

Introduction: Welcome to Engage 360 Denver Seminary's Podcast. Join us as we explore the redemptive power of the Gospel and the life changing truth of scripture at work in our culture today.

Dr. Don Payne: Well, you found us, this is Engage 360 from Denver Seminary, and I'm Don Payne, really glad for the delight of hosting these conversations every week. Thanks for joining us. If you've been listening to any of our recent episodes, you know, that we've been trying to lean into some of the issues that are tearing at the seams of our culture, and we're trying to shine a Gospel flashlight into them. Sometimes that gospel flashlight has to come from a direct angle. Sometimes it has to come in from kind of an oblique angle because the issues get so tangled. And that takes a lot of patience, a lot of disciplined thinking, not the superficial talk show analysis. But many of us face kind of an additional challenge when it comes to engaging the needs of the world with the redemptive power of the Gospel. So if you don't live in a place where brokenness or injustice or other needs are right in your face, it might be kind of easy to miss or gloss over those areas where the power of the Gospel is really needed in order for kingdom values to prevail. For example, there are various forms of homogeneity, whether that's ethnic or socioeconomic or educational level or whatever.

Sometimes those levels of homogeneity in a setting can mask some of the brokenness and tempt us to treat the Gospel in sort of a one-dimensional way. And that's why I'm really excited about our guests and our conversation this week. We're going to get a couple of case studies of sorts in what it means to see brokenness ministry needs, needs for the redemptive power of the Gospel in settings that on the surface can seem like they're all together. Those settings that I have in mind are resort communities. So our guests this week are Dr. Jim Howard my long time friend, who is the senior pastor of Dillon Community Church in Dillon, Colorado. What some of us here in Colorado refer to as Summit County. And Luke Frasier, who is the senior Pastor of Island Baptist Church in Beach Haven, New Jersey. So we've got two communities here who are probably about 2,500 miles apart, give or take, and yet share something really common. A resort communities are an animal all of their own, but I've invited these two gentlemen to be with us on Engage 360, to talk about some of the unique ministry challenges and opportunities and what it's like to see maybe the, the underbelly where the Gospel really is needed, but it might not just scream at us. So Luke, Jim, welcome to Engage 360.

Dr. Jim Howard: Thank you.

Luke Frasier: Glad to be here.

Dr. Don Payne: Luke is joining us from New Jersey, so we're thanking the Lord for cell phone connections and hope that it stays. Okay. So Luke I've never been to Beach Haven, but Jim, I know that in the Dillon Silverthorne Summit County area, you drive through there in the middle of famous ski resorts, beautiful condos, massive vacation homes, and you can easily get the impression, get a certain impression about this place. So let's start with you. And then Luke, we'll have

you weigh in as well. What do you think might surprise most people about where you live and serve?

Dr. Jim Howard: Well Dillon is a very beautiful place. The churches over a hundred years old, the it's one of the most expensive places now to live in the country and everyone appears to have their act together. It's so beautiful. They think of it as heaven. And so we have people that come, we normally have about 30,000 people in our county. We live about 30 minutes away from six world-class ski resorts. And then during the summer, and then during the winter season, we jumped to, we add an extra a hundred, 120,000 people that come out just to enjoy the mountains and the skiing and the hiking and the sailing, and all the other things, mountain biking that happens. And you would never know that underneath the veneer is a very, very broken culture with these people. It's a two class church, so we have very wealthy people and we have people that are barely surviving, struggling to make ends meet. Both couples probably work on the other end, the lower end. And so everything, it looks really good on the surface, but once you get below the surface, it's a very different world.

Dr. Don Payne: So they're not a middle class?

Dr. Jim Howard: Very little middle class, the middle class live outside the County where they can afford it and they drive into work.

Dr. Don Payne: Okay. Okay. Luke, tell us about Beach Haven, New Jersey and you're setting there?

