



briarwood international outreach

ESL Classes

Briarwood offers weekly English as a Second Language classes (ESL) for adults from more than 17 countries. Our classes are taught by trained volunteers who love working with internationals. We have specific level classes, conversation classes, and a variety of activities during the semester.

Friendship Partners

The Friendship Partners program pairs internationals in the greater Birmingham area with internationally minded families and individuals. This program seeks to promote friendship and understanding between people of differing nationalities.



ESL Classes



Friendship Partners



Website

briarwood.org/bio



Email

cmcgregor@briarwood.org



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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BRIARWOOD INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

(19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19–20

Do you know that 70% of internationals living in America have never set foot in an American's home? In addition, learning English is the #1 felt need for internationals living in the U.S., while friendship with an American is a close second. We have a great opportunity to help meet these needs and impact the nations right here in Birmingham!

Briarwood International Outreach ministry was started over 40 years ago by a few lay people and families in our congregation who desired to meet the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of internationals living in Birmingham. Over the years, these families befriended them, inviting them into their homes, helping them learn English, providing transportation, and meeting other needs.

During the school year, we hold weekly English classes (ESL) on Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings at Briarwood. This past year, around 60 students attended weekly, representing 17 different countries, some being from closed access countries. This is a great opportunity to not only meet a physical need of our international “neighbors” but also to develop relationships. We would love for you to join us as a volunteer teacher, classroom helper, or greeter. The only requirements are that you love God, love others, and speak English!

Another international outreach program of Briarwood is Friendship Partners, a program that pairs internationals in our area with American families and individuals here at Briarwood and other local churches. They get together once or twice a month and share a meal together or explore the city. The goal is to build a friendship and allow for opportunities to learn about the other person. We invite you to help these internationals find friendship and belonging as they are far from home. We have two upcoming orientations, August 14 and 22, for those interested in becoming a friendship partner.

Our BIO ministry also meets regularly with international students, developing discipleship opportunities. Throughout the year, we also host larger special events, like the Welcome Picnic coming up August 24. We would love for you to join us in helping with these events, hosting small get togethers of international students in your home one Sunday after church or consistently praying for these internationals.

God has brought the nations to our doorstep here in Birmingham and removed some of the barriers to “making disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28). Please join us in impacting the nations through Briarwood International Outreach!

Joel Richards, Director of International Outreach
jrichards@briarwood.org 205-776-5416

Courtney McGregor, Director of ESL & Friendship Partners
cmcgregor@briarwood.org 205-776-5345

FEATURED EVENTS

Youth IMPACT Weekend — Briarwood Youth | August 2-4

All 9th–12th grade students, come and allow the Lord to Impact your life and learn how to have an Impact on others! Join us for IMPACT Weekend with speakers and discipleship groups at students' homes. Register and find information at briarwood.org/youth.

Men's Fall Football Kickoff — Men's Ministry | August 14

Wednesday, August 14 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at Fellowship Hall. Men and young men are invited to our Men's Football Kickoff Dinner! Come hear how three local high school head coaches, Matthew Forester, Robert Evans and Chris Yeager, model their Christian faith and have success at the highest divisions. Tickets (\$10) online at briarwood.org/men.

Special Needs Resource Fair — Special Connections | August 22

Briarwood is hosting a Special Needs Resource Fair in the Fellowship Hall on August 22 from 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Come to learn about over 100 agencies that serve people with Special Needs and their families. Registration required at briarwood.org/specialneedsresourcefair.

Women's Fall Kickoff — Women's Ministry | August 24 *

Women join us for our Women's Fall Kickoff on Saturday, August 24 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This Olympic themed event will focus on fellowship, food and fun! There is no cost, but registration helps us in our planning. For more details and to register go to briarwood.org/women. Nursery is available with registration.

* Nursery is available for select events upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.
Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

The Songs of Jesus: A Year of Daily Devotions in the Psalms

by Timothy & Kathy Keller | Adult Book

The Book of Psalms is the Bible's songbook. Two decades ago, Tim Keller began reading the entire Book of Psalms every month. *The Songs of Jesus* is based on his years of study, insight, and inspiration recorded in his prayer journals. Kathy came to reading the psalms as a support during an extended illness. Together they have distilled the meaning of each verse, inviting readers into the wisdom of the psalms. Every verse will bring a new level of intimacy with God, unlocking your purpose within God's kingdom. Price: \$18

God's Wisdom for Navigating Life: A Year of Daily Devotions in the Book of Proverbs

by Timothy & Kathy Keller | Adult Book

Proverbs is God's book of wisdom. With Tim Keller's trademark insight, he offers readers a fresh, inspiring lesson for every day as he unlocks the wisdom within the poetry of Proverbs and guides us toward a new understanding of what it means to live a moral life. *God's Wisdom for Navigating Life* is a book that readers will be able to turn to every day, year after year, to cultivate a deeper, more fulfilling relationship with God. This makes a perfect companion to Keller's devotional on the Psalms, *The Songs of Jesus*. Price: \$18

Featured books are available to purchase online at briarwood.org/bookstore.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

YBL Summer Series #2 — Thursday, August 1 from 7:00–8:00 a.m. at Samford’s Regions Room. Join us to hear panelists Jared Hudson, Dion Watts, and Chuck Welden discuss purpose, identity, and the image of God. Register at ybl.org/Birmingham/events/.

