Here are three things about Global Youth Ministry Wales that we would love for you to know:

1. We love engaging with young people. They are energetic, creative, fun, resourceful and love adventures. Our deepest desire is to help them tap into their inner resources and use them for not only their personal development, but for the better good of their families, community, nation and world.

2. We also love being together. The local church is one of the oldest forms of community involvement still being practiced today. It has the tremendous responsibility and capacity to shape and impact lives and is something we love being a part of.

3. We are very committed to the ideal of living like Jesus. It's more than just about being good or doing good but living our lives in honor of the one who created us in His image and loving our neighbor as ourselves. We believe this is the greatest ideal that humanity can achieve.

Global Youth Ministry Wales exists to help churches reach young people in their communities. But how?

**Strategies**
We work with local churches to develop strategies, initiatives and activities that will meet the needs and wants of young people in those communities.

**Training**
We offer training opportunities to church leaders, youth leaders, a younger youth to help them be more effective in reaching and developing young people in their communities.

**Teaching**
We spend a lot of time in local schools engaging directly with young people through lessons on leadership and presentations on the importance of what Jesus accomplished.

**Mentoring**
Our favorite roles involve mentoring and discipleship. This personal approach to ministry allows us to build trust, confidence and accountability in young people and to inspire excellence through Biblically centered concepts.

**OUR WORK**

Young people aren’t the future of the church, they are the church right now.
Who are the Welsh people and what are they like?

Many historians point back to the departure from Wales by the Romans as a beginning of the Welsh people, but their history goes back further than that. The Welsh share a number of traits with ancient Celtic peoples and bronze age artifacts provide some evidence of these previous civilizations. Ancient burial mounds on the Garth Hill are an example.

Today, there is as much diversity in Wales as there is in the rest of the world. Wales, due to its long history, has many international connections including 11 US presidents and 15 signers of the Declaration of Independence along with historic settlements in Patagonia, Argentina, South Korea, China and India.

Wales has a long history of being occupied by other peoples; Romans, Saxons, Normans, English, etc. Because of this many Welsh people are concerned with the freedom to be independent. This dream began to be realized in 1998 with the formation of the Welsh Assembly and the greater hope that Wales will continue to grow towards more autonomy in the future.

So if I were to visit Wales, what should I expect? Well, here are a few things...

Language
Most people speak English but about 25% still speak the national language of Welsh which is the oldest language spoken in Great Britain.

Living History
After the Romans left, people like Gruffudd Llewellyn and Owain Glyndŵr defended Wales from Norman and English Invasions. So this means castles are everywhere. Cool!

The Arts
From modern greats like Roald Dahl and Dylan Thomas to historic vocal choirs, Wales has been a place of song and poetry. The Eisteddfod is a national celebration of the "Land of Song."

Sport
The Welsh love their country and their rugby. When ‘Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau’ (the national anthem) is sung at an international match, you can feel the stadium shake. Wales has also produced sporting icons like the famous footballer, Gareth Bale.

The Culture

Two children dressed in traditional St. David's Day clothing.
The Land

Some things you may want to know about the geology, flora and fauna of Wales

Wales is a predominantly mountainous country situated on the left side of Great Britain and bordered by England. It’s been known for its large coal mining industry and also for its agricultural farming of sheep, which outnumber people 4 to 1. In the north of Wales, there are vast slate mines and in the west of the country are some of the most spectacular beaches in the world.

Weather in Wales has the reputation for being quite rainy, although the sun has been known to make an appearance from time to time. All the rain keeps Wales green year round and the reservoirs full. It also pumps life into the beautiful daffodils and leeks which are the official flower and vegetable of Wales.

Wales is also home to some rare and unique animals like the red tailed kite, a predatory bird and the manx shearwater, a bird with an incredible homing ability. You can also find seals, dolphins, wild horses, foxes, badgers, owls and if you’re lucky a rare red fox squirrel.

What is there to eat in Wales?

