

Ka 'Ōlelo 'O Ke Ola

for Making our 50th Anniversary a Golden Event!

"THE WORD OF LIFE"

Winter 2023, Volume 47 Issue 4

Bible Institute of Hawai'i • Founded in 1972 • 2345 Nu'uanu Avenue • Honolulu, HI 96817 USA • Phone: (808) 595-4700 • Website: www.biblehawaii.org.

Executive Director: Rodney Wong • Board of Directors: Randy Stone, President • Cynthia W. Lai, Vice President • Kendal Fong, Secretary Greig Porter, Treasurer • Curtis Fong • Ken Humphries





By Rodney Wong, BIH Executive Director

he year 2022 will soon come to a close, marking the end of BIH's milestone year. Our recent gala celebration helped commemorate a special ministry that has made lasting impact on many in Hawai'i and around the world. BIH has demonstrated resilience in the face of adversities common for educational and religious institutions. Increasing operational costs, increased availability of online courses offered by other institutions out of state, and the diminishing demand for Christian education are a few of the many challenges for survival.

Now entering its 51st year, BIH was not immune to these challenges. The reasons for its longevity are many. To God be the glory. You, our BIH 'ohana, are the heart and soul of this ministry. We honored just a handful of our faithful servants at the gala. Although the list is long, I will attempt to do so with some details of the day's program.

"Mahalo nui" to all of those who made our 50-year Anniversary Celebration truly golden!

■ BIH 50-year Anniversary Table Sponsors & Table Hosts

David & Christine Arita, American Floor & Home

Calvert & Emily Chun

John & Nina Enomoto

Randy & Jeanie Furushima

Brett Kennelly, Stadia Capital Group (3 tables)

Larry Takumi & Jo-Ann Komori

Cynthia Lai (2 tables)

Elvin & Marlene Lee, First Chinese Church of Christ

Warren & Joanne Naai

Bob & Nancy Okuda (2 tables)

Rebecca Ovitt

Bradstreet & Becky Smith

Randy & Lenora Stone

Rodney & Miki Wong (2 tables)

■ Additional Table Hosts

Kendal Fong, Paul & Kammy Grable, Charlene Han, Ken & Tina Humphries, Kaylene Kamada Earl & Gayle Morihara, Greig Porter, Malia Rausch, and Bong & Alma Ro.



John Enomoto presents Ada Lum with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Event Donors

David & Christine Arita, Guomeng Chen, Calvert & Emily Chun, Randy & Jeanie Furushima, David & Iris Haji, Charlene Hamaguchi, Kaylene Kamada, Curt & Rebecca Kekuna, Brett Kennelly, Larry, Takumi & Jo-Ann Komori, Cynthia Lai, Elvin & Marlene Lee, Warren & Joanne Naai, Randy & Lenora Stone, Yokichi & Nancy Suzuki, Stu & Lora Watanabe, and Gloria Young.

■ Registration, Reception Table & Decoration Coordinator

Jeanie Furushima

■ Event & Program Coordinator

James Kwong

Awards & Recognition Committee

John Enomoto, Joanne Naai, Rodney Wong, and Mark Yamauchi.

















■ Keynote Address Speakers

Rod Franklin via video, BIH Executive Director, 1992-1998.

Through digital recording, Pastor Rod Franklin delivered his address, "Today, looking back to celebrate, yes! And leaning forward to what God will do and continue to do in His work with BIH." He described his first-class experience with Pastor Don Baron, BIH's founder. As a BIH student in the 70s, Rod was impressed by the diversity of students representing different cultures, denominations, and religious experiences. He quoted a motto statement for the classes, "People Grow More, Know More, and Love More." He shared the story of how he became BIH's second ED and what a blessing the ministry was to him and his wife. In closing, he introduced the three Award Honorees, asking us to imagine the number of lives they each impacted (thousands!) and because of these thousands, how many more lives have been touched.

Randy Furushima, BIH Executive Director, 2018-2021.

