

#CUGsLife

15 Tweeted Tips
for CU Guests

CU Guests?

Each year, Christian Unions all over Europe hold a 'Mission Week,' a week of events designed to give their friends and fellow students lots of opportunities to engage with the claims of Christianity, and with the person of Jesus Christ. Although CUs tell people about Jesus all year round, mission weeks pull together effort and resources in a way that isn't possible through the rest of the year. And key to the whole thing are CU Guests - guests from outside who pitch in to help the CU run their mission week. They might get involved in giving out flyers, carrying boxes, talking to guests at events, or even giving talks themselves.

The tips in this booklet, put together by the Michael Ots Evangelism Trust (MOET) team, began life as a series of Tweets during Glasgow University CU's mission week in 2014. They are designed to help you make the most of your time as a CU Guest. They won't tell you exactly what to do when, but they will hopefully give you an idea of how to do it.

MOET exists to resource CUs in their mission on campus. We train CUs in evangelism, we provide speakers for evangelistic events and mission weeks, and we train graduates in public evangelism. You can find out more by visiting our website (www.motsy.org) or by following us on Twitter (@MOETupdates).

The MOET Team

February 2014

CUG Tip #1 Be enthusiastic! Remember how good the good news is! And your enthusiasm will rub off on everyone else...

Enthusiasm is probably one of the most important things a CUG can contribute to a mission week. The CU will have all kinds of expectations as the mission begins. Some will be scared, some will have been working really hard organising everything, and some will still not be convinced that the CU need to be telling people about Jesus.

When you show up to the mission, your enthusiasm for what you're about to do will encourage those who are tired, it will help those who are scared to be bold, and it will be a challenge to those who aren't too bothered.

And if you aren't feeling too enthusiastic yourself, don't try to make yourself *feel* enthusiastic. Instead, remind yourself how good the good news of Jesus really is. Remember that *"because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved!"*¹

This is the brilliant news we have to enjoy ourselves, and it's the news you and the CU will be sharing!

¹ Ephesians 2v4-5

CUG Tip #2 Be on time (or early) for the prayer meeting!

The daily morning prayer meetings are the driving force behind any successful mission week.

It's at the prayer meeting that we express our dependence on God for everything that will happen during the week. He is the only one who can open blind eyes and change rebellious hearts. So prayer is crucial to everything else that happens during a mission week. And praying together expresses our unity as we prepare take the gospel to campus together.

It's also hugely encouraging to share stories of God answering prayer as people find out about Jesus!

As the week goes on it will get more and more tempting to stay in bed and miss the prayer meeting - for the CU, and for you. Sometimes this is the wise thing to do, but do your best to be there!



CUG Tip #3 Be a team player. Introduce people you meet to others in the CU. Remember there is no 'I' in Fabulous.

We all want to be the person who has the exciting conversation, or who manages to answer a tough question, or who leads someone to Christ. So it can be tempting to keep people to yourself.

Chances are, you won't be around for long, so introduce the people you meet to other Christians in the CU. And maybe someone else in the CU is the ideal person to answer their questions?

But there's another reason why this is important: we demonstrate the gospel better together than we do on our own. Jesus doesn't just affect our individual lives, but also our relationships (see Ephesians 2). The power of Jesus to change lives is seen most clearly in an otherwise-impossible community of changed individuals. So let people see it by introducing them to a community of Christians!

CUG Tip #4 Be encouraging. If you can't find anything to encourage you aren't looking hard enough!

You will probably find it easy to point out lots of ways the CU could be doing things better. There are always things that could be improved, and it's important to identify and adjust these as the mission progresses.

But don't start with criticism! Some of the students will be working incredibly hard to make the mission happen, and everyone's expectations will be resting on them. They will feel responsible if anything goes wrong, and it will be very easy for them to feel discouraged.

So be as encouraging as you can (something we're often not very good at). There will always be something you can encourage, no matter what happens - you might just need to look a bit harder. At the very least, you can encourage the CU that their worth is found in Jesus and what he has done, and not in how 'successful' (or otherwise) an event might be.

Also, if you spot a problem, don't point it out unless you're going to help to find a solution...

CUG Tip #5 Don't be a martyr! If you're lacking a bed/sleep/food, tell someone - don't wait until Friday.

Usually CUGs will be hosted by students, either in a student house or in a Hall of Residence. It will give you a brilliant opportunity to meet the student's friends and you're a ready-made conversation starter!

Some students will look after you brilliantly, giving up their bed and making you breakfast everyday. Some will just clear you a space on the floor and explain how to turn on the dodgy shower.

It's probably best if you don't expect luxury (although you might be surprised!). But if you're seriously lacking essentials like sleep, food or running water, or if things aren't going well with your host, tell someone early on.

The problem might be your expectations, or it might be that something needs sorting out. Either way, speak up early on while something can be done to improve the situation.

CUG Tip #6 Take care of your immune system.

Sadly, most British CU mission weeks take place in the winter when coughs, colds and other bugs are rife. Spending time out in the cold weather, combined with a lot of people-contact, means that mission weeks are the perfect breeding ground for whatever happens to be going around.

So take care of your immune system: Eat an occasional orange or drink some fruit juice for extra vitamin C. Consider taking some multivitamins. Get some alcoholic hand gel, and use it occasionally.

And, of course, wrap up warm.

If you get ill during mission week, don't just soldier on. You risk making yourself worse while passing on your germs to everyone else!



CUG Tip #7 Be flexible. Whatever you're asked to do, do it with a smile!

You could be asked to do all sorts of things during a typical mission week, from giving your testimony at an event to manning a stall, and maybe even dressing up as an angel (long story).

