

Max Lucado Organizes Prayer for Obama

On the social networking site, Twitter, speaker and author Max Lucado is encouraging prayer for president-elect Barack Obama's Jan. 20 inauguration.



[] Max Lucado, speaker and author of *3:16: The Numbers of Hope* (Thomas Nelson), has launched a new prayer effort to support president-elect Barack Obama's Jan. 20 inauguration.

Lucado is using the popular social networking tool Twitter to spread the word about the initiative. "It's time to pray for the leaders of our nation," he said. "They need our prayers. The times are turbulent: economy in jeopardy, nations in conflict. How can leaders lead during a day of bailouts and bombings? Only with God's help."

Lucado is asking Christians to sign up at his Web site, Since making the announcement late last week, more than 55,000 people and groups had signed up for the prayer effort.

Meanwhile, Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., and author of *The Purpose-Driven Life* (Zondervan), commended Obama's "courage" for allowing him to deliver the invocation during the inauguration. Warren's selection last week angered Obama's liberal supporters unhappy with Warren's conservative stance on homosexuality

and abortion. Some pro-life leaders also called on Warren to reject the invitation because of Obama's pro-choice positions.

"I am honored to pray God's blessing on the office of the President and its current and future inhabitant, asking the Lord to provide wisdom to America's leaders during this critical time in our nation's history," Warren said.

Warren also appeared Dec. 19 on NBC's *Today* show and *Dateline*, where he further discussed his views.-**Christian Retailing**