



# Ka 'Ōlelo 'O Ke Ola

"THE WORD OF LIFE"

Spring 2024, Volume 49 Issue 1

Bible Institute of Hawai'i • Founded in 1972 • 2345 Nu'uau Avenue • Honolulu, HI 96817 USA • Phone: (808) 595-4700 • Website: www.biblehawaii.org  
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## Revitalizing Marriages: Reflecting on Two Inspiring Weekends with the Friesens



By Rodney Wong,  
BIH Executive Director

**Marriage: The only 'DIY Project' where duct tape isn't always the solution!** While marriages and families serve as vital building blocks of our society and churches, trying to save them on our own is like trying to fix a collapsing wall with just tape. Marriages often face a relentless barrage of challenges aiming to knock them over, leaving many feeling overwhelmed and disheartened. While duct tape may work for quick fixes, marriages need more than just a band-aid solution to thrive. Recognizing this need for additional support, we sought out seasoned speakers and marriage counselors who could offer hope and practical assistance to families, ensuring they don't feel stuck in a sticky situation.

The Bible Institute of Hawaii had the privilege of co-hosting Drs. Paul and Virginia Friesen, founders of Home Improvement Ministries, as our key-note speakers for consecutive week-

end Marriage Conferences. With their extensive experience as national and international speakers, the Friesens have dedicated their lives to equipping couples and families with the tools and knowledge needed to build strong, resilient relationships. Their ministry's impact has been long-lasting and far-reaching. However, it had been 18 years since they were last invited to speak on O'ahu until this year, marking a long-awaited return.

It was an honor for BIH to partner with two host churches. Pastor Danny Han and Kaimuki Christian Church deserve a big shoutout for their incredible team of volunteers and warm hospitality. Additionally, we extend our gratitude to Pastors Kendal Fong and Jonathan Steeper of Kalihi Union Church for ensuring smooth operations and providing exceptional hospitality throughout the weekend. These churches went above and beyond, providing delicious meals that truly elevated the conference experience.

Attendees of the Marriage Conferences spoke of the profound impact left by the Friesens' warm-hearted and thought-provoking sessions. Both couples and singles resonated deeply with their teachings, finding them profoundly impactful. The Friesens' personal, authentic, and humorous perspective, including stories that highlighted their differences in temperament, struck a chord. As a result, many left feeling encouraged and equipped to navigate relational challenges from a biblical perspective. With over 200 attendees across the two weekends and the special Q&A session, the impact of the conferences extended far and wide.



(Continued on page 4)

## Welcoming Our Newest BIH Team Members: Meet the Faces Behind the Scenes

We are delighted to introduce you to two much-needed additions to the Bible Institute of Hawaii 'ohana. As our ministry continues to advance, it's essential to ensure we have individuals who are suited to support our mission and vision. We believe we have found them and are thrilled to welcome our new part-time hires: a Bookkeeper and an Administrative Assistant. Let's take a moment to get to know them better:



Lanette Bourge

### Meet Lanette Bourge, Our New Bookkeeper and Office Administrator:

Q: What led or inspired you to join the Bible Institute of Hawaii?

A: I've always enjoyed receiving the BIH newsletter. The content is uplifting and informative. The "help wanted ad" in the last issue intrigued me so I submitted my resume. Providentially, my work experience dovetailed nicely with the needs of BIH.

Q: What aspects of your role are you most excited about?

A: I consider bookkeeping and administration as a stewardship privilege. Performing reliably in the "back office" will maintain and develop the great reputation BIH has built over many years.

Q: How do you envision your role contributing to the overall success of the institute?

A: It would be a joy to be a part of the expansion of BIH partnerships with more churches including those on the neighbor islands. I stand ready to support the initiatives of our BIH executive director and Board. Let's roll!



Vernelle Oku

### Meet Vernelle Oku, Our New Administrative Assistant:

Q: What inspired you to join the Bible Institute of Hawaii?

A: I'm so excited to be joining the Bible Institute of Hawaii as Administrative Assistant and working with the amazing staff, volunteers, and all of you in the body of Christ!

Q: How do you see this role aligning with your background and experiences and how has it prepared you for the challenges and opportunities you'll encounter in your new role?

