

Better English on Sixth Report

Better English on Sixth Annual Report for 2020

The 2019 school year seems like ancient history. Better English on Sixth did have several months of regular Monday night meetings with classrooms of students, teachers, and language partners in four levels of English instruction. We often had 30+ students each week.

As we heard the news of COVID in China in December and January, many of our students started to stay home. When everything was shut down in March, we knew we had to change and adapt along with everyone else. Jonathan Nichols decided to take some time away from Better English to concentrate on his many other jobs. Amy and I have tried to stay connected to as many students as possible. This proved difficult when many of the email addresses and other contact information we had was not accurate. We did our best to write to or call many of our students.

The next thing we did was to strengthen our relationship with Better English at the Station. We are so thankful for Karen Pease (wife of associate pastor, Rev. Tyler Pease at Sunset Bible Church) and her group of language partners. BE at the Station has always assigned one tutor to each student and that is your student for the year. They did meet in small groups once a week, but also had online lessons and meetings organized with the Pierce County Library. This made it an easy transition to organize zoom meetings for our students and partners. Karen encouraged us to keep working with our students one friendship at a time. She also organized several outdoor fieldtrips this summer and started a Youtube channel for students to practice pronunciation and learn Bible stories. We have met a few times at Sunset Bible on a Monday morning when we felt it was safe to do so.

We have about a dozen language partners from Faith that have been very faithful connecting with their student over the past year. Some of these students we have known for a few years, some of them are new to the program and were introduced to us through BE at the Station. One of the advantages of zoom meetings has been when my student moved from Tacoma to Los Angeles, I have been able to keep up our Monday evening lessons.

Thank you for praying for Better English in Tacoma. We hope to see this ministry stay a part of Faith Presbyterian Church. The international community continues to grow. Better English has been a great opportunity to meet so many wonderful people from countries around the globe. We have set out to serve them with a few English lessons and share the love of Christ. We have been rewarded with wonderful friendships from very grateful people.

Kathy Lewis, for Better English on Sixth