



Ka 'Ōlelo 'O Ke Ola

"THE WORD OF LIFE"

Winter 2024, Volume 48 Issue 4

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



By Rodney Wong,
BIH Executive Director

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving and Advent, Bible Institute of Hawai'i extends heartfelt wishes to all. In a world fraught with tension over escalating conflicts and wars, our prayer is for God to graciously grant us clarity amidst these uncertain times. Looking toward the upcoming year, 2024, may we savor the presence of our Savior this season.

Steps of Thanks: Highlights from the WALK in the WORD Event

This holiday season, we pause to express profound gratitude for the incredible support received during our recent

Food, Fellowship, and Fun at Kalihi Union Church



fundraiser event, "WALK in the WORD," held on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at Kalihi Union Church gym and grounds. "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." - 1 Chronicles 16:34 (NIV)

Walk Participants received handmade crocheted bookmark crosses upon check-in, donated by Carol Sullivan. They also received and donned their commemorative Walk T-shirts. The morning commenced with a hearty hot breakfast prepared by Mr. Craig Ikeda of KUC. Mrs. Glenda Horner, a BIH alum, led the walkers in ukulele worship and stretching, setting a fun and uplifting tone.

The highlight of the event was the walk itself, where familiar faces walked side-by-side to raise needed support for Bible Institute of Hawai'i. Brisk footsteps and an abundance of refreshments, from protein shakes to fresh fruits, added to the fellowship. As they walked, participants were given beautiful Scripture cards to meditate on or memorize, handmade and donated by CBS student Lori Nakata.

A heartfelt "Mahalo" is extended to Kalihi Union Church, along with Pastor Kendal and Pastor Jonathan for their incredible support and gracious hosts. Additionally, we are thrilled to announce that, through the combined efforts of participant fundraising and the Give

Warm up Stretches Before the Walk



BIH Marriage & Parenting Conferences

with Drs. Paul and Virginia Friesen

Kaimuki Christian Church
Saturday, March 2
8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Kalihi Union Church
Friday, March 8
7:00 am – 8:30 pm
& Saturday, March 9
9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Aloha matching gift program, a significant amount was raised during this event. These funds will contribute to furthering our ministry, impacting lives through Christ-centered, life-changing, biblical teaching.

To all the participants, event volunteers, and donors who made the "WALK in the WORD" event a success, we extend our sincere appreciation. Your enthusiasm, generosity, and commitment have played a vital role in advancing the mission of Bible Institute of Hawai'i. Thank you for walking alongside us in this journey of faith and biblical education.

Unwrapping Advent: A Season of Sacred Presence

Advent, a sacred season of anticipation and reflection, unfolds amidst what can become a meaningless exercise and frantic rush. I've experienced it many

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

times before. While busyness may not commonly be seen as a sin, allowing the frantic rush to squeeze out Christ can make it one. This is the season of Christ, a time to “*Let every heart prepare Him room.*” Unfortunately, my heart is often left unprepared, leaving Christ unwelcome and out in the cold facing a “no vacancy” sign once again (cf. Luke 2:7). He came to earth not to divert attention from our sin but to save us from it. Could my frivolous distractions result in a Christ-less Christmas? Are these distractions, in some way, shape, or form, *disinviting* Him in?

Imagine encountering an actual “pause” or “slow down” button that could be pressed at any time, enabling us to savor the season of the Savior. Fortunately, such a button does exist when we observe Advent—a reminder to intentionally slow down, interrupt the

ebbs and flows of life, and draw upon the biblical narratives of those who eagerly awaited the coming of the Savior. Left as sojourners and exiles, their lives were marked by a posture of waiting—long waiting—growing in deeper dependence on Him, firmly fixed on His promises.

Amidst the festive chaos, let’s embrace Advent as a sacred pause, an opportunity to reflect on God’s promises and character. In this intentional waiting, discover a rhythm that transforms ordinary moments into extraordinary encounters with our Lord.

Will Christ be at the center of your Christmas this year? If not, imagine Him as the uninvited guest of whom Christmas bears His title. Let the intentional waiting shape our hearts, deepen our trust, and kindle hope in God’s promises. May we intentionally slow

down so that our vision of Him will not be a blur or blip on our radar. Allow the Christ of Advent to be the special *invited* guest of the season.

Bible Institute of Hawai’i wishes you a blessed Advent season and New Year! We remain committed to the teaching of God’s Word and the equipping of men and women through its teaching. We eagerly anticipate the future and the impactful role of a people equipped and filled with the Spirit through diligent study of His Word.

