

SECURITY AND SAFETY IN THESE TIMES

Awareness and practical safety tips for individual members, workers, ministers and pastors in Nigeria and Lagos today.

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The focus of this session

Not fear. Not alarm. Wise awareness that protects life and preserves mission.

This is not primarily a CTL facility-security presentation.

It is about personal security consciousness in everyday Nigerian life.

It is for members, workers, ministers and pastors—at home, on the road, online, at work and in ministry.

It gives practical habits that reduce exposure, improve response and help us guide others wisely.

“The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.”

Proverbs 22:3



Why this matters now

Nigeria is facing overlapping security pressures; Lagos is safer than many hot spots, but not immune.

1

Kidnapping, banditry, armed robbery and terrorism are now national security realities.

2

Lagos risk is often urban: movement, traffic, nightlife, phones, homes, fraud and opportunistic crime.

3

Church leaders must model wisdom and help others act without panic.

Current public advisories and reporting describe Nigeria's security concerns as including terrorism, kidnapping, violent crime and civil unrest, while recent national debate has included state policing as a proposed response to deepening insecurity.

Awareness is not unbelief. It is stewardship.

The believer's safety posture

Faith + Wisdom + Discipline + Community

We pray, but we also plan. We trust God, but we do not ignore warning signs. We walk in love, but we also exercise discernment.

A simple risk lens: avoid becoming an easy target

Most personal safety habits work by reducing predictability, visibility and vulnerability.

Predictability

Same route, same time, same pattern



Vary routes, timing and exposure

Visibility

Displaying cash, jewellery, devices, travel plans



Keep valuables and private information low-profile

Vulnerability

Isolated places, poor lighting, distracted phone use



Stay alert, move with purpose, choose safer environments

“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.”

Matthew 26:41

Everyday personal safety habits

Small disciplines practiced consistently can prevent major exposure.

- ✓ Tell a trusted person where you are going, especially for late or unusual movements.
- ✓ Avoid unnecessary late-night movement; when unavoidable, use trusted transport and known routes.
- ✓ Do not announce trips, location, wealth, family routines or home absence on social media.
- ✓ Keep your phone charged; maintain airtime/data; save emergency contacts as favourites.
- ✓ Be alert at gates, parking areas, ATMs, fuel stations, car parks and traffic choke points.
- ✓ Listen to inner caution; leave early when a place or person feels unsafe.

Movement and driving safety in Lagos

Lagos risk is often linked to traffic, impatience, visibility and distraction.

- ✓ Plan routes before departure; check traffic and avoid known trouble spots.
- ✓ Keep doors locked, windows mostly up, and valuables out of sight.
- ✓ Avoid phone distractions at traffic lights and hold-ups.
- ✓ Do not stop for staged arguments, suspicious “accidents,” or aggressive strangers.
- ✓ Maintain fuel, tyres, lights and vehicle documents; breakdowns increase vulnerability.
- ✓ When followed, drive to a lit public place, security post, police station or busy location.



Transport, ride-hailing and public movement

Do not outsource your awareness to the driver, the app or the crowd.

Confirm vehicle number, driver identity and route before entering.

Share trip details with a trusted person for late movements.

Sit where you can exit safely; avoid sleeping deeply in unfamiliar transport.

Avoid arguments with drivers, touts, transport workers or armed personnel.

In public places, identify exits and keep your bag/phone under control.

For ministers and pastors, avoid unnecessary solo movement to unfamiliar homes or isolated prayer appointments.

Home and family security habits

A safe home is built with routines, not fear.

- ✓ Teach children not to open gates/doors casually or disclose family details to strangers.
- ✓ Screen domestic staff, drivers, artisans and frequent service providers carefully.
- ✓ Keep emergency lights, locks, keys, gates and intercoms functional.
- ✓ Do not keep large cash at home or discuss money loudly around workers or strangers.
- ✓ Have family code words for emergencies and unusual pick-up arrangements.
- ✓ Know your neighbours; community awareness is a security asset.

Digital safety is physical safety

Many attacks begin with information people gave away online.

Do not post in real time

Delay posts about travel, events, hotel stays, family location or expensive purchases.

Protect accounts

Use strong passwords, 2-step verification and avoid clicking suspicious links.

Limit exposure

Reduce public display of personal wealth, family patterns and pastoral routines.

Golden rule: never make it easy for strangers to know where you are, where you are going, who is with you, or when your home is empty.

Situational awareness: what to notice

Awareness is not suspicion of everyone; it is attention to what is unusual.