Luke Frasier: Well, much of what Dr. Howard just described would be a very fair classification of Beach Haven. As a matter of fact, when he described it, as I think he said a little taste of Heaven that's part of why Beach Haven was named what it was named. Beach Haven is the queen township. That's what it says right on the sign as you pull into Beach Haven on long beach Island. Long beach Island is a skinny little Island off the coast of the Jersey Shore. It's about 18 miles long. It was 2017 Long Beach Island, specifically Beach Haven, was voted one of the top 10 tourist destinations in the whole country. And much, yeah, much like what Dr. Howard said, it only has about 10,000 year round residents, but during the summer months, it swells to upwards of 200,000. So we call it "the invasion" here, because we're invaded from all the people who live in New York City or Philadelphia, or even some folks who drive up from Washington, DC who have summer homes here.

Dr. Don Payne: They're invaded by people from Summit County, Colorado who can't breathe anymore. So they, they need a little oxygen, right?

Luke Frasier: Yes, that's exactly right.

Dr. Jim Howard: And you have to do your grocery shopping early in the morning because the lines are way too long.

Luke Frasier: They are. As a matter of fact, we, we take advantage of the delivery service for grocery shopping because we don't dare step out of our house during the summertime. We'll never get our parking spots back. It's like that. I was just going to say Beach Haven is unique on the whole Island because it's the family spot. So most of the restaurants are here in Beach Haven. The only amusement park on the Island is almost right across the street from our church. It's catty-corner. And so this is the place where families want to be. If there is a spot that could be designated down on island.

Dr. Don Payne: Okay. How long have you been at your church as Pastor?

Luke Frasier: Five years.

Dr. Don Payne: Alright. And Jim, you've been at Dillon Community?

Dr. Jim Howard: Seven and a half years.

Dr. Don Payne: Okay. Alright. Similar times time frames there for each of you. What's different about your respective locations for the residents who live there year round?

Luke Frasier: Those who live here year round most of them have not lived here year round for the longevity of their life. They have moved here from different parts of New Jersey, different parts of the country, and many of them having spoken with them, myself move here because they believe that this is where their happy place is. Many of their most nostalgic memories taking place here, maybe some of them had mothers or fathers who took them here when they were children. And so this has become an escape for a lot of people. I mean, people drive to long beach Island and many of the other shore destinations in New Jersey because it offers them a break from reality. And so to move here would be for many people, it's like getting a little piece of heaven before you go there permanently. And so people move here to escape the hurts and pains that they think they're leaving behind on the mainland.

Dr. Don Payne: It sounds like there's an "and" to that.

Luke Frasier: There is.

Dr. Don Payne: What's the "and" or the "but"?

Luke Frasier: But it's not here. When people try to make this place or any place for that matter Heaven, they always find themselves disenchanted. And it doesn't really take long. When people come here for vacation, they come with all kinds of ideas of what this little escape is going to be like. And then when they leave, they may have had a great time, but unfortunately their problems are still there waiting for them, all the things that they thought they were going to find most of the time, they don't find them. And so to move here, hoping that that will be the solution to the pains that you have experienced in life. It only exacerbates

the problem because it isn't here. It's what you're looking for isn't found in any destination it's found in Christ and to help someone discover that well, that takes a long time. It takes a reorientation of the mind, really.

Dr. Don Payne: It's kind of the Camelot syndrome, isn't it? Where you see this place that you think is going to be so like idyllic, and then you take your stuff with you there, all your, all of your baggage. Jim, what's different in Summit County and Dillon/Silverthorne for the people who live there year round.

Dr. Jim Howard: Well, it's very, very similar to what Luke just said. They come there. We have about a 30% turnover in our church every year. So people come and they, they have a dream. It actually tells you the power of the family that they could think of these places that way, almost like a little Heaven. And then when they get there, it's not what they remember because now they're adults and they have their own families to take care of. So people will leave our County for one of two reasons. This may be a little bit different Luke, than what you have. They leave because of, similar to you, because of financing. They finance out because they just can't afford it. They can get a one bedroom, you know, apartment starting at \$650,000, but they have a family. And so to try to survive in that environment is almost impossible. But then the older population, they age out because we're at 9,200 feet. And as our doctors like to tell us, we're not made to live above 7,000.