Pastor Randy's connection to BIH began in the 7th grade when he studied under then-future teacher Ada Lum. "Each of us thought we were her favorite student," he joked. He had begun his address by listing several references to the number "50" in the Bible. The fiftieth year was also called the Jubilee year (Lev. 25:10), when liberty was proclaimed and debts forgiven, a cause for celebration. However, in its tragic history, Israel became immersed in wickedness, a likely result of neglect and absence of the Book of the Law, explained Pastor Randy. A rediscovery of the Scriptures during the reign of King Josiah

brought an awakening, repentance, and reform to the land. Pastor Randy stressed the importance of the work and people who support it. "BIH is only as strong and distinctive as its people...who are they? YOU...who have supported the vision, mission, and values of this unique organization." In closing, he invited people to pray and give to the ministry of BIH, supporting its work, so it will continue into the future and its centennial year.

■ Master of Ceremonies

Ken Humphries

■ **BIH Worship Team** this talented group of musicians were brought together specifically for this one-time celebration.

Aya Kwong; Worship Leader, Vocals, Acoustic Guitar & Coordinator Laine Furukawa, Keyboard & Vocals Hanzo Hamamura, Electric Guitar Greig Porter, Vocals Charles Tau'a, Percussion Jasmine Tau'a, Vocals Chaz Umamoto, Electric Bass and Music Director

■ Local Musical Artist

Micah Ganiron

■ Invocation & Blessing

Clive Cowell, BIH Executive Director, 2008-2012.

■ AWARD PRESENTATIONS

The House of Representatives, 31st Legislature's Certificate of Honor & Recognition for the accomplishments of BIH over 50 years and for their spiritual service to the people of Hawai'i; presented by Diamond Garcia, signed by Speaker of the House, Scott K. Saiki, Representative Gene Ward, and Chief Clerk, Brian L. Takeshita.

Governor David Y. Ige's Certificate of Recognition & Commemorative Message for BIH's 50th Anniversary and service in the Aloha State to the Christian Community; presented by Ken Humphries. Accepting both Certificates on behalf of BIH, Rodney Wong, BIH Executive Director, 2021-present.

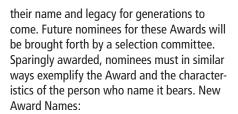
Founders' Legacy Award - Presented by Joanne Naai, who served as BIH Staff, Board Member & volunteer. Accepting the Award, Pastor Tim & Marlys Cartwright of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on behalf of the Awardees, Pastor **Don and Ia Mei Baron**, BIH Executive Director, 1972-1989.

"Love in Action" Award - Presented by Mark Yamauchi, who served as BIH Board President & Board Member. Awarded to Dr. Rebecca S. Ovitt, accepting her Award in-person with her son, Chris Ovitt.

by John Enomoto, who served as BIH President & Board Member in multiple terms. Awarded to **Ms. Ada Lum** at The Plaza, Moanalua. She received the Award with her sister, Ginny Lum by her side. A congratulatory 'shout out' to Ada was recorded at the celebration by the attendees and later shown to the Lum's.

From this day forward, these three Achievement Awards will forever bear the name of their first recipients. Now perpetual, these Awards ensure the continuance of





The Don & Ia Mei Baron Founders' Legacy Award

The Rebecca Ovitt "Love in Action" Award The Ada Lum Lifetime Achievement Award

■ BIH Faculty Faithful Service, Recognition of Teaching for over 15 Years

Along with Don Baron, Rebecca Ovitt and Ada Lum, these Awardees include Bong Ro, Bradstreet Smith, and Todd Capen (not present, attending daughter's wedding)

■ Reception Table, Hospitality & Decoration set-up

David & Iris Haji, Tina Humphries, Randy & Lenora Stone, Sanford & Ginny Tom, Char McGraw, and Lora Watanabe.

