Ridley-College lecturer John Dickson has recently returned from a trip to Jordan and Lebanon looking at the role of Australian Aid and he’s making no attempt to downplay the deep impact the experience has had on him.
“I was always, you know, an advocate for Australian Aid, but it was sort of like that thing where we all know we’re meant to be vaguely healthy and then you have a heart attack and so you are bought powerfully into emotional alignment with what the facts always were,” Dickson told attendees at an event about being a good global neighbour by Micah Australia and Anglican Deaconess Ministries in Sydney.

“Seeing it made me think “Oh my goodness!” I don’t just think it’s real and valuable, I’m totally awakened to it and I’m thrilled to say something about it.”

Dickson opened the event by taking attendees through a photographic presentation of the different projects he’d visited, including Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan, noting details of the aid programmes and sharing the stories of the people they reach.

He told the audience he was especially struck both by the professionalism of those delivering projects funded by Australian Aid and the protocols in place to ensure the funding’s stewardship. Yet even more striking to him was just how effectively
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