A FINAL NOTE

I am excited for the upcoming Marriage Conferences on two consecutive weekends in March with Drs. Paul and Virginia Friesen. They are gifted, witty, and insightful teachers that have impacted families and marriages throughout the US. Join us for insights into building thriving marital relationships. Your presence will enrich this experience.



Engage with Us – Share Your Questions!

As we step into a new chapter and a fresh year at Bible Institute of Hawaii, we invite our valued BIH community to actively take part in our quarterly Newsletter by submitting your questions. Your inquiries, hunger for God’s Word, and desire to grow are important to us, and we’re eager to address the topics that matter to you. This year, take the opportunity to submit general questions for our scholarly faculty (and possibly other Christian leaders) to address!

Whether you’re pondering a specific Bible verse, wrestling with a theological concept, exploring a challenging doctrine, reflecting on applying scripture in today’s world, or simply submit a testimonial of your faith journey – we want to hear it all. Please send your questions via mail or email at info@biblehawaii.org.

While we may not be able to address every question in the upcoming newsletters, rest assured that we will make a sincere effort to answer them directly if not publicly. Specify if you’d like your question to be posed anonymously, or if you’re comfortable, your name will be included. Throughout the year’s newsletters, we look forward to addressing your questions as an integral part of our community’s growth together.

Here are some examples of ponderable questions you can ask:

Scripture Exploration Question:

- “What insights can you provide into the age-old question of why evil exists in the world?”
- “Can you unravel the meaning behind a particular Bible verse that has puzzled me for years?”

Question on Theology:

- “Why do different theological perspectives exist, and how do they shape our understanding of God?”
- “In the face of suffering, how does theology offer solace and understanding?”

Doctrinal Discussion Question:

- “How do various Christian doctrines address the complexities of human nature and morality?”
- “Can you shed light on the differences between denominational doctrines and their impact on Christian unity?”

Modern Applications of Scripture Question:

- “How can biblical principles guide our responses to contemporary ethical dilemmas?”
- “In the midst of societal challenges, what practical insights does the Bible offer for navigating today’s issues?”

or Submit Your Own Faith Journey Story to BIH:

- “Consider the transformative impact of the Word of God on your faith journey and express how the Scriptures have shaped and influenced your life.”
- “Describe a specific moment in your faith journey that stands out as a profound turning point, shaping your beliefs and convictions.”
- “How has BIH contributed to your growth in understanding and applying the Word of God at home, work, or ministry?”

Let your deep and ponderable questions resonate within our community’s shared journey!



Facilitators: Jason Sumner and Rodney Wong

January 16 – March 5, 2024 (8 weeks)

Tuesdays, 7:15 – 8:30 pm

FREE Zoom Online at www.biblehawaii.org

Testimonial: Jason Sumner on “Just Show Up: The Public Reading of Scripture”

I've found JSU to be a profound experience that goes beyond routine Bible study. It has played a pivotal role in helping me internalize the Scriptures, making me more attuned to the voice of God.

The post-reading discussions are the heartbeat of JSU for me. It's not just about hearing the Word; it's about engaging in a meaningful dialogue—a time of fellowship, encouragement, and exploring diverse perspectives related to the evening's Scripture.

The learning experience is enriching, and the interaction is invaluable. Engaging with the dramatized Word in a community of believers brings a unique depth to understanding, and the discussion time adds another layer by bringing forth diverse listener perspectives.

Why should someone take their evening out to attend JSU? It's more than just joining on Zoom for the dramatized Scriptures; it's an experience that enhances your understanding of the Bible. It's worth the time, a blessing to hear the Word, and an added benefit to discuss alongside fellow believers.

Join us in the next JSU session for the power of communal Scripture reading!

BTS 130

Unlock the Power of God's Word: Dive Deep into Meditation and Scripture Memory!

Pastor Earl Morihara

Have you ever found yourself deeply engrossed in Bible study, only to realize that the wisdom you've gleaned slips away like sand through your fingers? If you're longing for a transformative and lasting connection with God's Word, your search ends here. Our four-week course on Meditation and Scripture Memory is your key to unlocking profound spiritual insights and nurturing a steadfast relationship with the Scriptures.

Administrative Fee: \$35

(Bring-a-friend option available)

February 21 – March 13, 2024 (4 weeks)

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

In-person Only @ New Hope

Central Oahu

935 Kilani Ave, Wahiawa

CBS/CMM: Skills

Thursday

BTS 134

Genesis: Book of Origins

Dr. Rick Stinton

Genesis is the book of origins. It sets our world view by revealing where we came from: who God is, who we are, and our purpose in life. Genesis lays the foundation for God's work of salvation throughout history. Most importantly, the book introduces us to the Lord Jesus Christ, and it's fulfilled in him. Join us on a journey through this amazing book of the Bible!