A: I'm a local girl who grew up in Manoa, attending Roosevelt High School, and later the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where I majored in Marketing and Business Administration. Most of my work experience has been in customer service at the airport, alongside caring for my mother, who recently transitioned into a nursing facility.

Q: How do you envision your role contributing to the overall success of the Bible Institute?

A: I believe that God will move in Hawaii and throughout the world through all of us who are called to be His hands and feet. I hope to contribute to encouraging and equipping us for the harvest and revival that is coming. I'm eager to increase the presence of the Bible Institute of Hawaii and to strengthen, support, and unite the body of Christ in the islands. Vernelle also adds, "Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any ideas, questions, or concerns Email: [vernelle@biblehawaii.org](mailto:vernelle@biblehawaii.org)

We are thrilled to welcome Lannette and Vernelle, whose invaluable expertise and profound love for our Lord will greatly enhance the staffing of the Bible Institute of Hawaii. Their addition comes as we pursue our mission of partnering with churches to offer Christ-centered, life-changing, biblical teaching that profoundly impacts lives throughout the Islands.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our BIH 'ohana!

## Spring 2024 New Faculty



Chaplain  
Leroy Grant, Jr.

M.Div., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX; MA in Biblical Studies, International College and Graduate School of Theology,

Honolulu, HI. Board Certified Chaplain by the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC) and the National Association of VA Chaplains (NAVAC). Certified Grief Educator (David Kessler, Grief.com)

Currently, Senior Clinical Chaplain at the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System in Temple, Texas. He provides spiritual and grief care to veterans in various specialized programs, including hospice/palliative care, dementia care, and the Residential Blind Rehabilitation Center. Chaplain Grant authored the spirituality course: "Meaning and Purpose in Life, Helping Veterans to have Healthy Relationships with Themselves, with Others, with Things and with God."

Experiences includes House Manager/ Counselor at Hale Kipa, Dallas County Juvenile Probation Officer, Prison Chaplain at Dawson State Jail in Dallas, Texas, Senior Pastor of two Baptist churches in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He completed a twelve-month Clinical Pastoral Education Residency at Parkland Health and Hospital System and has provided PRN support at several Baylor Scott & White community Hospitals in Dallas, Texas.

Prior to his career in chaplaincy and pastoral ministry, Chaplain Grant served in the US Marine Corps. While stationed at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe, he met and married his wife, Vanessa. They have been married for 43 years.



Dr. Elaine Eng

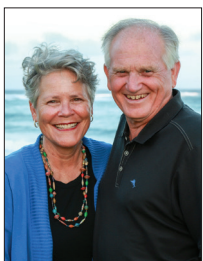
M.D., M.A. in Biblical Studies, served as a professor of mental health counseling at the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling in Nyack, N.Y. for many years. She is a graduate of Princeton University and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Eng practiced psychiatry for 30 years before retiring to devote more time to training future counselors. Her teaching and writing focus

on the interface between faith, counseling, and the challenges Christians face.

Engaging life by faith in Christ, Elaine's vocational and ministry roles encompass physician, professor of mental health counseling, special needs ministry instructor, writer, speaker, and missions team member. Grateful for her 48-year marriage to Clifford, she cherishes her roles as mother to Brian and Genevieve and grandmother to Luka and Ronan. Scriptures shaping her life include John 3:16 (defining her identity in her teenage years), Matthew 6:33 (guiding her goals in college and medical school), Romans 8:28 (providing perspective on her blindness), Ephesians 2:10 (clarifying her purpose), Isaiah 42:16 (illustrating her journey), and Psalm 92:12-14 (reflecting her aspirations). She prayerfully anticipates the Lord's continual guidance in her pilgrimage.

Among her authored works are "No Worries: Spiritual and Mental Health Counseling for Anxiety," "Resolve: How Faith Becomes Sight," and "The Transforming Power of Story," co-authored with David Biebel. Actively involved in the Christian Medical and Dental Association, she teaches and counsels global workers in numerous countries.

Dr. Eng will lead two 8-week classes, "Discovering Your Spiritual Narrative" and "Spiritual and Mental Health Counseling for Anxiety," during the Winter Quarter of 2025, held in-person in the Hawaii Kai area. Details and registration will be announced in an upcoming newsletter, so stay tuned for more information.



