

Engage360 Episode 147 | The Power of Relational Ministry between Generations; Ken Allen

[00:00:00] **Angie Ward:** Hi friends, welcome to Engage360, Denver Seminary's podcast. I am your host, Angie Ward, and we are grateful that you have joined us for today's conversation. My guest today is Ken Allen. Ken is the Executive Director of Denver Area Youth for Christ. He's been in youth ministry leadership for more than 30 years. 30 years, the last 10 with Youth for Christ or YFC. And before that with Dare to Share and Youth for Christ, DCLA conferences, a little bit about Youth for Christ. If you're not familiar with that ministry, it began informally way back in 1940, when a man named Jack Wurtson held a series of rallies for teens in New York city. And then the first president was a man named Torrey Johnson in 1945. And I think this is interesting. His first employee was a guy you may have heard of named Billy Graham. And so, Youth for Christ has a long history. This year, 2024, the Denver area YFC Youth for Christ is celebrating 70 years of ministry in the Denver area. My background is actually in youth ministry. That was my undergrad and, masters and original, ministry work before transitioning to some of the things I do today. So I am very excited to talk with Ken and to hear his perspective on youth ministry today and how it's changed. Ken, glad to have you on the podcast.

[00:01:35] **Ken Allen:** Dr. Ward, thanks for your, just hosting and it's great to be here.

[00:01:39] **Angie Ward:** Tell me just briefly how you got involved with Youth for Christ, because you've been, with it for many, years now, with a little break going into Dare to Share. But, what first got you connected to YFC?

[00:01:50] **Ken Allen:** It was really my wife, Angie. She had been involved with Youth for Christ as a student in both, sides of her family. Her dad's side of the family had been involved with Metro Chicago Youth for Christ, Detroit Youth for Christ, and then her mom's Side of the family was Kansas City Youth for Christ. So, I, married my beautiful bride in 1990 and we, We ended up, moving out to Denver for Youth for Christ, being called into full time ministry. And part of my story is, I was reached, as a college student, through Campus Crusade for Christ. And so that, that placed a calling on my life, wishing I would have been reached earlier in, in, middle school or high school age. And so that's part of my story and part of my calling.

[00:02:33] **Angie Ward:** Yeah, so Youth for Christ today, tell me just a little bit, just a brief overview of the types of ministries. I mean, I know there are a season where, you know, YFC, Crusade, Campus Life is what I was involved in, Young Life, you know, they meet, would meeting clubs, and, you know, maybe headquartered at different schools. What's kind of the nature of YFC's work today, especially Denver area?

[00:02:56] **Ken Allen:** Yes. Yeah. Great question, Angie. And for us, it is, campus life is still around. We still work in high school and middle schools. We're in the schools and then have clubs and inviting teenagers to that. Denver Area Youth for Christ, we've been involved in the juvenile justice ministry since the 60s. Having chaplains at the different detention centers around the metro area. And that's also something that Youth for Christ does. nationwide And then we work with teen parents parent life and then a city life model more of inner city neighborhood type ministry and so we're excited locally here. We're getting ready to open up a new youth center in Aurora That's been the most violent zip code in the last four years in the Denver area. So we're really excited about having a space for kids.

[00:03:40] **Angie Ward:** Wow. Well, so, what have been some of the biggest changes you have seen when working with youth? Over your career. It's been a, you know, a long career now focused on youth ministry.

[00:03:52] **Ken Allen:** I've got some gray hair to prove it. So What I've noticed, Angie, and people listening, I've just noticed that there's been a new sense of anxiety and loneliness and isolation, I think these phones, contribute to that. I think they feel like they're connected, but it's, kind of a false connected, I, you know, I just, even saying good morning to students in a college, in a high school or a middle school, I'll startle them as, you know, they're looking up from their phone. And I think they. There's just an isolation, social media, all of the different parts of it. And so that's what I've noticed is there's just not as many opportunities to connect with one another in, real meaningful relationships.

[00:04:35] **Angie Ward:** You said largely like phones. How, what role did the pandemic play in that? That just accelerate something that was already toward we were trending toward.

[00:04:44] **Ken Allen:** Yeah, I think so. And it really exasperated it. And when we talk to students and when we invite them to, come to activities or when we're building relationships with kids and we said, hey, bring some friends, the pandemic, they, would answer. I don't have any friends and they weren't lying. they, you just talked to the number of kids that just really didn't have friends and isolating kids for, a year, and a half. And this remote learning, it really, kids got lost in the shuffle and I think, it's, really an awful thing that happened, certainly for, all of us, but for kids especially. I mean, I know how awkward it was for me to go from middle school to high school. these kids were in isolation and going to a brand new school in a high school and they were doing it in remote learning environments. And so they would step in when they finally got back to go to school. They really didn't have community or relationships. Yeah.