Pub or Carvery
Pubs and carversies are great places to get delicious, hot meals and to experience community life. Try a locally sourced steak and potato dinner with mushrooms on the side.

Local Chippy
If you want that iconic British meal, then look no further than your local chippy for some fish and chips. Salt and vinegar on the top really seal the deal on this meal.

Tea Room
Local tea rooms add that little bit of elegance to an otherwise down to earth local experience. From sandwiches and salads to homemade cake fancies (and even a gift shop) a tea room is sure to put you in touch with that hometown vibe.

With Friends
While restaurants are good, there is nothing like having a good, home cooked meal. If your lucky enough to have Welsh friends then a meal in their home is the best there is. A little late evening laverbread or rarebit toast with Welsh cakes and tea is a wonderful end to a great time together.

The Food

Welsh lamb cawl with leeks, carrots and potatoes is a traditional home cooked meal.
Wales has a Christian heritage dating back to the Roman occupation in the second century. Since then, it has been a place of great revival with the most recent one occurring from 1904-1905. In fact, songs written at that time can still be heard at Welsh football or rugby matches today! From Hugh Evans and Griffith John to Evan Roberts and Florie Evans, Wales has been the home of deeply committed spiritual giants (and lots of Evans too). It's also the home of many historic churches that have played host to services, sing alongs, conferences and various expressions of the message of Jesus Christ.

Since then, economic changes, a couple of world wars, general unrest in European political structures and secular materialistic pursuits have all contributed to a decline in Christian faith. The 2011 census placed Christianity at 57% but based on church attendance the real figure is less than 5%. And, it is now estimated that the 15-24 year old demographic comprises the most unreached group of people in Wales with only about 1.5% of them have any involvement in faith whatsoever. But as Christianity has declined, alcohol and substance abuse, depression and loss of community have increased and we don't believe that's a coincidence.

For us, it's not enough to get back to those revival times because they didn't seem to last. We, along with some many other Christians in Wales want to see something more—something eternal. We know that economic prosperity, or material possessions or job security are not enough to truly satisfy the longing in the human heart; only Christ can do that. We want to help heal the hurt that a life without Christ leads to. So, our goal is to shout His name from the rooftops and share His love in every community. A remnant remains, and remains undefeated in its pursuit of Christ at all costs.

“God is marching on! Marching on in China, Marching on in Japan, marching on in India, marching on in Africa, marching on in every land. Do you not see Him? Do you not hear His voice calling you? As true soldiers of God, let us put on our armor, let us obey the Divine call, let us follow our Divine Leader and let us conquer the world for Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.”

~Griffith John, Welsh Missionary to China
Mission

Developing Local Mission Partnerships
3 keys to practical mission strategies

Collaboration
Mission is not about one group teaching another the "How To's" of a good ministry. Collaboration means working together for the benefit of the community. It means humbling ourselves by serving others, no matter what it costs us. Personal agendas can often get in the way of a good partnership.

Modeling
A successful mission must first successfully model the desired outcome. In other words, we might be the only Jesus a person ever sees. The view of who Jesus is, is often reflected in the behavior and speech of a local church. Power struggles and infighting can derail an authentic mission and effective church outreach.

Sustainability
Mission outreaches provide the momentum needed to make big strides in local ministry but they need ongoing support. Continuing in partnership through prayer, financial support and human resources will ensure the longevity of a good project.

Speaking in and through cultural differences

Speak Slowly
Don't be offended if someone asks you to repeat yourself several times. A slow and steady approach to communication makes you a better communicator and listener.

Speak Clearly
Being aware of idioms and phrases specific to your area can help you communicate better. You may not realize this until someone asks what you mean by what you said.

Forgive and Forget
More than likely something wrong or offensive will eventually be spoken. When this happens, forgive or apologize and then move on. It will probably be a funny joke the next day.

Remember Names
Not knowing what someone is saying is one thing, not knowing their name is another. Take the time to get to know a person's name. The saying is true, "People may not remember the things you said, but they will remember how you made them feel."