Administrative Fee: \$35 per household

January 18 – February 22, 2024 (6 weeks)

Thursdays, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Zoom Online Only

CBS/CMM: OT - Pentateuch



Rev. Caleb Kim Leads in Singing His Ukulele & Church Music History Class

NT020

The Epistle of James

Dr. J.R. Cuevas

This course is a biblical exposition study through the epistle of James. The aim of the course is to equip students to accurately exegete this epistle in a way that solidifies their understanding of what true maturity in the faith looks like, and its implications for discipleship, counseling, and Christian ministry.

Administrative Fee: \$40 per household

January 18 – March 7, 2024 (8 weeks)

Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Zoom Online Only

CBS/CMM: NT - Letters

Saturday

OT019B

Pray-walk through the Psalms with the Ancient Hebrews II (in Mandarin)

Dr. Shan Chen

This class is a continuation of the Psalms class offered in Fall 2023. While Part I focuses on the selected poems through the lens of King David, Part II endeavors to discover Jesus Christ, the eternal King that is “hidden” therein. The spiritual journey of the ancient Hebrews provides hope for saints today as we wait expectantly for the coming of our Savior and Redeemer.

Administrative Fee: \$35 (Bring-a-friend option available)

January 20 – February 24, 2024

(5 weeks, except 2/10)

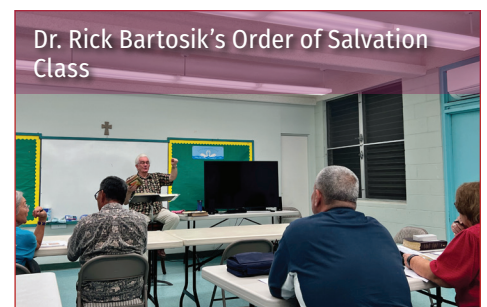
Saturdays, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Hybrid: Zoom Online and In-person @

Chinese Lutheran Church of Honolulu

1640 Liliha St.

CBS/CMM: OT - Wisdom/Poetic



Dr. Rick Bartosik's Order of Salvation Class

Dr. Ruby Ovitt's Legacy:

41 Years of Impactful Service and a Joyful Retirement with BIH



Emerita Dr. Rebecca “Ruby” Ovitt has been serving the Lord through her unique Support Group ministry for an impressive 41 years. Her remarkable journey began at Kaimuki Evangelical Church, where she was encouraged to teach the class “One Day at A Time” by then BIH Secretary, Beverly Trifonovitch. This class, designed to bring emotional healing to people who are broken-hearted, the divorced, widowed, and separated, has been a cornerstone of her impactful tenure at the Bible Institute of Hawaii.

Memorable Moments and Heartwarming Connections:

Dr. Ovitt fondly recalls moments when former students invited her to witness their weddings. “My best memories happened when former members invited me to attend their weddings! They found their new love; someone who also loved the Lord and was committed to love them and their children!” she exclaimed. These connections transcended the classroom, when she was honored as the “Godmother” of a bride in one instance.

Challenges and Rewards in Supporting Families:

Beyond the academic sphere, Dr. Ovitt embraced the challenges of helping students find housing, offering advice on raising children, and assisting with their moves. She shared, “Some challenging and rewarding aspects were helping them to look for a place to rent and even helping them move to their new home! Also, to give them some advice, if they asked, on how to raise their children to become emotionally healthy.”

Blessings and Gratitude for 41 Years of Support Groups:

Expressing her gratitude for the special opportunity to lead support groups for 41 years, Dr. Ovitt remarked, “I feel so blessed and thankful to our Lord for giving me the special opportunity to lead the support group for 41 years! I met so many wonderful and loving people who have become my sisters and brothers in Christ!”

Journey to BIH and Impactful Teaching:

Dr. Ovitt’s journey to BIH began when she learned about the school from Ada Lum, a main speaker at Kaimuki Evangelical Church. Inspired by Ada’s dedication, Ruby enrolled in classes and later joined BIH as an adjunct faculty in 1988. Reflecting on her teaching experience, she shared, “I loved teaching this class very much. That strong desire to reach out to the broken-hearted has not waned.”

Retirement, Hobbies, and Continued Support for BIH:

In her retirement, Ruby maintains an active lifestyle, engaging in daily fitness routines, devotional practices, writing, and spending time with family. Despite retiring, she remains committed to supporting BIH, saying, “Even though I am retired, I will continue to support BIH because BIH has a special place in my heart.”