So, when they get to their upper seventies, they typically have to start looking at lower altitudes and they have to reconstitute their entire social structure. So the wealthy people that come, they have the resources and the money to enjoy it and to play all the various games that they like to play. We have a nice reservoir tied for the biggest in the State. It's one of the top 10 sailing spots in the United States. So we have people that come to play and the people that come there, as Luke said to recreate something, don't have those resources to enjoy those kinds of games, those types of outdoor activities. So we also have a very high suicide rate. We have people that drive up just to when they take their life, when they end it, they want their last thing they see are the mountains. And so that's a regular, locating bodies is a regular function of the local law enforcement.

Dr. Don Payne: Luke, go ahead.

Luke Frasier: Ocean County, New Jersey, which is where long beach Island is located, has the highest population of year round suicides. It has the highest opioid addiction, it has the highest level of dissatisfaction statistically. And so it's interesting because people think "if I could just live" and then they fill in the blank by the mountains, if I could just live by the beach, then I'd be, and you all know what comes next, then I'd be happy. The truth is they come here and it doesn't offer what they thought it would. And it only speeds up the process of depression in their life.

Dr. Jim Howard: It does, and they often leave depressed. So very good point.

Dr. Don Payne:

Well, this is, this is one of the reasons I wanted to have this conversation with you two men, because especially in contrast or a comparison to all the, all the brokenness and issues that we're struggling with, at least in this country right now. And many of those, as I said, when we got underway, many of those are really in our faces, but for a lot of people who, who live far from where all of that is really a flame that may seem very remote. And particularly in communities like yours, where people gravitate there because of this sort of "Camelot" image that they have in their minds, there's just as much brokenness, but it's kind of tucked between the lines. It seems, or it's kind of an underbelly, it's hidden. What are some of the factors that hide it, that mask those needs and those issues, both from the people who are affected by them, and maybe from you as well as a Pastor?

Dr. Jim Howard:

One of the things is having resources does not guarantee happiness. And so a lot of the people that come up there with resources are still trying to find it. So they, they like living on the edge. I have three people in our church that between them have 80 years of Olympic experience, US ski team experience. And they're always pushing the envelope. And that's very common where we live. They want to be the fastest mountain biker, the fastest hiker, the fastest skier, the fastest sailor. And so they live life by pushing the envelope as hard as they can, because they're looking for something. And it, it just doesn't deliver. So they have to push harder and harder. And as they begin to age and get older, that becomes very difficult to do. So there's one area that you wouldn't see it because they're such excellent skiers, for example, the best in the world, all the world-class skiers that you know of from watching the Olympics are in our County, and they're up there Skiing. We can talk to them and see them. So that's one area that you wouldn't know how to look for it, but they're living on the edge. And so many of them go through marriages because they're living on the edge, pushing as hard as they can. And so it's not uncommon to have two, three, four marriages and still not find happiness. Resources just doesn't guarantee happiness.

Luke Frasier:

This has been a major project of mine, if I could call it that, since I've moved here is understanding what are the real needs of the people? Not only that I'm ministering to in my church, but in the community that I hope to reach. And so for the last five years I've done everything that I know how to try to be a student of this culture, to understand what it is that makes these people tick. What gets them out of bed in the morning, what it is that's driving them. And here's what I've learned over. I don't know how much you can really learn in five years, but here's my assessment. Ours are predominantly psychological and emotional needs, which as we all know that those are rooted in spiritual needs. And it's been my assessment that the most pervasive spiritual blind spot in this area far and away, is in the arena of identity. And assessing this, it takes time to be able to hear as Dr. Payne put it, these are not needs that are screaming on the surface as if we were ministering in an impoverished area, those needs are screaming to us. You can see them, you know, they're on the surface. Getting to the bottom of identity needs. It takes a retuning of your ears to be able to hear

in people's language, the kinds of things that they're regularly talking about, that there's pain underneath what they're saying.