ESL Teacher Training — August 2–3. Join us for free ESL Training to equip you to reach the nations. Required registration and details at briarwood.org/esltraining or to find out how to get involved with Briarwood ESL, contact cmcgregor@briarwood.org.

Bruce and Sonya Stallings Reception — August 11 after the evening Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to honor Bruce and Sonya Stallings for their many years of service at Briarwood.

Trailblazers Ice Cream Social — August 19 from 2:30–4:30 p.m. at Club 55 Clubhouse (8145 Annika Drive). Come enjoy a time of fellowship and the sounds of Jay and The Elders Quartet. Sign up at briarwood.org/trailblazers.

YBL Summer Study — Mondays from 7:00–8:15 p.m. at the home of Mark Edwards, 2022 Country Ridge Place. Join us for a six-week YBL Summer Study titled Christian Manhood: Character Studies from 1 Samuel. Register at bit.ly/YBLChristianManhood.

Women’s Summer Study — Join us for our last summer study next Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall-C&D. We will focus on the “but God” passages where circumstances do not get the last word. Nursery is available with reservations.

Men’s Summer Study — Men, come this summer for a Wednesday study in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 a.m. We will be over-viewing *Work: Its Purpose, Dignity, and Transformation* by Dan Doriani. See details at briarwood.org/men.

WBL Summer Series — Every other Wednesday at noon at Grace Church. Join us for six lunch-hour studies on “Jesus Through the Eyes of Women” by Rebecca McLaughlin. Find details at bit.ly/wbl-summer-series.

Children’s Sunday School Promotion — If you are planning on holding your child back for the 2024-25 school year, let Raleigh Macoy know so we can make sure to place him/her in the appropriate Sunday School class for the fall. Email rmacoy@briarwood.org.

Job Opening: Senior Staff Administrative Assistant — Seeking a full-time administrative assistant for Briarwood’s senior staff. Applicants need excellent communication and organizational skills, proficiency with Microsoft Office and previous experience as an executive assistant is preferred. Send résumés to Matt Moore at mmoore@briarwood.org.

Job Opening: Social Media / Writing Assistant — Part-time position for a Briarwood member who is proficient in various social media platforms and a skillful writer. Submit resume to lmckee@briarwood.org.

Job Openings: Full-time & Part-time Staff — There are a number of ministry positions open. See all employment and job openings at briarwood.org/employment.

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Sunday, July 28 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

As we come into the presence of the Lord for worship, we are overwhelmed by His goodness and amazed by His greatness. Pray for the Lord to instruct our hearts to serve Him through the preaching of His holy Word.

Monday, July 29 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

Pray for WellHouse, a ministry providing opportunities for restoration to female victims of human trafficking through its emergency, short, and long-term care programs. Pray and consider volunteering to assist WellHouse's staff as they minister to hurting women and children. Visit their website at the-wellhouse.org.

Tuesday, July 30 — Missions Prayer Focus

Pray for Samuel and Carol Foucachon and their church, Chapelle de Nesle, in the center of Paris during the Olympic Games July 26 through August 11. Pray for preparations and for an amazing work of God through church members who seek to live and speak the gospel through planned programs to draw in visitors and Olympians.

Wednesday, July 31 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Hamilton and Maria (Valez) Tabon with World Reach in Colombia; Richard and Louise Verreyne with World Thrust in South Africa; Theodore and Becky with Mission to the World in South Asia; and Jordi and Bernadeth Vilahur with Greater Europe Mission in Spain.

Thursday, August 1 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for Peter and Rebecca Jones with TruthXchange in California; Ben and Melanie Kappers with All Saints Reformed Church in Utah; Fred and Jean Klett with CHAIM in Pennsylvania; Christopher and Rebecca Knaebel with Mission to North America in Florida; and Christian Service Mission.

Friday, August 2 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for our Briarwood elders Billy Ball, Jim Gewin, Drew Ricketts; deacons Duane Pritchett, Hans Sitarz Jr., Bill Whitworth; and Director Of Campus Outreach Olan Stubbs and wife, Lynna.

Saturday, August 3 — Church Family

Pray for our hospitalized members Beth Adair, Ken Austin, Al Black, Merle Howard and Bill Marlar.

Pray for those in our church family who are fighting the battle with cancer. Ask the Lord to give them His peace and strength for the trials that come their way in their journey for healing. Pray also for their families and caregivers who help to take care of their daily needs and encourage them each step of the way.

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:1-3*

Receive each day's prayer as a notification through the Briarwood App.
In your Briarwood App settings, enable "Weekly Prayer Guide" notifications.

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THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship Services:

“A Weighty Matter”

Psalm 115

Pastor Rob Looper

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the morning services. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

Sunday Evening Worship:

“Why Plant a Church?”

Matthew 19–20

Pastor Stephen King

Watch our live-stream on the Briarwood App, Facebook, YouTube or briarwood.org.

Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.