Words of Wisdom and Envisioning a Legacy:

Dr. Ovitt offers valuable advice to new teachers, emphasizing the importance of reading the Bible daily and maintaining a diary. She envisions a legacy of teachers using their experiences to reach out to others, sharing stories of former students starting workshops and helping those in need. She concludes, “To God be the Glory in everything that we do!”

In 2022, Ruby Ovitt was honored with the prestigious “Love in Action” Award at the BIH 50th Anniversary Celebration, acknowledging her exceptional contribution to the Christian community. As Ruby enters a well-deserved retirement, her profound impact on BIH and the countless lives she’s touched will resonate for years to come. The BIH community and those whose lives have been enriched extend heartfelt gratitude for her unwavering commitment and wish her a retirement filled with joy and fulfillment.



Dr. Ruby Ovitt,
End-of-Quarter
Class Dinner

Job Opportunity: Part-Time Office Worker & Bookkeeper

Join our dynamic team at the Bible Institute of Hawaii! We are seeking dedicated and detail-oriented individuals for part-time positions in either Office Work or Bookkeeping, with negotiable hours to accommodate your schedule.

Key Responsibilities:

- Office administration tasks (if applying for Office Worker role)
- Bookkeeping duties (if applying for Bookkeeper role)
- Excellent organizational skills
- Proficiency in accounting software
- Strong communication skills
- Ability to work independently, stay motivated, and collaborate effectively with others

Qualifications:

- Previous experience in office administration and/or bookkeeping
- Knowledge of accounting principles
- Familiarity with relevant software applications
- Detail-oriented and reliable

How to Apply:

Send your resume and a brief cover letter highlighting your relevant experience to info@biblehawaii.org. Please specify in your application whether you are interested in the Office Worker, Bookkeeper, or combined role. Include “Office Worker/Bookkeeper Application” in the subject line.

Visit www.biblehawaii.org for more details.



WINTER QUARTER 2024 SCHEDULE OF COURSES

Jan. 15 – March 18, 2024 (6-8 weeks)

Register online at www.biblehawaii.org.
For mail-in registrations, it must be postmarked by Tuesday, January 9
Registration fee: \$15 – \$40.

Monday

BTS106

Investigating Spiritual Disciplines

Dr. James Kwong

This course will examine the spiritual disciplines as discussed in Richard Foster's book *Celebration of Discipline*. Each week, we will explore two of the spiritual disciplines, where we see these in Scripture, and talk about how we can implement them in our daily lives. Please bring your book and your Bible. Spiritual growth is often precipitated by trials and testing either from without or within. Investing in the spiritual disciplines will bring a fresh perspective to your spiritual life! **Required Book: *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster**

Administrative Fee: \$40 (Bring-a-friend option available)

January 15 – March 18, 2024
(8 weeks, except 2/19 & 3/11)
Mondays, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Hybrid: Online and In-person @ Kaimuki Christian Church - Rm. C205
1117 Koko Head Ave, Honolulu

CBS/CMM: Skills

Tuesday

CE119

Ukulele Hymn Singing & Church Music History Part 2

Rev. Caleb Kho-Hun Kim

Join our Ukulele Singing & Church Music History class for a captivating exploration of hymnody's rich history. Enhance your ukulele skills while singing beloved hymns and delve into the fascinating stories of revered hymn writers such as Handel, Bach, Crosby, Watts, Wesley, and Luther. Immerse yourself in the blend of melody, spirituality, and history for a truly enriching experience. All levels of ukulele proficiency are welcome, and our bilingual instruction in Korean and English adds a unique dimension. Discover the enduring resonance of faith and music through

insightful lectures and perspectives from various guest speakers. No prerequisite is required; come join us for a musical and spiritual journey.

Administrative Fee: \$40 (Bring-a-friend option available)

January 17 – March 6, 2024 (8 weeks)
Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
In-person Only @ Hawaii Zion Church
1451 South King St. Unit 414, Honolulu

CBS/CMM: Skills

NT100

New Testament Survey

Dr. Bong Ro

What is the historical background and the content of the Gospels, Pauline Epistles, and General Epistles in the New Testament? How are the New Testament books related to each other and to the Old Testament? We shall discuss the New Testament from a bird's eye view and its effects on our Christian life.

Administrative Fee: \$40 (Bring-a-friend option available)
January 16 – March 5, 2024 (8 weeks)
Tuesday, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

In-person Only @ Kaimuki Christian Church
1117 Koko Head Ave, Honolulu

CBS/CMM: NT - Survey

Wednesday

NT027B

What is Revelation Really All About Part 2

Dr. Matt Sanders

Revelation is often approached differently from other books of the Bible. Instead of asking the question, "What did this mean to the original audience?" many people ask, "What does it mean to me?" This session will take a brief look at what Revelation says when we study it the way we study the rest of the Bible. What is the real message of Revelation? Part 1 of this class is not a prerequisite.