So, when someone is incessantly talking about themselves, incessantly trying to build themselves up by talking about their accomplishments and the things that they've achieved in life, all this talk of success, all these things hint at a deeply rooted fear of inadequacy and those lead to depression, drug, and alcohol reliance, dissatisfaction. And so they mask these needs by the lie of self-reliance. Many of the people in this area have come to believe that if they tell someone that they're hurting, they tell someone that they have needs, then they're a burden on them. And so they are constantly putting on this mask that says, I'm fine. I don't need help. I'll figure this out myself. And it requires someone to really listen, almost like a psychologist would listen and try to read between the lines of what the true needs are at the bottom.

Dr. Jim Howard: Luke, how long did it take you once you moved into the community to be able to see if I can use that image, see what was going on?

Luke Frasier: Well, thanks be to God. I grew up in a family where these needs were pervasive. So my father was vice president of Goldman Sachs when I was growing up back in the eighties. And so I saw the kind of a family who was, had their identity rooted in money and in status and power. And so the language that I heard, not just by my own family, but by friends of our family was very familiar to me when I came here. And it became very apparent very quickly, why God would call someone like me to this area, because I saw the deep damage that an identity rooted in power and status and money can do to a family. And so it enabled me to hear what people were really saying, even if they didn't know what they were saying. And so the deep needs that people have are all about identity. It really, truly is. So God had been preparing me for this since I was a small child.

Dr. Don Payne: Well, that's great because you didn't, you were not as intoxicated with that ideology or that image as you might've been otherwise. Right?

Luke Frasier: No. As a matter of fact, I, this was the last place that I wanted to come and minister to, To be honest with you. My first application was to the international church in Solum Maniah Iraq. I had never seen myself as a Pastor in the United States at in my life, I saw ourselves as overseas missionaries. And I thought, when I came here, this isn't going to last very long. They're going to fire me within a year. They're not going to like me. So yes, I had been prepared for this kind of a place by the Lord, but I, this was not my desire to come to a place like this at all.

Dr. Jim Howard: One of the things that stunned me once I got up to the County where I live, when I moved there, I thought it would be largely an evangelistic ministry. I spent about 20 hours a week out in coffee shops, restaurants, bars, talking to people. And I knew all the demographics, cause I'd done the research and only 7% of the County professed to be Protestant. That means that if you do the math, there's even a lot less that go to church. So I thought it would largely be

an evangelistic ministry, but I can honestly say in a seven and a half years of doing this, I don't know how many hundreds and hundreds of coffees I've had. It's not an evangelistic ministry. They all come from some faith background, almost every single one. I can think of one person in seven and a half years that actually doesn't have any faith background that I've talked to, and the rest have been hurt in some way by their religious experience. And so it's really become more of a recovery ministry than it has been an evangelistic ministry. And I didn't expect that that's what's stunning to me.

Dr. Don Payne: So what's your best story each of you, of how you've had to think creatively to meet a ministry need or address a ministry issue in your area because of the type of place it is?

Dr. Jim Howard: I don't know if I have a particular story. I can tell you this, that the climate the culture, let me say it that way. When I say climate, you think of weather, the culture is shifting so quickly. It's very, very fluid. So we've talked as a church, how important it is to be agile, especially with a 30% turnover rate every year with our membership. And so you can pick an area of sin or challenge and it pops its head up regularly. So right now, for example, within the school system, several of our teenagers are now exploring and experimenting with sexual orientation because that's the big thing. That wasn't the case four years ago, or even five years ago when I started meeting with them, I meet with all the teenagers pretty regularly, but now it's an epidemic and it is in the high school and they're not allowed to say anything about it, or you have something as simple with all the current quarantine things that are going on. The, all the safe houses for domestic violence are now full. And they've asked us several times, do you have place we can put some of these wives? Because the domestic violence has gone through the roof in our County. These are things that aren't in the paper, things that you can't see. So, I mean, I can think of individual stories with people, but the culture is changing regularly. And, you know, we added, as you know, we added we made marijuana legal just a few years ago and that completely changed the culture.

Dr. Don Payne: Yeah. Well, I know, I know from what you told me previously, that that has changed the economic base in some respects of the social services and benevolence ministries.