■ Centerpieces - Baker's Heart of Touch A Heart Hawai'i

Jill, Leigh & Jeanne Hamasaki

■ Favor Design, Name Tags, Table Cards & Production

Jeanie Furushima & Jill Hamasaki

■ Donation of ribbons, tulle, shredded crinkles & cold storage of candy favors

Soleil Fusha

■ Photographers

Curtis Fong & Kean Tanaka

■ Donation of A/V Equipment & Engineering

Scott & Joanne Lief of The Vine Productions

■ A/V Team Set-up & Tear-down

Scott & Joanne Lief, James Kwong, Michelle Hataishi, and Josiah Wong

Skilled Craftsmanship of 'Ohai Monkeypod Wood Bowls & Koa Wood Pen Awards

Warren Naai of Recover, Restore, Redeem

■ Visual Production & Operations

James Kwong, Ken Humphries, and Mikayla Wong

■ Donation of Special Faculty & Board Member Gifts

Randy & Jeanie Furushima

■ Donation of Stage Flowers, Centerpieces & Leis

Cynthia Lai

Why stop there? MAHALO to all BIH supporters for your generous financial gifts and prayers, we are humbled and blessed!

■ BIH Board of Directors

MAHALO for your faithful volunteer service of time, talents, wisdom, stewardship, and prayers for this ministry: Randy Stone, President, Cynthia Lai, Vice-President, Kendal Fong, Secretary, Greig Porter, Treasurer, Curtis Fong, and Ken Humphries.

■ Office Operations, Bookkeeping, Registration, Newsletter Editing & Mailer Volunteers

MAHALO for being the engine of this organization and behind-the-scenes workhorse. Your volunteerism and servants' hearts has been a blessing to BIH. Randy Stone, for managing every aspect of the office, including coordinating volunteers, processing mail, and managing the finances...the list goes on.

Also, Francis Miyazawa, for making sure the books are in order and keeping a high standard of stewardship. And the other volunteers who seek us out, looking for ways to help. My apologies in advance for missing some people. These individuals enlisted to help during this past year:

Shirlynne Dredla, Curtis Fong, Jeanie Furushima, Cynthia Lai, Joanne Naai, Greig Porter, Alma Ro, Lenora Stone, Gloria Young, and Leilani Zukemura.

■ Churches, Classrooms Space & Coordinators

MAHALO churches and businesses that have generously donated classroom space for our classes. BIH has had 2,000 classes since its inception and counting. Securing each classroom site involves coordination and management of logistics, setting up the classroom space, and cleanup. Faculty administrators and volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure each class session runs smoothly. We have always kept overhead costs low, allowing

us to pass on the savings to students. Many may not realize that all of BIH tuition is waived, and only a minimal administrative fee is required.

■ Churches and locations that hosted a class or seminar this year

MAHALO for opening your doors and being welcoming hosts.

C4 Church, Chinese Lutheran Church, Island Family Christian Church, Kailua Christian Church, New Hope Central O'ahu, O'ahu Community Correctional Center, Trinity Presbyterian Church-Kailua, University Avenue Baptist Church, Waialae Baptist Church, and Waioli Kitchen & Bake Shoppe.

■ BIH Faculty & Students

MAHALO for your commitment to learning, to hours of studying, and to teaching the Word of God faithfully. We give thanks for every life impacted by the Gospel and for spiritual growth through the teaching of God's Word. We love hearing from students of those "a-ha" moments and big "takeaway lessons." May the next generation of teachers and students be inspired by the legacy you leave, marked by insatiable study and perseverance in the truth. Our main textbook is the Bible. As necessary as the umbilical cord is to the unborn baby, the Apostle Paul reminds Timothy to be inseparable from God's Word, proving to be our main source of spiritual sustenance, "...constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine" (1 Tim. 4:6; cf. vss.6-16). Students already know that our faculty are top-notch educators and servants of the Lord.

■ Churches, Ministries & All Supporters Over the Last 50 Years

MAHALO for your love, prayers, and generous financial support to this ministry. We are grateful that the Lord has sustained BIH with such wonderful churches and people like you.









Regular financial donations are the life source of non-profits. But hearing from you personally through letters, emails, phone calls, or in person helps us thrive and is a source of great encouragement through challenging seasons.