Communication

Effective communication requires patience and a little creativity.
Schedule

A flexible attitude eventually can break but being fluid and filling the gaps means you can handle anything that comes at you.

Equip yourself with the right attitude to make the most of the schedule

1. **Check the schedule**
   It sounds simple but the schedule is the best place to check and see what’s going on and coming up next.

2. **Be prepared**
   You may not have a chance to get back to your host home so bring what you may need for the day.

3. **Carry a bag or backpack**
   Have a copy of the schedule, a wallet, rain jacket, drink, snack or whatever personal items you may need.

4. **Roll with it**
   Plans can change at the last minute so not having a fixed mindset will keep a molehill from becoming a mountain.

5. **Just eat it**
   You may find yourself in a situation where the food is not your preference. Smile, say thank you and take a bite.

6. **Make new friends**
   Look for opportunities to get to know different people while you’re walking or riding to and from activities.

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4 tips on how to be the best houseguest ever and ensure an invitation back

- **Be Conversational**
  The house where you stay is not a hotel so take the time to get to know the people who live there. Say please and thank you and ask questions. This shows them that you’re caring and polite.

- **Be Considerate**
  Remember to make your bed, fold your clothes, close your drawers, clean and put dishes away or anything else that shows you respect their house. Try to be a servant at all times.

- **Be Compassionate**
  This could be their first time as a host so a little bit of love and patience can go a long way. Also, remember that everyone is in a different place on their faith journey so always speak with love.

- **Be Charitable**
  Nothing says thank you like giving a gift. It could be something personal or unique to where you’re from but giving a thoughtful gift shows your hosts that you appreciate them.

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Host Homes

Pro Tip:
Take initiative. Don’t wait to be told what to do. Be proactive and think ahead. The job’s not done till everyone’s job is done. Find ways to serve and not to be served.
Other Things To Know

Currency

Although Wales is a part of the European Union, it is a member state of the United Kingdom of Great Britain which uses the pound sterling (£) or GBP. When traveling to Wales, it’s a good idea to keep a watch on exchange rates online. You can also download an app called XE Currency which will let you track currency fluctuations minute by minute. Due to the value of the GBP, most other currencies will loose money in transfers. Using a credit card that doesn’t charge international rates for purchases is a great way to get the biggest bang for your buck. Capitol One Bank has great options with no annual fees.

Voltage

If you’re looking to bring appliances like a hairdryer, straightener, electric razor or other devices that require a wall plug, be sure to check the amount of voltage that they are rated to handle. In Wales, the standard current is 240 volts. If you’re coming from the USA, a step down transformer will be needed to operate appliances that use 120 volts. If you have a laptop, tablet or phone, you’re supplied charger will likely be compatible with various voltages but it’s still a good idea to check.

Weather

Wales is a very wet and rainy place. If you’re the kind of person who waits till the conditions are perfect to do things outside, you’ll be waiting a long time in Wales. Having a good pair of waterproof or water-resistant shoes and a rain coat handy are a great idea. The temperatures tend to be mild in summer (68F) and winter (48F) but it has been known to snow in May. Even though it does warm up a bit in the summer it’s still a good idea to have a couple of long sleeve shirts or a hoodie ready to throw on when the temps drop.

Healthcare

Healthcare in the UK is what is known as a single payer system that is operated by the National Health Service. NHS Wales provides healthcare to all permanent residents, is free at the point of need and paid for from general taxation. If you are traveling from the USA and have an emergency, you are able to access healthcare but you should be prepared to pay for it. Charges will depend on where you go and what is needed. You can find out more about accessing the NHS in Wales here:


Visas

If you are a USA citizen, you do not need a visa to enter the UK. You do need a good reason to be there. When approaching the agent at the border, using words like ‘touring’ or ‘visiting friends and places’ are good things to say to help them understand your intentions. Often people enter the UK in order to abuse the healthcare system. You will need to provide an address for the place you are staying on the Landing Card and explain that you have adequate funds to support yourself while you’re in the UK. Learn more here:

https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa
### Suggested Packing List

