

FAQS

The 12 most frequently asked questions about Joel News

1 - What makes Joel News different from other publications?

Joel News doesn't publish general news from the Christian subculture. No politics, ministries fighting for airtime, celebrities, hypes, theological controversies, events or agendas. Our editorial focus is specific and unique: the advance of God's Kingdom around the world today, a kind of modern version of the Book of Acts. We cover 197 nations in six continents. Joel News is the only weekly publication on the planet that offers this exciting perspective.

2 - What kind of stories does Joel News publish?

We cover the global emerging prayer movement, Acts-type stories on the advance of the Gospel, God encounters and transformational impact stories, inspiring stories of ordinary Christians who make a positive difference for others, fresh expressions of church and innovation in missions, and relevant global trends and statistics.

Joel News offers a holistic helicopter view on the mission of the Church. This means that conversion or evangelism is not our main paradigm. We also report on Christian (social) entrepreneurs, scientists, ecologists, those serving in government, healthcare and various fields of social justice. We are committed to help you see the big picture and broaden your horizon.

3 - Who writes Joel News?

Joel News is written and edited by journalist Marc van der Woude. He holds an MA in history and international relations and lives in The Netherlands with his family. Over the past 35 years he has been serving in a wide variety of journalistic roles, both with Christian and secular media. He is an online pioneer who specialised in missions journalism and church innovation.

4 - Where do you get your stories?

The stories Joel News brings are rarely published in the mainstream media. Over the past 23 years we've developed an extensive network of hundreds of sources that we monitor every week. From news outlets to church and missions organisations, from social media to indigenous workers and local journalists.

Every week we scan thousands of headlines and leads. Of all these reports we make a thorough selection of less than one percent. Then there's the process of cutting down even more, of fact-checking, following leads that form the basis for our own reporting, and editing. What's ultimately included in Joel News are the 'pearls of God's Kingdom'.

5 - I already receive so much Christian news; why would I sign up for Joel News?

See questions 1 and 2 for what makes Joel News so unique.

One of the challenges of our time is to keep our focus on what is relevant and really worthwhile to know. Many people struggle with information overload due to overflowing mailboxes, social media distraction, and the daily hypes of the mainstream (Christian) media. Joel News doesn't want to add to that problem, but rather offer a solution. That's why we do all the hard work to make a thorough weekly selection of only the best and most inspiring stories. You can forget the rest, sign off from all those, and relax knowing that with Joel News you're covered.

6 - For whom is Joel News?

Anyone interested in our stories can sign up. But our publication aims to serve older/mature Christians with a heart for the global church and world missions. Who appreciate Joel News as their 'window to the world', helping them to stay prayerfully engaged with God's mission beyond their own lives, churches or nations.

7 - How reliable is Joel News in this age of 'fake news'?

Joel News is committed to the professional standards of the [Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists](#), also known as the 'Bordeaux Declaration'. This means we pursue truth. We fact-check our stories and validate our sources before we publish. We steer away from online rumours, hoaxes and fabricated content known as 'fake news'. Only reliable testimonies honour God. It rarely happens that we miss a check, but if a story turns out to be untrue, we always rectify transparently as a commitment to our readers.

8 - How exactly do you check the stories you include in Joel News?

There are many ways to check stories. First we look at where the story comes from and trace it back to its original source. This source is included in our publication. We validate the source's track record, reliability and the reason for

sharing the story. We check if a story is factual and contains data like time, location, events and images that can be checked. As we can't travel to every nation of the world to research stories 'on the ground', we use reliable sources (our vast network of Christian leaders, missionaries, NGO's and local journalists) to verify stories. Stories can have different sides, so we also look at different opinions.

9 - God seems to work more 'spectacularly' in the Southern Hemisphere. How can I relate to this as a Christian in the West?

'God encounters' like we read about in the book of Acts seem to happen more in developing countries. This is because these cultures live more with a spiritual dimension, are more communal in nature, and the transformational impact of the Gospel is also more existential when people live in poverty or difficult circumstances. Western culture is more rational and self-sufficient, but God can work in many ways.

When reading the stories in Joel News, it's good to realise the differences in church backgrounds, cultures and the way people experience God and communicate about this. We intentionally leave testimonies and reports in their original context, and trust that our readers can weigh this for themselves in a mature way, and also handle different faith perspectives.

10 - What is your faith orientation or statement?

Joel News serves the whole Body of Christ around the world with an open mindset. For this reason we don't hold to an official statement of faith. Most Christians in the world find common ground in the [Apostle's Creed](#), and content-wise Joel News follows this orientation.

11 - What is the price of a subscription?

Joel News doesn't work with a fixed amount for a subscription. It is published on the basis of an annual contribution to help us cover our operational costs. A suggested amount is € 49 or \$ 53 (roughly €/ \$ 1 per edition), but readers are free to contribute based on their vision and financial means. Our desire is to keep Joel News available to everyone, independent of country or budget. You find a full explanation of this on our [donation page](#).

So the way to sign up for Joel News is by sending us a donation. Once a year you will receive a reminder from us when it's time to renew.

12 - Who is Joel News (financially) accountable to?

Joel News is published under the umbrella of Joel Ministries, a tax-exempt charity / non-profit organisation based in The Netherlands.

Joel Ministries is overseen by a board that has to meet the standards of the 'ANBI registration', the rules imposed by the Dutch government on non-profits. This includes the publication of a year plan, the names of the board members, an annual report of activities, an annual financial report and a privacy policy. You can find this information on the Dutch section of the charity's website <http://joelministries.org>.

If you have any other questions, don't hesitate to contact us at info@joelnews.org.