[00:05:40] **Angie Ward:** So how does that affect how you do ministry? I mean, because everything I'm reading and experiencing people still need connection they need communion, but more and more isolated. So how do you reach them? How do you need to convince them of their need for it? What's the inroads that you found are working these days?

[00:06:02] **Ken Allen:** You know, Angie, I think that for us and this is where some of the shifts with Youth for Christ before it was rallies and we would invite kids to come to what we're doing, and even D. C. L. A. Conferences. We'd invite them to come to what we're doing now. It's much more as a youth ministry. We're going to where kids are. We have to go into their spaces and whether that's social media, whether that's at a high school or middle school campus, whether that's a detention center or a neighborhood. we need to go there. And the one thing that I've loved about teenagers, no matter what, they're resilient and they will share with you what is going on. But they just want to know that they are seen and that they matter. And when I think of Jesus, I think of the many times he just asked great questions. And I think that's part of what we need to continue to get better at in youth ministry is continue to ask really good questions of the teenagers that we work with and have the chance to come across really, let them know that they matter. Let them know that they're seen and that they're heard. And part of that is asking questions. Not to have an agenda in what we want to do, but really inviting them into a conversation.

[00:07:12] **Angie Ward:** So how does this change how you recruit or train staff? I would imagine, I mean, if you're having to look at a whole different model of connecting with kids, you may also be looking for different type of characteristics of folks who are working with those kids. So how has that

changed your recruiting, leadership development, staffing for these new kinds of needs in this new world?

[00:07:35] **Ken Allen:** Yeah, it's really important. And, when we talk to staff, we, and when we talk about some of the training, it's, how do you engage students where they are? What are the questions? What are the things that, they That you can engage them in and really be creative in that and, and, help them understand that we can learn as much from teenagers as they can learn from us. And just having that learning attitude and wanting to grow in that together, I think that's part of the training, part of the recruiting and really helping, you know, staff and volunteers, ministry leaders, really engage students in what that looks like. And it does not matter what age, we have ministry leaders. I mean, we've had people that will say, gosh, I'm in my sixties, I'm in my seventies. What can I do? Well, your presence does matter. And, being present with a teenager is so huge and they will, respond when they see that you care about them.

[00:08:33] **Angie Ward:** Yeah, I have a cousin who works actually with Young Life, overseas now in, in Europe in a very post modern, post Christian country. And she had come from, that type of youth ministry, teen ministry, and the Bible Belt. And so she said one of the things that has struck her about ministry over there, she said, Here we just kind of assume that people would respond and there'd be this big harvest. Like you could see someone, you know, a teenager through from, you know, freshman to high school and you could see, you know, some growth and some fruit from, your ministry. He, she said, here, I'm realizing my job over many years may be to plant and I never see any fruit from that. Is that something you're experiencing here too in Denver, in the United States?

[00:09:17] **Ken Allen:** Yes, and for sure and for us our part of our mission is to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus And so if we can plant those seeds if we can Continue to come alongside It'll take years. In fact, we had there was one Young man that we had the privilege of baptizing in February in one of the local churches here He had been in part of campus life in when he was seventh grade And it didn't take it took until his sophomore year of high school to really Come to this saving faith and that knowledge of who Jesus is and say yes, I want to get baptized And so the longevity of ministry Angie I think is really important and for us to realize it's not about putting a notch in our belt saying for kids to just Say yes to Jesus. It's about an ongoing Walking alongside kids and deep ministry, and that's It's, I think it's a little bit different mentality than I think some, that we've had over the years in youth ministry. And so, really walking alongside and really, helping them in the, highs and lows and everything in between. and letting them really, discover their faith journey in this is really important.

[00:10:27] **Angie Ward:** Yeah. So this shift that you talked about and said, maybe even a bit of a surprise from, You know, the history of YFC 70, you know, in Denver, 70 years, even further back, Chicago, New York, and kind of that idea of, crusades or rallies and, gatherings. And then when you joined, you know, over 30 years ago, staff, but also, came to Christ through that, was this kind of a gradual transition or were there some hard shifts with YFC or for you in seeing. These things, what was there an aha, some aha moments or events like you were doing a bunch of big events. D. C. L. A. When I was a student was the big thing, you know, and now that event based stuff, people just aren't doing it. What were some of the kind of the turning points or awareness points?