People loitering around homes, church gatherings, offices or cars without clear purpose.
Vehicles or motorcycles repeatedly appearing behind you across several turns.
Sudden attempts to draw you into arguments, staged accidents or forced stops.
Unusual questions about your schedule, family, income, travel or church leadership routines.
A location becoming tense: rising argument, crowd movement, police activity or sudden silence.

See something unusual? Do not dramatize it. Move away, inform the right person, and report where necessary.

If robbery or kidnapping threat happens

Survival comes first. Property can be replaced. Life cannot.

Do

- ✓ Stay as calm and compliant as possible.
- ✓ Avoid sudden movements; keep hands visible.
- ✓ Observe safely: location, direction, voices, vehicle, landmarks.
- ✓ After release/escape, seek safety first, then report.

Don't

Do not argue, threaten, insult or “prove courage.”
Do not resist armed attackers over phone, car, bag or money.
Do not attempt risky calls, photos or videos if it may endanger life.
Do not spread unverified details publicly during an active incident.

Safety tips for Church Workers

Workers are often the first human security layer in any church environment.

- ✓ Greet warmly, but observe calmly. Hospitality and awareness can work together.
- ✓ Know the escalation line: who to call, where to direct concerns, when to involve security.
- ✓ Avoid public confrontation with suspicious persons; report quietly and quickly.
- ✓ Protect children, elderly members and visitors during crowd movement.
- ✓ Guide members to avoid parking carelessly, blocking exits, or leaving valuables exposed.



Safety tips for Ministers and Pastors

Spiritual leadership should not cancel practical caution.

- ✓ Be careful with counselling appointments: use appropriate settings, timing and visibility.
- ✓ Avoid unnecessary solo home visits to unfamiliar or isolated locations.
- ✓ Do not disclose pastoral movement patterns casually.
- ✓ Use trusted protocols for late-night ministry calls, emergency visits and hospital visits.
- ✓ When giving help, avoid exposing yourself to manipulation, ambush or financial scams.
- ✓ Teach members that faith and wisdom belong together.

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

Matthew 10:16

Handling sensitive security information

The wrong broadcast can create panic, endanger victims or mislead people.

Verify before sharing: source, location, date and relevance.

Avoid forwarding graphic videos, rumours, alleged “inside information” or unconfirmed alerts.

During an incident, communicate only through designated trusted channels.

Do not share names, photos, addresses or negotiation details of victims publicly.

Use WhatsApp groups for calm guidance, not fear amplification.

Ministry principle: our words should guide, not terrify.

Emergency contacts to save today

Do not wait for crisis before looking for help.

Lagos emergency lines

112 / 767

For police, fire, medical and distress response in Lagos.

Personal emergency list

- ✓ Spouse / family emergency contact
- ✓ Pastor / HOD / parish admin contact
- ✓ Estate / street security contact
- ✓ Nearest police station or security post
- ✓ Doctor / hospital / blood group details

Action: save these numbers in your phone before leaving this session.

Family and ministry emergency plan

A plan you have never discussed is not yet a plan.

Who calls who?

Create a simple contact tree for family and ministry unit.

Where do we meet?

Agree safe meeting points for home, work, church and school routes.

What is the code word?

Use family code words for distress, pick-up changes or danger.

What documents matter?

Keep copies of IDs, medical details, next-of-kin and emergency numbers.

A 7-day personal safety reset

Turn awareness into action immediately.

Day 1

Save emergency contacts

Day 2

Review daily movement patterns

Day 3

Clean up social media exposure

Day 4

Brief family on code word

Day 5

Check vehicle/home basics

Day 6

Know nearest help points

Day 7

Pray, review and adjust

Safety improves when wisdom becomes routine.

From awareness to responsibility

As workers, ministers and pastors, we carry both spiritual influence and practical responsibility. Our calmness can steady others. Our wisdom can save lives.

Pray. Plan. Observe. Report. Protect.

Closing charge and prayer points

The Lord is our Keeper; wisdom is one way we cooperate with His preservation.

Father, preserve our going out and our coming in.
Give us wisdom, discernment and calm judgment in dangerous times.
Protect our families, members, workers, ministers and pastors.
Expose evil plans before they mature; frustrate the counsel of the wicked.
Make RCCG CTL a place of peace, order, vigilance and divine covering.

“The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.”

Psalm 121:8

Suggested discussion prompts

Use these to make the session practical and interactive.

- What one unsafe habit have I normalized because “nothing has happened before”?
- What information about my movement, family or finances is too public?
- Who are my three trusted emergency contacts?
- What should our Parish do differently during movement, events and follow-up visits?
- How do we correct members gently without creating fear?