



REACHING THE WORLD BY SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

A Great Start for 2016-17

We have enjoyed our first two months of Better English on Sixth, welcoming back many of our enthusiastic students from last year, and welcoming many new students in the first seven weeks.

More than 25 students from last year have returned, many to resume with their partner of last year, all of them rekindling joyful friendships with returning partners. Since our average attendance at the end of last year was in the 30s, these 25+ students represent an excellent retention rate, demonstrating that they value the language learning and the relationships.

We have registered more than 35 new students during the same opening weeks. Those students hail from such countries as Algeria, Egypt, Germany, Mexico, Columbia, Brazil, Puerto Rico, China, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam. Some have only come once or twice, and we may not be the best fit for all, but they all seem impressed their first night and grateful for the opportunity to learn.

Our total attendance has been in the 30s to mid-40s, reflecting that many

students don't make it each week. It would be quite possible for us to have more than 50 some night soon, if everyone were able to come on the same Monday. On nights with more students, many partners help two students or more.

Our church partners are the unique strength of Better English on Sixth. Through them our students have a safe place for conversation practice, a personal language tutor, a friendly cultural bridge, and, frequently, a true friend. Friendships often extend outside the classroom. In one instance, a student could only come two Monday nights this year, but is now meeting with her partner for coffee and joining her for her community group. Another partner reported joy in simply, "finding people who need a friend." Love is what animates Better English on Sixth, and our partners are the channels.

Another connection outside of class has been church and ESL Sunday school. We look forward to reporting more on these blessings in our next edition.



♥ Thank You Flyer Posters!

Better English on Sixth enjoyed strong attendance with many new students in the first weeks of our second year. The posting of flyers by church members—families, pastors, individuals—was a great success.



Level Four studies diligently

They Say

Better English according to Partners

“ One of our new students, a Columbian, wants to learn English so she can teach it to children and young adults. She had a great evening with her partner and looks forward to working with her again

“ It's wonderful to see the students that really want to learn. My favorite from last night: "How do you say this word?" "Ironing."

“ We enjoyed a delicious dinner at the home of Samat and Dilya this weekend. Their two boys are very sweet and it was such a pleasure to spend time with the whole family in their home and especially fascinating to hear Samat's testimony.

“ Coming on Mondays helps me experience the joy of giving to others without expecting anything in return. Meeting new people is fun and they help me understand how each of us needs help to make it, and that it's ok to reach out for help.



“ Tonight the children's class had good vocabulary practice. It is fun to watch these children make new friends, practice new skills and learn so quickly.

“ I really enjoyed seeing one of the ladies in our class acting out the question mark with a little hip swing and raising her hands as well as her voice tone. It really made me smile to see her so comfortable

WE ALWAYS NEED MORE PARTNERS

It is never too late and never too early to start having more fun on Monday nights than you currently have! Your participation can make a real difference in the lives of our students today and forever.

LET US KNOW YOU WANT TO JOIN THE FUN!

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Better English on Sixth held its second training of the year in September with twenty participants on a Saturday morning with Jonathan. Partners were blessed with a clear guide to lesson planning by Miriam Sheldon and a Language Learning Impracticum by Andrew Milton



Having Fun Among Friends

by Ian Jimmink

When I look at how quickly the students are learning, I can't believe it's possible. But, when I put myself in their place, it begins to make sense. The partners at Better English on Sixth are friends as much as teachers, and the students don't feel the kind of pressure they have in other environments to "get it right." On top of that, everyone has fun, whether it is a class game or talking in DeSoto Hall. Students always learn best when they're having fun among friends.

Like most of the partners, I've renewed old connections and made

new friends. I've had few openings to talk about Christianity in any way, but once Ilya (a level four student from Russia) asked me what the abbreviation "B.C." meant. This led to a conversation, but as it was my first night with him, we didn't get in much depth.

In the first four weeks I worked with students from Russia (Ilya), Kyrgyzstan (Dilya), Guatemala (Jose), China (David) and France (Sabine). That's five countries on three continents in four weeks!