[00:11:16] **Ken Allen:** Yeah, that's a great question. I think part of it is we saw that, and yet D. C. L. A. Is no more. You think of the big promise keepers rallies you think of even some of what dare to share is shifted to with more online. They're not doing the conferences around the cities. They just they're not a sustainable, I think, financially for a ministry. And then I think there's also this part of Big events still have a unique place in the story of teenagers because they make commitments and they realize they're not alone. But I think to be effective and to continue to walk alongside, I think

there was a shift that happened kind of in the early 2000s. And it seems that way with Promise Keepers, DCLA, some of the conferences, we just don't have as many conference ministries. I think that's when it shifted. And, Youth for Christ really, and I think Young Life and our other friends, we've always been in relationship with kids. But it has to be a shift, and it's on their terms. It's on their turf, and we're going to where they are. So even you asking about how do we train staff? Well, they have to feel comfortable walking onto a high school, middle school campus. They have to feel comfortable going to where kids are, and I think that shows them, just The respect, but also the ability to meet them where they are. And, I think that's part of, and when I, and again, when I think of Jesus, He goes into Samaria. He's going into places that no one else would go to. And that's what I love about YFC, is we're trying to reach kids that are not going to walk into a church. They're just not. They're not, they don't have that background. their families, you know, they haven't been raised in that. And so for us, it is a call to wherever kids are, we're going to go. And we're going to meet them where they are.

[00:12:59] **Angie Ward:** Yeah. So that, that thread, I want to pull on that a little bit about, like you said, you're going to reach kids that aren't going to step through the door of a church and churches are realizing that come and see aren't necessarily working either and have to do new models, you know, and rethink things. And mine says, how would you describe them? But You Yfc's relationship to the church or to local congregation. How do you view that? How do you talk about that with church leaders with pastors and even with students, you know, how do you say? You know, it's important to get it connected in a local church at some point because Yfc can kind of become their church or that's all they know at least of the body of Christ So I'd love to hear you talk about that

[00:13:38] **Ken Allen:** yeah. Jesus didn't say he was going to build his 501 c three. So he's going to build it off the church. And for us, we want to have intentionality with working with the local church. In fact, we work with 40 40 plus congregations here in the Denver area as true partners in ministry. Because when we reach students that, you know, That have that come to faith and we're walking alongside them The next step is to really say this is the body of believers that you need to be plugged into And if we don't do that, then we've really failed our mission because we want to partner with the local church They have resources that we just don't and really it's very clear that they can help disciple and walk alongside Students as they're continuing to grow in their faith. So for us We take that very seriously about being able to work with the local church. So for us practically Having youth leaders be a part of our breakfast on a campus on a school where we're doing campus life We can be that conduit for a church to go into a juvenile facility to lead a Bible study And so the kids are actually meeting people within the church and they have those relationships and they and then they ask like What church do you attend? And then they follow up, when we follow up with them to plug them into that local church. So, there's some practical ways that we try to do that with the local church.

[00:14:57] **Angie Ward:** Yeah, that's great. Tell me more You know, I'm intrigued by what you're doing in the juvenile justice system. So what does that ministry look like?

[00:15:04] **Ken Allen:** Yeah, that ministry, again, we've been doing it since the 60s. And, back in the day, the state of Colorado actually, you know, they paid for chaplaincies, within, they, they said this is a worthwhile and important ministry to reach kids that are in jail. And I think of. When Jesus says you, saw me when, you fed me, you saw me when I was in jail, you visited me in prison, those are the types of things we take very seriously. And kids being incarcerated, it is a unique ministry, it can be hard, but you're also reaching kids that are at a pretty low point in their lives. And, And they it's just been a great and wonderful fruitful ministry in the 80s. the state of Colorado said no We're not

going to do this anymore We're not going to pay for a chaplain and youth for Christ said this is still worthy of us to have chaplains So we've continued that process. It's leading weekly bible studies. It's leading Sunday services it is one on one chaplain visits it's mentoring and it's coming alongside kids that are again in a place that can be very lonely, very isolating and in a chance just to really reach them and say, you know, you matter and we love you and we care for you.

[00:16:18] **Angie Ward:** So the justice the prison system, they still allow it. They just don't fund it.