Administrative Fee: \$35 per household
January 17 – March 6, 2024 (8 weeks)

Wednesdays, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
Zoom Online Only

CBS/CMM: NT-Revelation

BST119

The Gospel in the Old Testament

Dr. Rick Bartosik

The Bible is one book telling one story: the story of sinful man, a holy God, and His plan of salvation through the substitutionary death of His Son on the Cross. The Cross is the center of all human history. It is impossible to teach the New Testament clearly and correctly to believers without adequate Old Testament foundations. In this class we will be studying God's plan of salvation in Christ, as it has been revealed in the prophecy and typology of the Old Testament. We will briefly consider the Messianic Prophecies of the Old Testament but spend most of our time on the Old Testament Types of the Person and Work of Christ. Includes: A Student Workbook in PDF format for print. Weekly PDF copies of each of the eight PowerPoint Presentations will also be provided for print. **Recommended Book** (required for CBS students): *Loving the Old Testament*, by Alec Motyer.

Administrative Fee: \$40 (Bring-a-friend option available)
January 17 – March 6, 2024 (8 weeks)

Wednesdays, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
In-person Only @ First Chinese Church of Christ
1054 S King St, Multi-Purpose Room (in the gym)

CBS/CMM: OT - Overview



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

ONE DAY SEMINARS

SEM-NT001

Sermon on the Mount

Dr. Gary Manning Jr.

Explore the profound teachings of Jesus in our Sermon on the Mount, a journey into the heart of His kingdom message. Delve into the wisdom, practicality, and challenging directives that make this sermon an enduring masterpiece. This seminar will examine the ancient text found in the Gospel of Matthew and follow through with its application. Join us for an exploration of Jesus' powerful sermon on Kingdom living.

Administrative Fee: \$15 per household

February 10, 2024 (1-day)

Saturday, 9:00 – 12:00 pm HT

Zoom Online Only

 CBS/CMM: Flex Credit Hours



WINTER 2023



Dr. Bong Ro's Book of Acts Class
Break for Dinner



Dr. Shan Chen's Prayer-Walk
Through the Psalms Taught in
Mandarin Chinese

SEM-CO2

BIH Marriage & Parenting Conferences

Drs. Paul and Virginia Friesen



Join us for two back-to-back transformative marriage conferences with renowned experts, Drs. Paul and Virginia Friesen. These events are crafted to equip you with practical strategies for navigating challenges and conflicts in your marriage, addressing unique aspects of building a thriving relationship.

Gain invaluable insights into establishing a solid biblical foundation for enduring love. Discover key principles that will not only strengthen your relationship but also restore joy. Also, explore practical strategies for handling challenges and conflicts in your marriage. Drs. Paul and Virginia Friesen will share their wisdom on effective communication, understanding, and fostering resilience in the face of trials.

Don't miss this opportunity to invest in your marriage and embark on a journey towards a more fulfilling and lasting relationship.

Administrative Fee: \$25 per person

March 2, 2024 (includes Continental Breakfast)

Saturday, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

In-person Only @ Kaimuki Christian Church

1117 Koko Head Ave, Honolulu

Administrative Fee: \$25 per person

March 8 – 9, 2024 (includes Lunch)

Friday, 7:00 – 8:30 pm & Saturday, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

In-person Only @ Kalihi Union Church

2214 N King St, Honolulu

Course Registration Form Please print legibly

First time student Update/change information
Rev. / Pastor / Mr. / Mrs. / Miss / Ms. / Dr. (Circle One)

Last 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 Registration for classes postmarked by January 9

See Schedule of Courses for more details

Course No.	Course Name	Admin Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> BST106	Investigating Spiritual Disciplines 卐	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> CE119	Ukulele Hymn Singing Part 2 卐	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> NT027B	What is Revelation Really All About 卐	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> BST119	The Gospel in the Old Testament 卐	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> BTS130	Unlock the Power of God's Word 卐	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> NT100	New Testament Survey 卐	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> BTS134	Genesis: Book of Origins 卐	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> NT020	The Epistle of James 卐	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> OT019B	Pray-walk through the Psalms 卐	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-NT001	Sermon on the Mount 卐	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-CO2	(Kaimuki Christian)	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-CO2	(Kalihi Union)	\$25

Total Administrative Fee _____

Optional gift to BIH _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____



BIH
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