



FINDING GNA NEWS STORIES

What kind of news is the GNA looking for? Where do we look to find those stories? Here's a starting list with suggestions for anyone wanting to submit news reports on what God is doing.

1. **Major news** events of all kinds, as found in the general/secular press. Politics, crime, finances, tragedies, etc. It may be a reportable if there is a strong Christian angle related to the event. Ask: are Christians working behind the scenes? Or does the event directly affect the work of the church in a significant way?
2. **Crises, disasters.** Check the regular news for stories where people are hurting because of war, earthquakes, hurricanes or other disasters—and find where Christians are reaching out with love, relief, and the gospel. There are many charitable Christian organizations that specialize in crisis or disaster response. Denominations and even 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. 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 Christian media for places and situations where God is moving in power and where the church is making great advances. The axiom is that "stories of revival, spread revival". We want to let people know where and how God is at work in unusual ways. A word of caution—it pays to get information from more than one source, and to keep a sense of balance. We aim to give a balanced picture and stay away from the extremes. It's also good to have a firm grasp of what is and what is not cultic, or heretical—we don't want to risk spreading "false doctrine".
5. **Evangelism.** Winning souls for Christ is at the heart of the Great Commission and should be one of our main emphases. To find out what's happening check with evangelistic associations for their plans and reports. Large-scale evangelistic events are newsworthy, but we need to look for the context in each event. What is it that makes this effort different or special, or unlike other efforts? We should also look for the local or personal evangelism

stories that represent what believers are--or should be--doing on a broad scale.

6. **Specialized ministries.** Radio, television, aviation, medical teams, prison, sports and music outreaches, etc. Read the reports of these organizations, catch special developments. Here's a chance to show creative uses of technology or special methods to reach people who might be beyond the reach of regular church or missionary outreaches. There are some outstanding pioneers or leaders in these areas, and what they do or say could be newsworthy.
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. 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 Campus Crusade for Christ, and national organizations. Where they are looking and going? What are they saying in their national meetings and publications? Follow their lead to events or situations of importance to the church.
9. **Critics, negative press.** It's also good to note what the critics are saying—in government, other religions, or the secular press—about the church and its work. Although we do not dwell on negative stories about Christians, we can, in a sense, provide answers to the critics through reports on people who are dealing directly with the problems and objections brought up by critics or enemies of the gospel.

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