[00:16:24] **Ken Allen:** They don't fund it, but they have acknowledged. I mean, Y. F. C. What we have is we really have a great relationship with the state and the individuals that work in this space. In fact, if there is anybody from a faith based community that wanted to do something on these facilities, their response would be well, you need to talk to you for Christ and they kind of view us as the credible Witnessed for that place for the place and they really want to hold it you know just with respect with the kids and there's certain rules obviously you have to follow in a juvenile facility, and so we, we take that relationship very seriously and, we want to minister not only to the kids, but to the workers there and to those that we come into contact with. We want to be credible messengers and, and we want to represent Christ well in those spaces.

[00:17:12] **Angie Ward:** Yeah. What about relationships with schools? How has that changed you talk about going to students, you know to their turf to schools and events that type of thing. How have those changed over your time and what are you seeing there?

[00:17:25] **Ken Allen:** Here's what I'm gonna say across the board, Dr. Ward and I would say this to everyone listening, the reality is that we are having more principles. More people, more, judicial districts, court systems asking us to come in and inviting us to come in because they are so overwhelmed with the needs and the problems that are happening that they just want anyone to come in and step into those spaces. And even an organization like Youth for Christ, Campus Life. They invite us in to those spaces because they are overwhelmed and I've talked to principals They tell me they like we're grateful you're here because We have so many needs right now and the kids need us something like this And so the opportunity I feel like is like never before if you want to talk about opportunities for us to grow in youth ministry. I think the opportunities are there we just have to step in boldly and know that Jesus has called us to these spaces and we're actually getting invited into these spaces Because of the needs, are so great, and administrators, schools, are just overwhelmed with what's happening.

[00:18:32] **Angie Ward:** Yeah. What about, and you also do, I think, with young moms, young mothers. What is that? Tell me more about that ministry.

[00:18:39] **Ken Allen:** Yeah, that's really a neat ministry. It's called parent life and it really started here in Denver. Jill Meyer is still on our staff back in the, 80s, late 80s and early 90s. She was our juvenile justice chaplain up in Lookout Mountain. At the time there was boys and girls and there was a lot of teen, moms in the, prison system, in the juvenile detention centers. And she asked the, Director there. She said one day, what are we doing for teen moms? How do we help them just train them to be good moms or just come alongside them with practical needs? And the director said, we don't have anything, but why don't you start it? And so Jill started this parent life ministry here in Denver, and then it just blossomed and grew across the country with Youth for Christ. And so I'm very proud. I'm proud that Jill is still a part of our team. and it works with teen moms to, you know, sometimes it hasn't been modeled for them and, you know, Of just what it looks like to be a good mom and how to do some of the things and there's a lot of challenges with that. Obviously we want

to come alongside not only with the spiritual side, but with practical needs with moms and teen dads to help them and just encourage them with where they are, because they've grown up really fast. And I guess that's another part of what I see in some of the changes. I think youth today have grown up pretty fast. I think the moment you hand a cell phone over to your kiddo, they're exposed to a lot of things. And I think some of the, childhood of many of the young people we work with has kind of been taken or stolen from them because it's they've just now they've just gone into adulthood really quick

[00:20:12] **Angie Ward:** Yeah. Yeah. when you know, you're, hearing about and reporting on the work of Youth for Christ, like, what would you describe as, like, a win or this is why we do what we do? Tell me a story or example of that.

[00:20:27] **Ken Allen:** I think for us it is it's a win when a kid Calls us and maybe they're in crisis but we're the one of the first calls they make and they just they know that we're gonna show up I think of the teen mom who just in June Called our director in the middle of the night saying I'm getting kicked out by my boyfriend and my child and I have nowhere to go. And our, you know, our director jumps in and goes and meets this young lady with her baby and finds a place for them to stay and be safe. I just think of these long standing relationships that we have with kids. And I think it's just the fact that they trust us and they know that we will show up no matter what, the circumstances. And I think they also, I think a win for us is when they That we've changed the narrative of what, maybe what they think of Christians. I think, I think our staff and our ministry leaders do a wonderful job of not judging, but coming alongside saying we love you, and we all make mistakes, and we want to support you. and so I think that is really a win for us. A win for us is just being in an authentic relationship with kids. And that's what we measure, is it's not how many kids come to Jesus, Even though this last year was 260, but we work with 1,216 teenagers where we know their name, we know their story, we've heard their story, and we're bringing Jesus into the conversation. but it's all in relationship. authentic Christ sharing relationships is what we measure and those are the wins that we have.

[00:22:04] **Angie Ward:** Yeah, that's great. You know, obviously, some of these teens that you're describing come from difficult situations or even are incarcerated, that type of thing. What's, but, there's, somewhere in there, there's parents, you know, how connected they are or not with those kids or with Youth for Christ. What is, what do you view as your ministry or connection or relationship parents.