Dr. Jim Howard: Yes, we have a very close relationship with all of the social services, whether they're Christian or not. We work together very strongly and partner with them and it's changing. So seven and a half years ago, the people that came with benevolent needs were typically people that were very poor and couldn't make their house payment. And then we went through a phase where the people that came were largely young people that were living in their cars, they came up there to ski. So they walk in smelling very strongly of marijuana and we had to face that challenge fact, you helped us, how do we, you know, what do we do with our resources? And now all of a sudden with the quarantine that shifted again. And so it's a shifting target, if you will, the culture is changing so quickly. But high altitude. Yeah.

Dr. Don Payne: Yeah. Luke, how about you? You got a story?

Luke Frasier: Oh, sure. That's actually been the greatest focus that I've had since I've come here. Our church I could tell right from the beginning was in need of a, a mental shift, a shift in the mindset of where the greatest depravity on the earth actually is. When I came here, the idea was that depravity was out there somewhere that the greatest depravity is probably overseas where the greatest physical needs are. And so I've been working tirelessly to shift our mindset, to transition so that people can understand that the greatest depravity is probably actually right outside of our door. There's a phrase that people have heard me say over and over again, there are people so poor on LBI that the only thing they have is money.

Dr. Don Payne: Great phrase. I love that.

Luke Frasier: Well, that wasn't their response when they first heard me say it, but it has since been adopted because it's the truth. We have masked ourselves to think that God must be okay with us, because look at my resources, I must be doing something right? Because look at what I've been able to do for myself in my life. When the reality is that studies have shown that some of the happiest, most satisfied and gratified people live in impoverished areas. And so this mental reorientation has led to a noticeable transition in how we spend the resources that the Lord has graciously provided us. So we've transitioned from seeing the greatest needs as being overseas, where we would give half of our monthly and yearly budget to overseas missionaries to now reallocating a lot of our giving to building up our Jerusalem. And reaching the people that are right across the street here, because we realized there are people that are blinded to their own needs, and we've got to do a better job of helping them. So one of our biggest ministries that we have here over the summer, and we call it the 5W surf camp, those 5W's, are you ready for this? Wings, waves, word, worship on Wednesdays.

Dr. Don Payne: Well, you had me at wings.

Luke Frasier: Wings. Yeah. We've got a really world-class wing restaurant right around the corner. And people stand in line for hours to get these wings.

Dr. Don Payne: I'll be on a plane as soon as we're done.

Luke Frasier: And one of our elders is a, I guess you could call him a semipro surfer. He's competed all his life. He loves to surf and he loves the Lord. So we have, you know, 60, 70 people come out every Wednesday night to learn how to serve from him. He brings them back to our church. We feast, we sing songs, we introduce people to Jesus as they're drying off from the waves. And it's been huge lift people calling us all year long to ask us when the surf camp starts. And so that's been a really awesome shift for us to really focus our attention on the local community and the things that people come to LBI for.

Dr. Don Payne: What a great story. Give us the 5W's again, the wings waves?

Luke Frasier: Wings, waves, worship, and the word on Wednesdays.

Dr. Don Payne: Okay. Wings, waves, worshipping the word on Wednesdays. That's great for the people who are so poor, they don't have anything but money.

Luke Frasier: That's right.

Dr. Don Payne: I love it. I love it. Okay. A little bit more of a lighthearted question. What do you guys do for fun, where you live? I'm assuming, now, I'm just assuming that while you serve a lot of people who are pretty well resourced, the two of you may not be quite as well resourced as some of them. Just, just a guess. So what do you guys do for fun?

Dr. Jim Howard: So personally, you're asking what do we do personally?

Dr. Don Payne: Yeah.

Dr. Jim Howard: I head to the beach. I grew up in South Florida. So every chance I can get away, I head to the beach somewhere, somewhere.

Luke Frasier: I head to the mountains.

Dr. Jim Howard: Of course. So we should swap churches.

Luke Frasier: We should.

Luke Frasier: I like to date my wife. I really do. And when we have, when we have time where there's a lot of local places to eat here and we just like to go out, try different restaurants try to enjoy some of the seafood that we've never had a chance to get. Cause around here, half the restaurants are seafood. So we love to just go out and talk about the Lord, talk about our kids, talk about dreams we have. And that fills my tank, Dr. Howard and Dr. Payne. It really does.

