### **Some of the participants wrote:**

1. These two days session was very much useful for me to renew my spirit and service with RGS sisters as partner in mission. Thanks to Sr. Shalini. I liked 'shadows of our hidden life where everyone needs to overcome their egos to contribute to the mission. Listening to understand, self-reflection, joining with our RGS and partners in mission team are all for the mission.
2. I appreciate the methodology Sr. Shalini used – of sharing nature at all sessions. There was opportunity for all to participate than a lecture method. All had opportunity to share without restriction. Preparing 'Mandala' was an enriching experience which also enabled soul-searching. Sessions moved smoothly without having to pause for Kannada translation. The overall atmosphere was filled with 'positive energy'.
3. Really these two days session was good. I feel little closer to the mission. All are thinking about improving prayer life and its importance. Really appreciable. Especially, Appreciative Inquiry was wonderful. This is our Lord Good Shepherd teaching us. Have a hope that now we can grow in our mission and charism.
4. The sessions were conducted very well. Sr. Shalini spoke about the mission very passionately. Looking forward to working for the mission.
5. Session was good and well planned. The whole session helped me to find myself and where I am in the mission. About different personalities helped me a lot to find my shadows or hidden portions. We got more chance or opportunity to speak out. Positive vibes we got from this session.
6. These two days program was organized very well. Each activity and discussion had something to learn for my life. These days of being together has helped us to go forward with vigour and zeal and to work and carry out the mission with enthusiasm, with my contribution and sacrifice myself for the service of people who are not recognized in the society.
7. Session was very enriching, Learned to listen to understand, feeling of family gathering and togetherness, got enlightened with values and the mission, hoping for more gathering like this session, Ritual was very touching to the heart.
8. All the sessions conducted by Sr. Shalini was informative and interactive. A time of sharing our thoughts and feedback was the highlight of the session. If it is feasible we can conduct these sessions at our sister units so that we get a chance to see the activities and ministries in other places.
9. It was a good session. The inputs were good for our personal growth especially the Appreciative Inquiry and Mandala. The theme was very much in connection with the program. The promise taking ceremony was very inspiring. I really appreciate the partners in Mission especially those who made the promise for their commitment for the welfare of the people with whom they work.

10. First of all I thank all our Good Shepherd family for giving us a wonderful meaningful two days effective sharing for growth. Thank you for making us renewed. You have taught us to listen to understand. The two days sessions have rejuvenated us completely. A fire you have kindled in me, the blazing fire not to stop but to continue the mission till we rest in peace. Thank you Sister.
11. These two days session was good; appreciate the topics chosen, personal reflection period was appreciated, journaling/Mandala is helpful, Province Leader's presence and address is appreciated, promise taken by partners in mission helps them to understand the significance of their mission, Once a year GS 'Home Group' can come together.
12. Dear Sisters, thank you for accepting us into this mission and for all the efforts taken to make us effective partners in your mission. This two day session has enriched us with more input, information and guidance and it was more effective because of the simplicity and openness and clarity in communication on with day to day experience and examples. It was active listening in process that has facilitated in every session whether it was the participants or Sr. Shalini sharing. Also there was a sense of warmth and love in the interactions, compared to previous years' meeting where we were left wondering what to do when the other Sisters are not really welcoming others. But this time was different, very much like the first PiM 'Home Group' meeting where we felt very much accepted.  
Suggestions: If all members from every community are given opportunity to involve, it will give motivation and inspiration to all.
13. I learnt about the past history of the Good Shepherd Congregation and the great personalities who have supported and served society without discrimination and with zeal. I would also like to follow their examples and extend a helping hand to the society. These two days of meeting gave me a lot of knowledge and positive energy to serve.
14. It was a good session; it will be more effective if all the partners remained for both the days. Since for many years in partnership we wish to visit our Mother House (wish). As partners our dedication is very important, we should be connected always. Big thanks to Sr. Shalini and all the sisters who worked for these two days session.
15. Appreciation: Sessions were person oriented which helped me to understand and change my approach. Thank you Sister for the session.  
Suggestions: All community sisters do not accept Mission partners, still mission Partners feel that we are not respected, looked down. Coordinator of Mission partner is not free to coordinate with staff when other sister is in charge of the staff. Apostolic sisters need training and sessions to deal with Mission Partners.
16. Good experience. The topics and process of the sessions were helpful; the need of the hour.

Bangalore

6-7 December, 2024

(Computerized by Sr. Shalini Podimattam)