



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 reporters or producers submitting news stories to GNA. And remember that Christian news should always try to answer the question, "why should we care?"

1. **Major news** events of all kinds, as found in the general/secular press. Politics, finances, tragedies, protests, etc. It may be reportable if there is a Christian angle to the event. Ask--are Christians involved or working behind the scenes? Or does the event directly affect the work of the church in a significant way?
2. **Crises, disasters.** When people are suffering because of storms, drought, floods, famine, wars or other crises—look for Christians who are helping or providing relief supplies, and the comfort of the gospel. Many Christian organizations 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. **Social work of the church.** Medical missions, community development, education, relief supplies, and recovery efforts for the “down and outers” are just a few of the ways that Christians help others with “good works”. Telling these stories is a biblical command: *“...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 NIV*
4. **Persecution/Religious Freedom issues.** Persecution of Christians is growing around the world. We can help expose the abuse and reveal the strength of believers’ faith as they suffer. Reports on persecution can also show what the church is doing to provide help and encouragement for persecuted believers. Check religious freedom organizations like Open Doors or Voice of the Martyrs to learn where and how Christians are suffering for their faith. Also check secular organizations like Amnesty International, etc. Keep an eye on political and legal forces that could make it harder for Christians to worship in freedom.
5. **Revivals.** Check with denominations, religious news services, regional church supervisors, or Christian media for places and situations where God is moving and where the church is making great advances. The axiom that “stories of revival, spread revival” is true. 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 in our

reports. It's always important to know that those involved are Bible-believing Christians

6. **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 broader scale.
7. **Technology, media, the arts and other specialized ministries.** Radio, television, aviation, medical teams, prison, sports and music outreaches, etc. 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. Read the reports of these ministries and catch special developments. There are some outstanding pioneers or leaders in these areas, and what they do or say could be newsworthy.
8. **Church growth, missionary work.** Again, stay in touch with denominations, special ministries, and church leaders to find these stories. Talk with missionaries coming to your church, or people planting churches in unreached neighborhoods, or witnessing to international students or refugees in your area. Remember that it's not only the unusual that makes a good news story; some excellent news features are human interest stories, like ordinary believers faithfully serving God in the face of great difficulties and sacrifice.
9. **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 are they 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.
10. **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 focus on negative stories about Christians, we can, in a sense, provide answers through reports on people who are dealing directly with the problems and objections the critics bring up.

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