MAHALO

Sherrie Aguilar of White Mountain Castle
Publishing for your many years of quality service and giftedness in graphic design producing
our Quarterly Newsletter,

Chris Aliipule of Techiniku for your many years of technical computer skill, running our website and recently revamping our pay cart system.

Lastly, the Community Church of Honolulu for

many years of a generous low-cost lease for our office space.

As we look to the horizon of the New Year and beyond, may I invite you to join us in a commitment to growing in God's Word together? Growth is a process that is gradual; sometimes it goes unnoticed, requiring patience. But maturity and the continuation of growth requires some intentionality and planning. Neglect will cause the opposite effect or worse. Now we can't "make" ourselves or someone else grow spiritually. That's God's job. We can, however, control the environment that best fosters growth. In other words, we can arrange and structure our lives in such a way that sets up the best outcome for spiritual growth. In reflecting on a gardener's expertise and the Parable of the Sower, the planting of a seed will usually produce a seedling from the energy stored in the seed. But sustained and optimal growth happens when the gardener does what is necessary to give that seedling a fighting chance. This involves irrigating the soil with the right amount of water, allowing for the right amount of sunlight, protecting the plant from weeds and pests, and providing a constant source of nutrients back into the soil.

First, put yourself in places that best expose you to the necessary nutrients of God's Word. It starts with us, so simply pick up the Bible, open it, and read it. Like sunlight, get exposed to it and get exposed by it. Start anywhere. Read anywhere. Just start reading... TODAY!

Allow the light's rays to expose those weeds that do not belong in your garden; allow it to speak to your heart, and act on it. It is a lifetime commitment.

You say you're it reading already? Great! Now, read the Bible...with others. Read it in community, anywhere, online or in-person. Go where it is taught and talked about. Start with prayer, dig deeper, reach further, and allow the Holy Spirit to draw you closer to Himself and with others. The more you read, the more questions are raised. The more questions you ask, the more you read the Bible to seek answers. More reading, more questions, more searching, more reading. As soon as you ask, "why or how?" further reading ensues with instigation. That is beginning of Bible Study.

Drop-in to "Just Show Up"; we meet weekly online for the reading of Scripture. Show up consistently and eventually you'll read through the entire Bible. Of course, one place comes to mind that offers a great set of teaching faculty, where you can study along with like-minded students. But first, let me strongly recommend a place to encourage your Bible reading - your church and worshipping community. Don't discount those key spiritual relationships. Get involved in the life of the church and posture your heart towards learning from your Pastor(s), Elder(s) and Teacher(s). After solidifying that, then browse through our Newsletter for Courses and Seminars, or study tours. If you struggle with discipline, consider the CBS certificate program. This program will help keep you on track. If nothing piques your interest now, I would love to hear from you and explore how our programs could better address your interests and needs. You are always welcome to call or email me. Email: Rodney@biblehawaii. org or Tel: (808) 595-4700. I'll see you in class this January. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year! And now a special addendum: Congratulations you got this far in the Newsletter. Good news, for those who missed the Celebration and those who just like to relive the moment. We will be making the pictures, Keynote Addresses, and "other" available to everyone. Just give us some time and we will get it out to you when it is ready.



Finally, on behalf of the BIH community, I want to express a heartfelt deep appreciation to one of our long time Faculty Members, Gary Lau. His unique and innovative methodology of teaching the Bible and making it come to life,

will be sorely missed as this was this last quarter teaching for BIH. He will always teach, which is his calling. He is gifted to create curriculum so people can pass it on and teach others. He has done so by making it memorable, enlisting the use of drawings and images. He created his program from study and years of experienced teaching. As a student commented, Pastor Gary offered practical advice that was the right word for the right moment. Mahalo, Pastor Gary Lau!



Dr. Shan Chen's brings a wealth of experience, educational scholarship, and Mandarin Chinese speaking fluency to BIH. Her connection to BIH goes back many years, earning a CBS Certificate from BIH and serving alongside Ms. Ada Lum as her translator in a China missions' trip. She and her husband, Dr. Royal Frueling also have a special connection with the Furushimas, being married by Pastor Randy.