[00:22:26] **Ken Allen:** Yeah, that's a great question. we want parents to be engaged in what we're doing. In a lot of cases, they're not. I will tell you in the course of my 11, 12 years with Denver and mentoring, 19 to 20 different young men, I, I've only had maybe one or two that have dads. So I'm working with grandparents. I'm working maybe with the mom . And so for us, we want to be very much engaged in being a part of, you know, just helping them understand who we are. and we want to have relationships with them. They're again, they welcome us into that because they're overwhelmed with the need and they are grateful that someone will take the time and the energy and the effort to walk alongside their granddaughter or their grandson or their son or daughter. And so it's, but it's a beautiful relationship because we really have the opportunity to change multiple generations through, through faith, especially with, teen moms. And that's one of the things Jill has talked about. She loves the fact that if we can reach a teen mom. We're not only going to reach her, but we could reach, you know, the baby that she's now, she has, and also her mom or grandparent that's there. You can really change multiple generations in the ministry that we work in, and that's a beautiful thing.

[00:23:38] **Angie Ward:** Yeah, you know, use the word reach. How would you define that?

[00:23:42] **Ken Allen:** I think reach is, A heart connection. I think it's a heart connection and a chance to, to share and honestly, how faith has impacted my life or our lives and really having a chance to impact a young person and reaching them with the gospel and presenting it in a way that is, you know, that's not critical. It's not harsh. It's kind. I think, of God is very kind and gentle and, And I think when we reach someone and they hear it and they hear it clearly and it's something that they receive. I think it's just such a gift and a beautiful thing. And I think of even my own story, which is hearing the gospel for the first time so clearly, but it was from somebody that was kind to me and walked alongside me. And I was ready to receive it. So that's what I think of reach. I think of kindness. I think of God's heart in this. And I think of relationship too, that we've reached them in relationship. Where they trust us to hear the message.

[00:24:48] **Angie Ward:** Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Trust is a recurring theme for sure that I'm hearing as well. Just end relationship. Well, so looking ahead, what do you think? you know, you've described some of the problems and the changes. what do you see for, teens and for how we do youth ministry in the, you know, next 5, 10, 20 years? What do you think it's going to look like?

[00:25:11] **Ken Allen:** I think the opportunities are like never before, honestly. I think teenagers are ready for this. I think teenagers are wanting to find something real. I think they have been navigating a lot of just kind of junk out there. and I think they will be truthful and honest. They're just trying to find, I mean they're open to it. But they want it, to be the real thing. Like, that's One of the things I love about teenagers is they can call it out if they don't sense it or feel it or just You know, there's something out there that's not right. They'll call it out and they question organizations. They question The establishment the and that goes from everything from church to politics to all of it they don't trust the systems that have been in place for a long time And so for us in youth ministry, I think it's an opportunity. I think As Jesus said the workers are few But the harvest is plentiful and I believe that now more than ever And we just have to continue to step boldly and faithfully and continue to show up don't give up continue to show up in kids lives and meet on their terms and discover and be willing to have this heart of humility Walking alongside and learning. We have a lot to learn and where it goes from here I don't know. I don't know necessarily. I mean, I don't consider myself an expert. What I consider myself is somebody that's going to continue to persevere, somebody that's going to walk alongside kids and continue to be an advocate for teenagers because I love them and it's part of my calling. And so for those that are listening, anytime you want to step into a life of a teenager, no matter how old or young, please do it. If God's stern in your heart, do it because we need more people that are truly called to work with youth, in our communities. Yeah.

[00:27:06] **Angie Ward:** you know, church ministry and a lot of times, you know, it's the young adults right out of college and at some point they become. They either leave that for, quote, a real job, or a real pastorate or whatever. I just, you know, my youth pastor is just retired from youth ministry at, I think, 71, 72. And, so I like what you're saying about just this notion that, disabusing the notion that youth ministry is just for young, adults, that, you know, that what you're saying that any of us at any age have something we can offer. and a wisdom that I've seen, certainly, among, you know, folks with white hair, like us and others. yeah, and it's really, I think that's part of being the body as well, and not just segregating. That actually, that brings me to another question. So, youth ministry for a very long time, you know, kind of we had the rise of youth culture. post-World War II, the baby boom, and then that led to all these, you know, youth ministries being started.