**Drs. Paul and Virginia Friesen**

Drs. Paul and Virginia Friesen, both hold Doctorates in Marriage and Family Therapy from Gordon-Conwell

Theological Seminary. With over 40 years of dedication to Family Ministries, they have served in various capacities such as family camps, church staff positions, speaking engagements, consulting, and writing. In 2003, they founded Home Improvement Ministries ([www.HIMweb.org](http://www.HIMweb.org)), a non-profit organization dedicated to equipping individuals and churches to nurture healthy marriages and families in alignment with God's design. They also



## ONE DAY SEMINARS

**SEM-BST132**

### **The Holy Spirit Through the Bible, Part 1**

**Dr. Gary Manning Jr.**

In this Seminar, we will study the Holy Spirit and His redemptive work in the world and our lives. We will explore how the Bible unveils His presence and work from Genesis to Revelation. Specifically, we will examine the teachings about the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and the Gospels. Next quarter, in Part 2 of The Holy Spirit through the Bible, we will delve into what the rest of the New Testament teaches about the Holy Spirit.

**Administrative Fee: \$15 per household**

**June 1, 2024 (1-day)  
Saturday, 9:00 – 12:00 pm HT  
Zoom Online from California**

 CBS/CMM: Flex Credit Hours

**SEM-CO201**

### **Great Marriage: Harder Than You Thought, Easier Than You Think**

**Drs. Paul & Virginia Friesen**

Gain invaluable insights on navigating difficulties while uncovering the surprisingly accessible ways to a fulfilling and enduring relationship. This seminar offers practical wisdom and tools, providing a balanced perspective on the realistic difficulties and achievable joys within the

conduct local family and parenting seminars and maintain an ongoing ministry with professional athletes.

Together, they have authored more than fifteen books and curricula on parenting and marriage, including notable titles like "Letters to My Daughters," "In Our Image," "Raising a Trailblazer," "Before You Save the Date," "The Marriage App," and their latest work, "Lovin' Your Wife

journey of creating a great marriage. Includes Q&A, ask YOUR questions!

**Administrative Fee: \$15 per household**

**June 8, 2024 (1-day)  
Saturday, 9:00 – 12:00 pm HT  
Zoom Online from Maryland**

 CBS/CMM: Flex Credit Hours

**SEM-CO205**

### **Self-Care for Christians**

**Dr. Elaine Eng**

Among many involved in Christian ministry and caregiving, it is important to recognize and prevent burn-out and extend effectiveness and well-being. This seminar promotes Christian self-care as a spiritual discipline and proper stewardship for the believer. It integrates biblical teaching with established mental health practices. Students will learn to create their individualized wellness plan. This has the potential to serve as a guide for discerning God's best in stewarding the body soul and mind. "Therefore, I urge you brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." (Romans 12:1)

**Administrative Fee: \$15 per household**

**June 22, 2024 (1-day)  
Saturday, 9:00 – 12:00 pm HT  
Zoom Online from New York**

 CBS/CMM: Flex Credit Hours

Like Christ When You Ain't No Jesus."

Married since 1976, Paul and Virginia are proud parents to three young adult women. The Friesens find their greatest joy in seeing their children walk in the truth.



(Continued from page 1)

In their foundational session, they underscored the significance of sacrificial love within marital relationships, highlighting that we are inherently created to express love in this manner. When individuals imitate Christ, they exemplify His sacrificial love. Embracing and practicing sacrificial love leads to the fullest satisfaction for both partners within the relationship, as succinctly stated by the Friesens: “We were designed to love sacrificially. When we love sacrificially, we are most fully like Christ. When we imitate Christ, we are living out His design. When we live out His design, we are both most fully satisfied.”

Pastors in attendance also praised the Friesens’ unique ability to connect with attendees, both on stage and in personal interactions. Their seamless teamwork, combined with an unwavering commitment to truth and selfless godly love, was noted as a high calling in marriages. Couples and singles alike expressed hope for the institution of marriage, recognizing it as a sacred covenant worth protecting, preserving, and prioritizing.

