



# FROM THE EDITOR

By Mark A. Taylor

## For Those Who Will Pray

**P**rayer teams. Prayer requests. Prayer meetings. Prayer lists. Everywhere Christians turn, they find new encouragement to pray.

Now we hear about the latest high-tech prayer initiative. As widely reported, including in *CHRISTIAN STANDARD* (February 16), the World Prayer Center of Colorado Springs, Colorado, has tapped the power of the Internet to launch "the largest real-time prayer network in world history." Go to [www.world-prayerteam.org](http://www.world-prayerteam.org), and you can send your prayer request to an international team of prayer warriors who will take your need to God. And you can join this team, volunteering to pray for needs submitted from Christians around the world.

A minute or two on the Web site convinces you of the sincerity and deep needs of those asking for prayer. A minister in the Midwest prays for strength to get his finances in order. A woman in Nairobi prays for three childless friends to become pregnant. An anguished wife prays for her husband who is convinced God cannot forgive his sin.

Beside this scrolling list of personal requests, the site suggests prayer relating to world evangelism and international social needs. As I write this column in January, the Web site is urging visitors to pray that Saddam Hussein will leave Iraq, that an anticonversion law in India will be overturned, and

that persecution of Christians in Sudan will stop.

As I watch the prayer requests blink by on my computer monitor, I feel a vague uneasiness. I wonder, if Jesus or Paul were here today, is this the approach they would recommend?

So I write David Butts, executive director with Harvest Prayer Ministries in Terre Haute, Indiana, to ask his opinion. Dave is an expert on prayer. Since the founding of Harvest Prayer Ministries in 1993, it "has become one of the largest prayer ministries in the nation," Dave reports. "Our teachers taught in more than 100 churches last year, to thousands of people." He says he's excited about the World Prayer Web site. "This seems to have possibilities to help churches who want to mobilize prayer in their own congregations.

The site is just one indication, according to Dave, that "we really are living in the midst of the greatest prayer movement in the history of the church." He believes that "where the church is praying the best, the church is growing the most."

He helps me feel more comfortable with the World Prayer Team Web site, but my uneasiness doesn't altogether go away. Should we be satisfied with such anonymous, disconnected prayers? Don't we have too much of that in the church already? More about that in this space next week.

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