



## FINDING “CHRISTIAN NEWS” STORIES

Global News Alliance

We use the term “Christian news” for news-worthy events or trends that relate to the life and work of Christians. That includes crisis situations, and government decisions or social trends that impact the church in either a positive or negative manner. Other areas of particular interest to the GNA audience include stories relating to the land of the Bible, such as archaeological and historical discoveries, and current events. Some common areas for finding Christian news stories are listed below.

- 1. Major news events** covered by the general/secular press. Politics, crime, finances, tragedies, etc. Often there’s a Christian angle related to these events. Ask: are Christians working behind the scenes? Or does the event directly impact the life and work of the church?
- 2. Crises, disasters.** People around the world suffer from wars, earthquakes, hurricanes and other disasters. There are story opportunities when Christians reach out with love, healing, emergency aid, and the gospel. You can find stories through the charitable Christian organizations that specialize in crisis or disaster response. Denominations and individual churches often have their own disaster response groups—or they quickly develop them when something happens in their area.
- 3. Persecution/Religious Freedom issues.** Check religious freedom organizations for the stories they’re reporting. Also check secular organizations like Amnesty International, etc. Note where and how Christians are suffering for their faith. Convey an answer to the question, “why should we care?” Show what believers elsewhere are doing about it.

Keep an eye on political and legal forces that could make it harder for the church to do its work, or for Christians to worship in freedom.

- 4. Revivals.** Check with denominations, religious news services, regional church supervisors, or ministry newsletters for places and situations where God is moving in power and where the church is making great advances. We want to let people know where and how God is at work in unusual ways. The axiom is that “stories of revival, spread revival”. A word of caution—it pays to get information from more than one source, and to keep a sense of balance. In all church reporting, be cautious about inflated statistics or other extremes. It’s also good to have a firm grasp of biblical doctrine to know what is and what is not cultic, or heretical—we don’t want to encourage unbiblical activity.
- 5. Evangelism.** Winning souls for Christ is at the heart of the Great Commission and should be reflected in our stories. To find out what’s happening check with evangelistic associations for their plans and reports. Large-scale evangelistic events are newsworthy, but since there are many campaigns, what makes any particular event newsworthy? What is it that makes this effort different or special, or unlike other efforts? Sometimes it’s the context that makes it stand out. We should not just cover big events, but also look for the human interest stories in local or personal evangelism stories that highlight the calling of believers to evangelize.
- 6. Specialized ministries.** Radio, television, aviation, medical teams, crisis response groups, prison ministry, sports and music outreaches, etc. Read the reports of these organizations, catch special developments. Here’s a chance to show creative uses of methods and technology to reach connect with unreached people--those beyond the reach of regular church or missionary efforts.
- 7. Church growth, missionary work.** Again, stay in touch with denominations, special ministries, and church leaders to find these stories. It’s not only the unusual that makes a good news story; some excellent news features are human interest stories--ordinary people faithfully doing their job, often in the face of great difficulties and sacrifice.
- 8. Church leaders.** Keep tabs on what Church leaders are saying and doing. Check regional and national leaders as well as prominent local pastors.

Check with international movements like the Lausanne movement, church denominations, the World Evangelical Fellowship, para-church ministries like CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ), YWAM, the Bible Society, etc. Where they are looking and going? What are they saying in their meetings and publications? Follow their lead to events or situations of importance to the church.

- 9. Critics, negative press.** It's good to note of what the critics are saying about Christians and their work, through social media, government sources, other religions, or media and publications in general. We do not seek out negative stories about Christians, but we feel it is helpful to report on what believers are doing to solve problems or address issues brought up by critics or opponents of the gospel.

These suggestions are intended to help reporters, producers, and smartphone journalists find Christian news stories. Reports submitted to the Global News Alliance must be of interest to an international audience, since GNA supplies news to broadcast affiliates in Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Americas.



The *Global News Alliance* is a Christian news cooperative, operated by the *Christian News and Information Institute, Inc.*, a 501-c-3 non-profit organization.

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