Some of the jobs you'll enjoy, others less so. Whatever you do, remember you're there to serve Jesus by serving the CU. If you end up doing menial tasks, try to see the bigger picture, model servant leadership to the CU, and do it with a smile!



CUG Tip #8 Rest well. Jesus needed sleep and time to relax; chances are you do too!

Everybody wants to be a hero; to keep flyering when everyone else has give up, or to stay up until 2am arguing with the atheist society. And when you look at students getting involved in the mission week while also managing to attend lectures, it can seem a bit slack for you to take time off.

Be prepared to work hard. But remember that rest is a good thing. Jesus regularly took time out away from people to sleep, to reflect and to pray. If the Son of God needed regular breaks, then you do too!

Afternoons will often be free of activities - use them to get some downtime. See the sights, hang out with the other CUGs, or just take a nap.

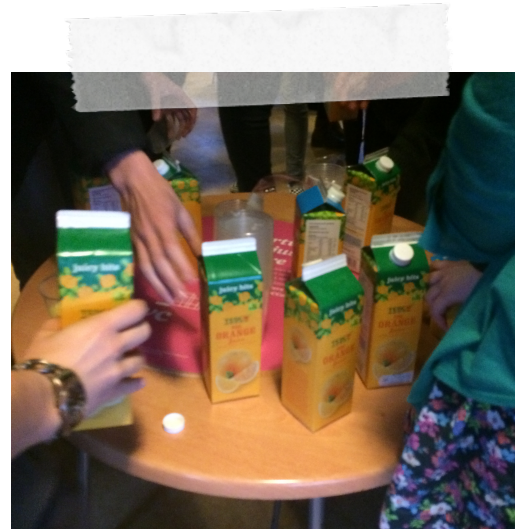
CUG Tip #9 If your CU doesn't celebrate #GoldenWednesday then initiate it with culinary blessings.

The middle day of a mission (usually Wednesday) can be hard going. You feel like you've been working hard for a long time, but you're still only half way. And so you might feel more tired than you expected, your temper might be shorter, and you might get discouraged more easily.

The idea of #GoldenWednesday is to face this head on. If you think about it, you could rejoice that you still have lots of opportunities left to let people know how brilliant Jesus is...!

Be proactive in encouraging others on Golden Wednesday. Bear with each other, and if you lose your cool be quick to apologise.

And you could start as you mean to go on by treating the CU (or just another CUG) to breakfast!



CUG Tip #10 Whatever you do, take a student if you can - credibility for you, training for them.

As you head out to do flyering or questionnaires, try to take a student with you.

It's good for you - if anyone asks, it will make it easier for you to explain that you're helping out the CU for a week.

But it's even better for them. If a student is scared of stepping out in talking to people about Jesus or inviting them to events, they might be willing to come along with you. Usually they will enjoy it and want to do more. And before long they'll be taking others along with them.

Aim for more than simply "getting the job done." You can help CU members to conquer their fear of evangelism, and equip them with skills and experience that will help them to keep going in mission long after the mission week has finished.

CUG Tip #11 Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

It's probably best if you don't go for the 8 item megadeal every morning. But a good breakfast will set you up well for a morning's flyering and inviting.

It's also good to have something to look forward to (on top of a brilliant prayer meeting, of course) when you're getting up at the crack of dawn!



CUG Tip #12 Take care of your hands. You need them.

This one might sounds trivial, but trust us! Flyering in the cold weather will wreck your hands, not to mention all the washing up or manual jobs you might have to do.

So get yourself some fingerless gloves and some hand cream. Seriously.

CUG Tip #13 Eat well. Haribo do not count as fruit. Crisps do not count as vegetables.

If you're being catered for by students, fruit and veg will probably be in short supply. So grab it where you can! And maybe give gentle hints to the students that a bag of salad and a bunch of bananas might be a welcome addition to their free lunch...



CUG Tip #14 End well. Be bold in asking people where they're at. And make sure you introduce the people you've met to CU members.

The gospel is good news, but it demands a response. As you get towards the end of a mission week, be bold in asking people how they will respond - don't just leave it to the main speaker.

You could ask how they've found the week, and what they make of Jesus. Ask them how their opinions have changed over the week. And perhaps ask what is stopping them from trusting Jesus. They might have a specific objection, which you can help them to address. Or they might say, 'nothing'...!

Sometimes people will say they have lots of questions or doubts - it can be useful to suggest that, instead of waiting until they are 100% certain, they could go to Jesus and ask him to help with their remaining questions.

Tip #3 covered introducing the people you've met to others in the CU, but this gets even more important as the week draws to a close. Make sure you link anyone you've been talking to with others in the CU so they can carry on the conversation. And ask guests if they've signed up to any follow up events.

CUG Tip #15 Trust God. He's staying even if you aren't, and He'll finish what He's started.

It sounds like a cliché, but the end of a mission is really just the beginning. Some people might have trusted Jesus - for them, the mission is the beginning of a brand new life in Christ! Others will have had their interest stirred, or will be thinking through the implications of becoming a Christian, and the CU will be busy following them up.

You may well never see any of that, which can be particularly hard if you are just visiting a city for a week. You can keep in touch, and maybe there will be individuals you can commit to contacting and praying for regular. But, for the most part, you will have to leave the next steps to the CU and their local churches.

It can be emotionally difficult, but it is a helpful reminder that it is by God's mercy that we have this ministry in the first place,² and He chooses who does what. Remember that He cares about the people you've met more than you ever could. And remember that, even if you have to leave, He's staying. And He will finish what he's started.³

You aren't leaving the CU and your new friends in good hands. You're leaving them in the best hands.

² 2 Corinthians 4v1

³ Philippians 1v6

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