“I wish my close friends were in attendance; they are so young, and their marriage is falling apart, on the verge of divorce,” lamented one attendee, highlighting the urgent need for more prayer and support for marriages and families today.

Another shared, “I spent the entire next day mulling over Dr. Friesen’s powerful and unforgettable point and illustration on the need to show grace and forgiveness to one another...mind-blow!”

Additionally, we added a Monday evening Q&A session titled, “Nite with the Friesens,” which provided a platform for attendees to ask those “afraid to ask” questions. Paul and Virginia’s expertise shone as they spoke effortlessly from life experience and a multitude of counseling sessions, tackling a wide range of hot topics, including divorce, infidelity, and the influence of social media on sexual identity on the next generation, providing experienced insight and encouraging guidance.

“My husband and I were both so blessed by Paul and Virginia! We are excited to go through the resources we acquired and to put into practice the things we’ve learned,” concluded another participant, echoing the sentiments of many who found inspiration from the conferences to revitalize marriages.



### Coming Up: Drs. Paul & Virginia Friesen on Zoom

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to offer another opportunity to learn more from Drs. Paul and Virginia Friesen through a Zoom seminar titled “Great Marriage: Harder Than You Thought, Easier Than You Think.” This seminar promises to provide invaluable insights on navigating the challenges of marriage while uncovering practical ways to cultivate lasting joy and fulfillment.

Don’t miss this chance to invest in your marriage and gain valuable wisdom from seasoned experts in the field. Register now at [www.biblehawaii.org](http://www.biblehawaii.org) to secure your spot and ensure your marriage sticks together stronger than duct tape!



## Join the Conversation: Submit Your Questions!



**W**e invite you to actively participate in our quarterly Newsletter by sharing your questions, thoughts, and reflections with us. Your inquiries, hunger for God’s Word, and desire to grow are deeply significant to us, and we are eager to address the topics that are meaningful to you. This year, we encourage you to seize the opportunity to submit general questions for our scholarly faculty and possibly other Christian leaders to discuss!

Whether you find yourself pondering a specific Bible verse, grappling with a theological concept, exploring a challenging doctrine, or reflecting on

the application of scripture in today’s world, we want to hear from you. Additionally, if you feel compelled to share a testimonial of your faith journey, we welcome that too. Please send your questions via mail or email to [vernelle@biblehawaii.org](mailto:vernelle@biblehawaii.org).

Moreover, we value your feedback and suggestions for our ministry in general. If you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can better engage you and the BIH community, please feel free to share them with us along with your questions.

Mahalo for your continued engagement and involvement in this ministry.



# SPRING QUARTER 2024 SCHEDULE OF COURSES

April 16 – June 22, 2024 (4-8 weeks)

Register online at [www.biblehawaii.org](http://www.biblehawaii.org).

For mail-in registrations, it must be postmarked by Tuesday, April 9

Registration fee: \$15 – \$40.

## Tuesday

**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)  
April 16 – June 4, 2024 (8 weeks)  
Tuesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
In-person only @ Pearl City  
Community Church  
933 Lehua Ave, Pearl City

 CBS/CMM: OT - Overview or Theology

**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)  
April 16 – June 4, 2024 (8 weeks)  
Tuesdays, 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
In-person only @ Kaimuki  
Christian Church  
1117 Koko Head Ave, Honolulu

 CBS/CMM: NT – Survey

## Wednesday

**BTS103**

### Making Small Groups Work

**Pastor Earl Morihara**

Explore the varied roles of a Small Group/Bible Study Leader—covering teaching, facilitating, hosting, shepherding, and potentially serving as a Bible Scholar. Despite its humble title, this course delves into foundational aspects of leadership within the church mission. Emphasizing the effectiveness of disciple-making in small groups, it equips leaders to become disciples of Jesus, with Cloud and Townsend's "Making Small Groups Work" as a key resource.

