

Meet David Wollen

Beginning January 1st, a new daily devotional will be launched by HAVEN Today. An outgrowth of the popular printed Anchor piece, the 1:30 length **ANCHOR TODAY** will distinctly feature a verse of Scripture each day—reflecting the ministry's objective to draw people more deeply into the Word of God.

No “newcomer” to Christian broadcasting, David's heart for the Haven mission statement—that it's all about Jesus—is clearly evident in the feature. A great friend in ministry, we're delighted to let you get better acquainted with David in this recent interview:

What brought you to HAVEN in 2005 and what have you most enjoyed in serving the ministry? Charles Morris and I did not know each other then, but in 2005 both of us were crying out to the Lord for different reasons. I was desperate for the Lord's leading in my life. Newly married and with a degree in theology, I dreamed of going into ministry but wasn't sure where or how. At the same time, Charles had become overwhelmed with the burdens of being both president of Haven and the host of HAVEN Today. He badly needed to find an assistant. A mutual acquaintance put us in touch with each other and the rest is history.

What makes HAVEN—which has been on the air for more than 80 years—so relevant for contemporary audiences? Early in his career at Haven, Charles Morris responded to the tragedy of 9/11 by adjusting Haven's format and began to record “today for tomorrow.” This enables us to speak to the same issues listeners are hearing about in the news, which allows us to implicitly communicate to listeners: You need Jesus right now for what's going on in your life today.

Did you listen to Christian radio growing up? I did! I grew up in Colorado Springs listening to KGFT and was hugely impacted by “Insight for Living” with Chuck Swindoll and also by “Focus on the Family”. I have vivid memories of the first time I visited a Christian radio station as a teenager after being the 10th caller and winning a CD. But I never thought I'd have the privilege of working in Christian radio when I grew up.

What was the catalyst for rolling out a broadcast edition of ANCHOR Devotional? Forty years ago, ANCHOR Devotional was founded to expand the impact of Haven's radio ministry. Over the years it grew, eventually becoming Haven's second arm of ministry. For thousands of people today, ANCHOR is a vital part of their daily devotions and walk with God.

Given the extraordinary power of radio to impact people's hearts, and the fact that so many believers struggle to read God's

Word daily, our team began to pray about whether it was time to bring ANCHOR to the radio. In recent months the Lord has astonished us by opening door after door, confirming this expansion of ministry in the creation of ANCHOR Today.

What do you hope listeners will gain from hearing a 90-second daily devotional?

I believe God's Word is spiritual bread and water, absolutely vital for sustaining life in Christ. Far too many Christians are going hungry today, spiritually speaking, which is detrimental for their own lives and for the body of Christ as a whole. My prayer is that the Lord might use this 90-second devotional to awaken the spiritual hunger of those who hear it and to lead them to start reading God's Word daily.

Besides sending us to the Word, any other recommended reading on your “nightstand” right now?

That's a contentious subject, I'm afraid. There is so much I want to read and so little time. Every couple of months, for Marci's sake, I have to whittle down my pile. Right now I have volume one of Arnold Dallimore's biography of George Whitefield on top. And I'm so glad there is a volume two! Whitefield's life was remarkable and has inspired me tremendously.

Is there anyone you'd name as a spiritual mentor?

Charles Morris, certainly. There is rarely a day that goes by at Haven in which I am not praying and reading God's Word with Charles, even if it's only by phone. No matter how hectic the schedule is, Charles is never too busy for this. That has meant the world to me.

Also my grandfather, Leland Moe, whose biblical library I inherited when the Lord called him home. He was a man who showed up at the golf course by himself in the hopes he'd get paired with a threesome so he could share the gospel. When I open his commentaries I often find little scraps of paper with notes, dates, and prayer reminders he had made for himself ... including some of the prayers he was praying for me over thirty years ago. This is



the kind of spiritual heritage I hope to leave for my children one day.

How did you meet Marci? Marci and I met by accident when we were teenagers. She was visiting her aunt, who served with me on the church worship team. Amazingly our relationship survived our separation during the first years of college before I joined her at Biola University, where we both graduated.

Three years ago you became a dad ... what's been the best part of parenting?

I love pulling into my driveway at the end of the day. There is nothing like having your little girls run out to meet you yelling, “Daddy's home!”

But I also enjoy putting them to bed each night. Our bedtime routine involves at least four or five songs. Elly's favorite is “I've got the joy, joy, joy, down in my heart...” and Hannah's is “I may nee-nee” (which translates to “I'm in the Lord's army, yessir!”) I never get tired of singing with my girls!



What does “leisure time” look like for you?

I used to have hobbies; now I have kids. But when I have leisure time I'm usually doing something active. Like last week when I got to ride some waves at Newport Beach with my wife, which was a much-needed adventure for both of us. Or perhaps working in the garage on a project that involves woodworking or tinkering.