#### Clothing
- 1 x Pair of good walking shoes
- 1 x Pair of house shoes or slipper socks *(shoes are not permitted inside)*
- 1 x Casual Sunday church outfit
- 7 x Days of underwear, socks, delicates
- 5 x Shortsleeve shirts
- 2 x Long sleeve shirts or hoodie
- 3 x Pairs of shorts
- 2 x Pairs of jeans or trousers
- 1 x Pair of pajamas or sleeping clothes
- 1 x Raincoat

*Bring a thank you gift for the host home you’re staying in. It could be something that’s meaningful or specific to where you’re from.*

#### Medication

If you require specific medication, don’t rely on the local area to have what you may need. If you do bring medication please ensure that it is in a well labeled container and if prescription related, please ensure that is has your name and dosage requirements listed.

Some suggested items are:
- 1 x Small bottle of pain relievers *(Advil, Tylenol, etc.)*
- 1 x Package of allergy related meds
- 1 x Package of bandaids
- 1 x Personal medication *(labeled)*

#### Personal

- 1 x Bath towel
- 1 x Beach towel
- 1 x Body or face cloth
- 1 x Shampoo or conditioner
- 1 x Bath soap
- 1 x Deodorant
- 1 x Razor or shaver
- 1 x Hairdryer or straightener *(Please refer to voltage details)*
- 1 x Voltage and plug converter
- 1 x Toothbrush and toothpaste
- 1 x Alarm clock
- 1 x Other personal items
- 1 x Camera
- 1 x Spare batteries
- 1 x Small flashlight
- 1 x Mobile phone

*Your favorite candy or snack that can be also shared with the locals!*

#### Luggage

Most airlines allow for one checked bag and one carry-on bag. A hard sided or duffle bag that rolls is best for your checked bag and a medium sized backpack is best for carry-on.

Please refer to your particular airline for details as well as restricted items. The Transportation Security Administration or TSA provide a detailed list of these particular items at the below website.

- 1x Checked bag at 45 lbs. *(23kg)*
  Dimension: 35.5 x 29.5 x 16 inches *(90 x 75 x 43cm)*
- 1x Carry on bag at 15 lbs. *(7kg)*
  Dimension: 22 x 18 x 10 inches *(56 x 45 x 25cm)*

⭐ Please be sure to leave space for souvenirs when packing. Don’t over pack!!


#### Spiritual

Be sure to bring those things that help you in your devotional time of prayer and scripture reading. Some suggested items are:

- 1 x Bible
- 1 x Devotional or prayer book
- 1 x Journal or notebook
- 1 x Pen or pencil
OUR PURPOSE

We love engaging with young people. They are energetic, creative, fun, resourceful and adventurous. Our deepest desire is to help them tap into their inner resources and use them for not only their personal development, but for the better good of their families, community, nation and world. We communicate this through three distinct concepts:

Head
Young people are clever, often times more than they are given credit. We desire to stimulate and encourage that side of them, not only for their benefit, but for the wider community as well. A young person who has been challenged to work through complex issues will be able to develop those skills further in their adult life. We also believe that God is more than just a subject to be studied but a person we can know.

Heart
Young people have a tremendous capacity to love and having some guidance on working through ways to do that effectively can be of great benefit to them. The heart is a complex part of our makeup and Jesus made it clear that our heart can lead us to places that our head hasn’t had time to consider if left on its own. A heart in balance will help keep the head and the hands in balance too.

Hands
Young people are blessed with abundant energy. While some may see this as wasted on them, we believe that they are one of the most under utilized components of a community. By connecting their heads, hearts and hands, we believe that they are capable of accomplishing great things. The Bible emphasizes the importance of serving and we desire to see young people fulfilling that role.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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