The recent seminar titled, "God Speaks Chinese" was conducted in Mandarin and hosted at the Chinese Lutheran Church on Lillia Street. It was well received by attendees, sparking great interest in Bible translation and missionary efforts in China. Keep posted, details on Dr. Chen's next seminar are currently underway.

BIH is excited to partner with and be in support of the Chinese Lutheran Church of Honolulu, As the largest Chinese speaking congregation in Hawai'i, it is a bustling and thriving Christian community. They hosted many classes in year's past and have been wonderful supporters of BIH for many years.

Pastor Ray Zhu with his wife, Chuan Hong, expressing their gratitude to BIH writes,

"Praise the Lord for the excellent Bible class earlier this pm! We've had 25 in-person plus 5 on-line participants in total. Thank you, Chen Shan, again for enriching and empowering our faith in God by sharing your knowledge and passion in this field."





All classes online, some include in person option

Register online at www.biblehawaii.org Mail-in Registrations Postmarked by Wednesday , January 18

\$35 - \$45 per household

Sunday

CNS104 One Day at A Time

Dr. Ruby Ovitt

This special class is for men and women experiencing divorce, physical or emotional separation, or widowhood. Discussions, small group sharing, and prayer assist participants in developing or restoring a positive self-image and greater faith in God. New friendships and support will be built with others also undergoing one of life's most difficult crises. Water bottle Recommended.

Administrative Fee: \$35 Bring-a-Friend Free January 22 – March 12, 2023 (8 weeks) Sundays, 4:00 – 6:00 pm In-person at University Avenue Baptist Church 2305 University Ave., Honolulu

Monday

WM101 Introduction to Local and World Missions

Dr. James Kwong

This class will help the student understand how the church reaches out to its community and the world following the Acts 1:8 mandate Jesus has given us. Each class will focus on a biblical passage, explore a mission's topic, and feature discussion of several chapters of the mission's biography Bruchko (weekly reading required). Required Book for class: "Bruchko" by Bruce Olson (available through Logos Christian Bookstore or other online retailers)

Administrative Fee: \$40 Bring-a-Friend Free of per household online
January 23 – March 20, 2023 (8 weeks, except 2/20)
Mondays, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Hybrid: Zoom Online & in-person at Kaimuki Christian Church; Rm G201 1117 Koko Head Ave, Honolulu

CBS/CMM: Skills

Tuesday

BTS110

Apologetics: Why I Believe What I Believe

Dr. Bong Ro

How can we believe the existence of God, the Bible with 200 miracles, and the resurrection and the uniqueness of Jesus Christ? How can the merciful God allow human suffering? Evolution vs Creation, which one is the true religion? Other topics that will be covered include ancestral worship and sexual identity.

Administrative Fee: \$40 Bring-a-Friend Free January 24 – March 21, 2023 (8 weeks, except to 2/14)

Tuesdays, 6:00 – 8:00 pm In-person only at Kaimuki Christian Church; Rm A201

1117 Koko Head Ave, Honolulu

L CBS/CMM: Overview/Theology or Skills

NT019 **Hebrews: Exalting Jesus**

Dr. Randy Furushima

Hebrews is a unique book in the Bible, often neglected in the church. This book shows us that the Bible is not merely a collection of unrelated stories, but a unified story of God's progressive revelation and redemption through Jesus Christ. In Christ we see the fulfillment of all the Old Testament hopes and promises, ushering in the New Covenant age as both high priest and sacrifice. We will highlight connections between the Old and New Testaments so that you will read the whole of Scripture more effectively. In the end you will discover that the strength of your faith is rooted in the object of your faith.

Administrative Fee: \$40 per household January 17 – March 14, 2023 (8 weeks, except 2/14)

Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Zoom Online

L CBS/CMM: NT-Letters

Thursday

OT019

Psalms: Highways of the Heart

Dr. Rick Stinton

The Psalms are highways of the heart that lead us into the presence of King Jesus. They are Spirit-inspired songs that show us how God draws us to himself in every situation in life – from pain to praise. Join us on the journey as we learn how to meet the Lord through the Psalms.

