



EYES WIDE OPEN

Andy Frost, Director of SJI reflects on the EKKLESIA (a two-day conference for church leaders which explores the raw and the real of church life. It's a space to unpack some of the thinking and the practical ideas that help bring about Kingdom change).

In March we hosted our SJI 2025 Ekklesia conference. And the theme seemed particularly significant.

We can so often have our head down, getting on with our to-do-list and miss the bigger thing that God is doing. The brilliant contributors from a variety of church streams helped us explore how we ...

- Grow with our eyes wide open, aware of both our authority and our vulnerability, allowing God to change some of our mindsets as we learn from the church in the majority world, inviting the emerging generation into a life of generosity.
- Pray with our eyes wide open – a deep challenge to be people of prayer, not hiding our poverty of spirit behind our gifting, but really modelling prayerful lives.
- Dream with our eyes wide open. There is a new openness to God. How are we open to those looking for answers? How do we help people discover the values that we celebrate are actually found in God's big story? And how do we dream for our communities, exploring business models that bring transformation and building truly intergenerational churches?
- Lead with our eyes wide open. A challenging word from Acts 9 as Paul is blinded so he can see. May we daily look to see the world as God sees it!

It definitely feels like a new season is opening up for the church in this nation.

Keep an eye on SJI's YouTube channel for videos of this year's EKKLESIA sessions: www.youtube.com/@SJInews