Dr. Jim Howard: Luke, we like to do the same Nancy and I, and the problem is that there's no place I can go in the County now where if we're having dinner, maybe three people or four people stop by to say hi, because they all know me.

Luke Frasier: Yeah. I don't have that problem just yet. Okay.

Dr. Jim Howard: Yeah. It'll come.

Dr. Don Payne: That's why he drives when he needs to get away. He drives down to Denver and bugs me.

Dr. Jim Howard: I do, that's right. Nancy just said the other day, you know, we should go to Vail for dinner because that's a different County, even though it's a resort community and the people over there won't know us. I mean, I even came down to Littleton and worked out at the rec center here, paid them money. And while I was working out, I thought this is great. I'm away from everything. I had three People come up and say, Hey, I really enjoyed your sermon on Sunday. And I was like, Oh.

Dr. Don Payne: Because they were up there for the weekend.

Dr. Jim Howard: They were up there for the weekend, right.

Dr. Don Payne: Yeah. Wow. Okay. Luke, you set me up for this next one already, but what's the, what's the best food that's unique to where you live. If someone visits your, your town, where do they have to eat?

Luke Frasier: The Chegg. The Chegg C-H-E-G-G. And there's a story behind why it's called that. The full name of the restaurant is actually the chicken or the egg. It's the place that I just mentioned with the wings where there's hours of wait. But when I first came here, I started calling it the chicken or the egg and I was quickly corrected. No, no, no. You sound like a tourist, people around here, people around here. Just call it the Chegg.

Dr. Don Payne: The Chegg. Okay.

Luke Frasier: So yes, it is far and away the most famous restaurant on the Island. There's an app that you download to get in line early in the morning if you plan to dine there at night, because sometimes the wait is five, six hours.

Dr. Don Payne: Okay. Worth it though. Alright. Dillon Silverthorne, Summit County, Jim.

Dr. Jim Howard: Well, this is going to sound really disappointing. It is to me personally, but we don't know our restaurants by the quality of their food. If we really want high quality food, we go someplace else like down to Denver. But what they're known for is the cultures that they establish. So these individual restaurants have different cultures, especially during the summer when you can sit outdoors and see mountains in 360 degrees. So in the winter times, very difficult to eat, especially on the weekend because all the skiers are there and they're all trying to get home. And so the restaurants are just, if you have to wait an hour to get food, that isn't the greatest. And so we have said many times, we just wish there would be a really good restaurant up there. So it's mostly known for the culture. Okay. But they got good bars and burgers and pub food and all that.

Dr. Don Payne: Yeah. I've got some pretty good eats up there. We were Sharon and I were up there. I don't know if you, weeks ago when I spoke at your church and had a great plate full of enchiladas at the Sunshine Cafe. Right.

Dr. Jim Howard: Right. And Luke, I don't know if you feel this way, but sometimes I feel claustrophobic. I have one grocery store, two gas stations, five restaurants, and wherever I go, I run into people. And so sometimes I just have to get in the car and drive, you know, a ways away where people don't know who I am.

Luke Frasier: Exactly the same thing here. As a matter of fact, sometimes I rely on my wife to tell me I need to get away.

Dr. Don Payne: Yeah. Okay. Let's let me wrap it up with this. Give us each of you, maybe your top one or two suggestions or challenges for people who live in places where needs and brokenness are not right in their faces. And they're trying to figure out what it means to bring the redemptive power of the Gospel, you know, to the brokenness of the world. But it's not in their faces.

Dr. Jim Howard: Yeah. One of the things I have learned the finest preaching in the world, isn't going to get people to come forward and we've got a pretty good Pastor up there. I mean, he's, he preaches pretty well.

Dr. Don Payne: Yeah. Tell me his name again?

Dr. Jim Howard: So Dr. Payne preached for me a couple of weeks ago, and the guy that introduced him said, he's a riveting speaker. And Dr. Payne said, unlike Dr. Howard.