Administrative Fee: \$35 per household January 26 – March 2, 2023 (6 weeks) Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm Zoom Online

CBS/CMM: OT-Psalms

NT001 Christ's Sermon on the Mount

Dr. J.R. Cuevas

This course is a biblical exposition through Jesus' teachings on what it means to be a citizen of the kingdom of heaven in Matthew 5-7, commonly referred to as the Sermon on the Mount.

Administrative Fee: \$40 per household January 26 – March 16, 2023 (8 weeks) Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm Zoom Online







Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) has approved Bible Institute of Hawai'i to offer course work leading to Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for ACSI Certification in the area of biblical studies.

_____ This symbol denotes classes that are applicable towards the Certificate in Biblical Studies and Mentored Ministries program



Saturday

BST123

2-Day Seminar: Women of the New Testament and Early Church

Dr. Martha Stinton

Meet the many women whom God used to influence and help build the early church. We will look at the women disciples of Jesus, and then some of the women who followed the Apostle Paul. We will also discover prominent women in the early church who served as teachers, evangelists, theologians, and martyrs. You will be inspired by how these women represented Christ, and their example will encourage you to pursue God's kingdom vision for your life!

Administrative Fee: \$15 per household March 18 & 25 (2 days) Saturdays, 9:00 – 10:30 am Zoom Online

CBS/CMM: Flex Hours

Just Show Up: The Public Reading of Scripture

Facilitators: Jason Sumner and Rodney Wong

January 23 – March 20, 2023 (8 weeks, except 2/20)

Mondays (note evening change), 7:15 - 8:30 pm

Zoom Online FREE visit www.biblehawaii.org





The Steps of The Apostle Paul & The Seven Churches of Revelation Greece and Turkey BIH Study Tour Dr. Randy Furushima Visit biblical sites where the Apostle Paul embarked on his second missionary journey and the Apostle John's seven churches of Revelation archeological sites. Also, visit the Isle of Patmos, Istanbul (aka Constantinople), and the cities of Athens and Corinth, Greece. Enrich your faith with a pilgrimage through the early Christian church movement.

Travel Dates: April 26 – May 12, 2023

Contact Dr. Randy Furushima for detailed brochure

Email. furushima@gmail.com Call: (808) 371-8591

Course Registration Form Please print legibly

→ First time student → Update/change information	
Rev. / Pastor / Mr. / Mrs. / Miss / Ms. / Dr. (Circle One)	
ast Name	
First Name	
Best way to reach me is by: (please write in phone number &/or e-mail address) ☐ Phone: home/cell/work	
⊒ E-Mail	
Address	
Church Affiliation (if any)	

Please check all applicable boxes below



☐ Yes, I'm interested in the Certificate in Biblical Studies Program

- ☐ Requesting a Certificate of Completion for:
 - ☐ ACSI Certification
 - ☐ Continuing Education / other: ___

Directions: Fill out your name and phone no. and/or email address. One form per person unless you are family and have the same contact info. **First time student:** Fill out your mailing address (and church affiliation). Return completed form and administrative fee to BIH. **Checks payable to BIH.** For more info on How to Register and Schedule of Courses OR to register online, go to **www.biblehawaii.org**

Mail-in Registrations Postmarked by January 18

See Schedule of Courses for more details

Course No.	Course Name	Admin Fee
☐ CNS104	One Day at A Time	\$35
□ WM101	Intro to Local and World Missions 🛧	\$40
□ BTS110	Apologetics: Why I Believe What I Believ	e 📥 \$40
□ NT019	Hebrews: Exalting Jesus 🛧	\$40
□ OT019	Psalms: Highways of the Heart 🛧	\$35
□ NT001	Christ's Sermon on the Mount 🛧	\$40
□ BST123	2-Day Seminar: Women of the New Testament and Early Church 🛧	\$15

Total No. of Households Registering ______

Total Administrative Fee

Optional gift to BIH

TOTAL ENCLOSED



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