**Administrative Fee: \$35**  
(Bring-a-friend option available)  
April 17 – May 15, 2024 (5 weeks)  
Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm  
In-person only @ New Hope Central Oahu  
935 Kilani Ave, Wahiawa

 CBS/CMM: Skills

**OT020**

### Proverbs: Wise Up! (for OCCC Inmates only)

**Rev. Rodney Wong**

This course is designed for incarcerated inmates at the O'ahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC). Featuring a practical "straight talk" approach, we concentrate on foundational principles such as "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). Participants will learn to apply these profound insights to their daily lives, acquir-

ing valuable tools for decision-making, relationships, and personal growth. Covering topics ranging from wisdom and integrity to avoiding pitfalls of foolish behavior, work ethic, and stewardship, participants will gain invaluable insights applicable to their daily lives.

Your generous support plays a pivotal role in facilitating access to biblical education for inmates at no cost to them or their families. We deeply appreciate your support and commitment to making a positive impact on their lives. Your registration(s) will be considered a tax-free donation to BIH.

**Administrative Fee: \$35 per inmate**  
May 8 – June 5, 2024 (4 weeks,  
except 5/22)  
Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

 CBS/CMM: OT – Wisdom

## Thursday

**NT134**

### Lunch with Jesus

**Dr. Rick Stinton**

Have you ever wondered why there are four Gospels? Wouldn't one be enough? Join us over the lunch hour as we explore the unique portraits of our Lord Jesus Christ painted by each Gospel writer. He will change your life!

**Administrative Fee: \$35 per household**  
May 9 – June 6, 2024 (5 weeks)  
Thursdays, 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
Zoom Online

 CBS/CMM: NT – Gospels



**SPRING 2024**



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

OT018

## Book of Job

Dr. J.R. Cuevas

The book of Job revolves around the character Job, a righteous man who undergoes severe trials, including the loss of his wealth, health, and family. Throughout the narrative, Job grapples with the nature of suffering, divine justice, and the complexities of faith, engaging in dialogues with his friends and ultimately experiencing a profound encounter with God.

**Administrative Fee: \$40 per household**

**April 18 – June 6, 2024 (8 weeks)**

**Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

**Zoom Online**

 CBS/CMM: OT – Wisdom/Poetic



# SPRING 2024

## Saturday

CO305

### Grief Care Training for Church Staff and Volunteers “...weep with those who weep.” (Romans 12:15b)

Chaplain Leroy Grant, Jr.

Join our four-week, 2-hour interactive live Zoom course which will cover the following: Grief Care, Strategic Caregiving, Strategic Hospital Visits and Compassion Fatigue. Participants will strengthen their ability to provide holistic care within the church community, enhancing their strategic caregiving skills for home, hospital, and hospice visits, as well as community living centers. COURSE SCHEDULE: Week 1 - Grief Care Training for Church Staff and Volunteers, “...weep with those who weep.” Romans 12:15b; Week 2 - Strategic Caregiving for The Church’s Caregivers / Volunteers; Week 3 - The Six “Gettings” of a Strategic Hospital Visit; Week 4 - How To Avoid and or Recover from A Season of Compassion Fatigue.

**Administrative Fee: \$35 per household**


**Saturdays, May 4 - 25, 2024 (4 weeks)**

**9:00 - 11:00 am HT**

**Zoom Online from Texas**

 CBS/CMM: Skills

**ALL INVITED!**



JUST SHOW UP

A PUBLIC READING OF SCRIPTURE

**Just Show Up:  
The Public Reading  
of Scripture**

**Facilitators: Jason Sumner  
and Rodney Wong**

**April 16 – June 4, 2024  
(8 weeks)**

**Tuesdays,  
7:00 - 8:15 pm  
(note new times)**

**Free Zoom Online at  
[www.biblehawaii.org](http://www.biblehawaii.org)**

## 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](http://www.biblehawaii.org)

**Mail-in Registration for classes postmarked by April 9**

*See Schedule of Courses for more details*

Course No.	Course Name	Admin Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> BST119	The Gospel in the Old Testament 	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> BTS103	Making Small Groups Work 	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> NT100	New Testament Survey 	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> OT020	Proverbs: Wise Up! (OCCC Inmates) 	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> NT134	Lunch with Jesus 	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> OT018	Book of Job 	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> CO305	Grief Care Training 	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-BST132	The Holy Spirit Through the Bible, Pt 1 	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-CO201	Great Marriage 	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-CO205	Self-Care for Christians 	\$15

Total Administrative Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Optional gift to BIH \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_



**BIH**  
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