Dr. Don Payne: No, no. I said, Oh, I said only compared to you.

Dr. Jim Howard: No, but the preaching does have an effect on the culture, but it doesn't penetrate that what Luke was talking about, that emotional, psychological barrier that exists. And these people have had it their whole lives, especially the ones that are very successful. They've had to fight their way, the entire career. And they're older now. And so I've learned very quickly that to compliment the preaching. That's why I spend so much time out in restaurants and coffee shops, talking to people one on one about the very issues in their life. And it's fascinating when you, as we move to create a healthier culture in our church, I have people coming out my ears telling me the truth about their broken marriages and their affairs and their addictions. And it took quite a while to build that, to build the trust and the culture where people felt safe.

Dr. Don Payne: Okay. Okay. So lots of patience and lots of coffee.

Dr. Jim Howard: Lots of patience, and lots of coffee.

Dr. Don Payne: Luke. How about you? What's your top suggestion or two for people who live in places where needs and brokenness are not right in their faces?

Luke Frasier: Well, I would echo what Dr. Howard just said, but I'd also add I described it as learning to exegete the culture. So it's a, in the same way that I approach

preaching, which is very carefully looking at every word as carefully as I can. I'm trying very hard to be a, that kind of a student of the people who live here. I remember them. I spoke with the mayor not too long ago. And I asked her how long before they consider me an Islander? And she said, never. I said, what do you mean? She said, well, you weren't born here. I said, so if I live here for 25, 30 years, I'm still not an Islander. She said, Nope, not from the people who've lived here all their lives. And so to break through that kind of mentality and to develop rapport as Dr. Howard was saying, it's going to require me to listen and hear the language that really isn't spoken to visit people in their homes to sit and hear these long stories that maybe I've heard for the 30th time. And just listen as though it's the first time I've heard it. That kind of thing will let people know, I want to be where you are. And so it just takes time.

Dr. Jim Howard: You know, Luke, you mentioned the mayor and that reminds me one of the things I started when I got there was every three years, we have a kind of a community night where we invite all the leaders Police Chief, Fire Chief, mayor. Most of them don't attend church. They're not really not interested, but we asked them to come in and share with us. What are your biggest challenges and how can we as a church partner with you, either with resources like money or maybe people in our church that want to get involved, or how can we pray for you? And boy has that opened our eyes to another part of the County, which we can't quite see. We don't see it the same way the sheriff does for example. And so you know, the chief just told us that they have now have to start wearing Bulletproof vests, so that increase their budget \$10,000 a year. And he said, we didn't become firemen to have to wear a Bulletproof vest. And so because of the drug situation, when they walk into a fire, they can't go into a fire until the sheriff is there to go with them. And so as we began to ask the leaders of the County, how can we partner with you? We have formed fantastic relationships at all levels. And they know we're there to help them, to love them, to care for them. In all the recent stuff that's going on, we sent a card to all the policemen in our County and just said, thank you to each one and signed by people in our church.

Luke Frasier: Boy, that is a great idea. I'm going to borrow it. I'll send you a nickel every time I do it.

Dr. Don Payne: Yeah. He's into footnotes. So just footnote him something you write and that'll be good. It's a lot cheaper, a lot cheaper. Gentlemen, thank you very much for your, your wisdom and expertise and your time. Luke Frasier from Island Baptist Church in Beach Haven, New Jersey. Luke's also a student in our doctoral ministry program here, which is where Jim and I met him a couple of years ago, I think. And Jim Howard from Dillon Community Church in Summit County, Colorado. Gentlemen. Thanks a lot.

Dr. Jim Howard: Thank you.

Luke Frasier: Pleasure.

Dr. Don Payne:

This has been Engage 360 from Denver Seminary. We are grateful most of all to you who listen, we're really appreciative of the time you spend with us. And hope you'll tell somebody else about Engage 360, if you've heard anything here, that is a benefit to you, give us a rating or a review on your podcast platform that always helps as well. And feel free to email us your thoughts or questions podcast@denverseminary.edu is our email address. Until next week. I'm Don Payne, take care.