Churches started doing youth ministries. It was very age segregated, you know, and so obviously Youth for Christ still focuses on kids or teenagers. what are the ways we can continue to integrate all

ages and that wisdom and that full family and body of Christ, you know, through the ministry of Youth for Christ with churches? Where does that happen or where should it happen?

[00:28:28] **Ken Allen:** Yeah, that's another great question. I mean, we work with 11- to 19-year-olds. The reality is, though, that kids are still incarcerated in the juvenile facilities until they're 21 before they're released. Into the adult system or whatever. So we still work with kids that are 20 21 and I just one of our staff Just took a kid and his brother out there 24 and 25 right now I mean, that's what I love about YFC is that we continue to walk alongside him and even though we kind of have this Lane, that's 11 to 19 year olds. We're never gonna cut a kid off or a young person off. Oh, hey, you're 20 now Sorry, you have to you know, move on to the next thing You I think churches could do well to think about that, because I do see this, you know, these kids that will graduate from high school and then they go and they're like, okay, now what's next? and they get into college and things kind of get a little wonky and they're trying to find their footing faith wise and then they potentially lose it. and, you know, I'll, just say that my wife and I host a young adults group. I'm going to be hosting it at my house here in a couple hours. And they're 20, to 27, 28 year olds, and they desperately want community, and they continue to show up every week and connect with one another. And so reminding the church, reminding us that what we're investing in is not the church of tomorrow. They're the church of today. So how do we incorporate them into the church of today and not just, Not just do it lip service, but really incorporate them into our churches, into our ministry for us. I think, you know, after we work with kids, you know, having them come back on and as a staff and as ministry leaders, we've had that. We've had a lot of, young people that we work with that will come back as ministry leaders and staff. And I'm really proud of that, that we are, modeling it and, they're, and we're serving in that way, and yet they, they see this is a call that I could give back to, but I do think it's a great question. I don't know if I have all the answers, but I do think it's something we have to acknowledge that it's a real need because it's this hard cutoff after high school, and yet we are losing that age group. they don't come back to the church. And that's really a, something that we should be addressing.

[00:30:44] **Angie Ward:** and I would guess that's not just a Youth for Christ thing. That's something that, you know, when you're focused on any type of, youth ministry or age stage, like, stuff like that, correct?

[00:30:55] **Ken Allen:** Yes, for sure. Yes, absolutely. And, I think the other part is that, you know, we talked about the relationships. People desperately want to have relationships. No matter, even if they're introverted or extroverted. They want to find, community. And that's how God designed us. I mean, God is a relational God and he designed us that way. And we are meant to be in relationships. So how can we do that? Where it's intentional and it's life giving to those that we're serving in our community.

[00:31:26] **Angie Ward:** Last question, what's the thing that gets you most excited to get out of bed every morning with your work with Youth for Christ?

[00:31:34] **Ken Allen:** You know what I'm excited about is trying to get people out of the stands and get them into the game. I think we have a lot of people that show up to churches week in week out. That, listen to a great sermon and have some praise and worship, and then they go back to their lives. And, what I get excited about is just continuing to beat the drum to say, you can get into the game right now, locally. It doesn't have to be, you don't have to get on a plane and fly internationally somewhere to do a missions trip overseas. We have people here in our community that need you, that want you. And, there's a gap there. And, so that's what gets me, that's what gets me excited is trying to get men and women, out of the stands and into the game. And we can, if we would be the

body of Christ, if we truly would be the body of Christ, then all needs would be met. I believe that because I think we are better together than we are, by ourselves. I just, that is what, I have believed to my core. That's how God designed me. And I think that's how the God, how God of the universe designed us to step up and be the body of Christ. So what gets me excited is. When I can share this mission where I can share this passion and invite others to be a part of it because they can be a part of it at any time.

[00:32:46] **Angie Ward:** That's great. Well, Ken, it's so good to chat with you, and thanks so much for sharing, your passion and also just the Ministry of Youth for Christ in Denver and beyond, and your heart for, teens and for youth ministry. So it's just been great to have you as a guest.

[00:33:01] **Ken Allen:** Thanks Angie so much.

[00:33:03] **Angie Ward:** Friends, we are grateful that you've chosen to spend some time with us. If you get the chance, please leave us a rating or review wherever you listen to podcasts, and please send any questions or comments to us at podcast@denverseminary.edu. You can also visit denverseminary.edu for more information and resources about Denver Seminary, including events, degree programs, and other episodes of Engage360, including full transcripts if you'd rather read than listen. We are very grateful for your support and interest and prayers. Until the next time. May the Lord bless you.