

# Security Briefs: Secure Connections – Episode 047

## Part 3: Stories Without Risk — Sharing Fruit Safely

### Introduction

Today on Security Briefs, we continue our Secure Connections series. Missionaries, remember to share this series with your supporters. In Part 1, we talked about transparency and trust — stewardship, not secrecy. In Part 2, we discussed how context shapes communication — open, sensitive, and restricted environments.

Today, we move into something very practical. Sharing stories.

Missionaries share stories because stories connect hearts. Supporters want stories because stories help them pray and understand. But stories can also expose people. So today, we are going to talk about how to share fruit without creating risk.

### The Missionary Side

First, to our missionary friends. Stories are powerful. They illustrate transformation. They bring Scripture to life. They help supporters see beyond statistics. But stories contain details — and details can identify names, neighborhoods, dates, photos, even patterns of description.

In sensitive or restricted environments, the question is not simply, “Is this story encouraging?” The question is, “Could this story unintentionally expose someone?”

There are some practical tools you can use.

- You can use pseudonyms.
- You can combine multiple stories into a composite account.
- You can delay reporting until time has passed.
- You can generalize geography — saying “a major city” instead of a specific location.
- And sometimes, you can simply describe spiritual themes rather than individual narratives.

The goal is not to remove joy from reporting. The goal is to protect the people in the story. Because protecting a new believer’s safety may be more important than showcasing their testimony. And remember — once something is written, emailed, posted, or screenshotted, you no longer control where it travels.

So write as if the wrong person could read it. That mindset alone will sharpen your discernment.

### The Supporter Side

Now, to our supporters and churches. When missionaries change names or speak in general terms, it may feel less vivid. It may feel less personal. But that generality may be protecting a life. If you receive a story marked confidential, treat it as confidential.

Do not forward it without permission. Do not quote it publicly. Do not repost screenshots to social media. And even in open environments, it is wise to pause before posting ministry photos or tagging locations. Sometimes the greatest way you can honor a testimony is by guarding it.

You are not just celebrating fruit. You are helping preserve it.

### The Shared Principle

Jesus often told stories. Sometimes He explained them plainly. Sometimes He spoke in parables. There were moments when clarity served the crowd. And there were moments when restraint served the mission. Wisdom knows the difference.

I receive newsletters from a missionary who has served their entire career in a restricted access context. Her updates give plenty for us to pray about while celebrating the stories of God's grace. But I know that none of the names she uses are real, and even though I personally know where she is ministering, she never mentions the names of the countries – much less the regions or cities. But none of this lack of detail reduces the impact of her updates. They are still powerful without being risky for the people she is reaching.

Secure connection means celebrating what God is doing — without endangering the people through whom He is doing it. When missionaries share carefully and supporters steward stories wisely, trust deepens. And when trust deepens, partnership strengthens.

### Practical Takeaways

Here are this week's practical takeaways:

**Missionaries:** Review your last newsletter or update. Ask yourself: Could any detail unintentionally identify someone? If so, adjust your approach moving forward.

**Supporters:** Make a simple commitment — never repost, forward, or publicly quote a missionary story without explicit permission.

Stories are powerful. But people are precious. And protecting people is part of protecting the work.

Now you know.

We'll see you next time as we continue to talk about Secure Connections.