



Ka 'Ōlelo 'O Ke Ola

"THE WORD OF LIFE"

Summer 2024, Volume 49 Issue 2

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DIVE INTO LEARNING: SUMMER IS HERE!

BIH Summer Series '24 is here again! Let us "seas" the days when BIH will "wave" the cost for two of our courses. We also have a great line-up of summer courses that will "shorely" refresh your spirit. Please look through the newsletter to find what's in store and get ready to make a "splash" this summer!



By Rodney Wong,
BIH Executive
Director

Navigating the Waves of Generation Z

Graduation season recently swept through my household, marking significant milestones for our children as they placed a notch on their academic journey belts. Witnessing our oldest child graduate from college and our youngest from high school surprisingly brought few tears, more a sense of relief, and an unwelcome reminder of my age that continues to creep higher. The exuberance and excitement of all the celebrations left me a bit worn down, but it was truly worth it to see them well on their way, marking another important step into adulthood and independence, (sniff, sniff).

My now fully-grown kids belong to the enigmatic Generation Z, those born between 1997 and 2012. They're navigating a world of unique challenges and unprecedented change. According to Lifeway Research, Gen Z exhibits less religious involvement during their upbringing, with only 40% attending religious services weekly or more (Lifeway Research, 2022). Additionally, only 42% were involved in Sunday School or religious education programs at least weekly as children (Lifeway Research, 2022).

Generation Z experiences unprecedented levels of mental distress and anxiety, with many reporting extreme worry about social and financial stability. Rapid changes in technology and the job market, coupled with global conflicts, contribute to their stress and mental health struggles.

Despite these trends, Generation Z shows a strong desire for trusted relationships and meaningful connections. However, some disheartening statistics highlight their disconnection from traditional religious institutions:

- 34% of Gen Z identify as religiously unaffiliated, higher than any other generation. This includes 9% who identify as atheist and 9% as agnostic.
- 59% of Gen Z report that church is irrelevant to them personally.
- 48% of Gen Z believe they can find God elsewhere besides church.
- Gen Z gives the Church a low rating of 4.9 out of 10 on a level of trust, indicating significant distrust towards religious institutions.

The research underscores Generation Z's disengagement from organized religion compared to older generations. They represent the highest percentage of "nones," referring to those who report having no religious affiliation, describing themselves as atheist, agnostic, or nothing in particular when asked about their religious identity.

Despite expressing disillusionment with religious institutions, many Gen Z-ers still maintain some spiritual beliefs. "I like Jesus, but not the Church" is a sentiment often heard. Building trust and fostering authentic relationships are crucial for connecting with Gen Z, already a high value in the church. However, practicing these principles intergenerationally remains a challenge. Sometimes, no attempts are made to reach out, leaving them to feel left out.

(Continued on page 2)

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As we navigate the uncertainties of these times, let us draw comfort from Isaiah 43:2 that reassures us, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.” And Philippians 4:6-7: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Gen Z is known for its advocacy of what they deem as injustices, a global worldview, and compassion for the marginalized—a bond strengthened and emphasized through the shrinking world thanks to technology (Lifeway Research, 2024). However, they often lack loyalty and connections within faith communities, with only 29% turning to their religious community in times of adversity (Lifeway Research, 2022).

Despite concerns about Generation Z not embracing the faith of their parents or walking away from traditional religious institutions, some young people are in fact embracing spirituality and exploring faith in their own unique ways. There are numerous reasons for this shift; research has shown that it involves a complex interplay of cultural, social, and personal factors unique to their generation, but delving into these would take us down a long rabbit hole.

However, there are signs of a resurgence in faith across all generations that is neither coerced nor manufactured, but truly miraculous. The Washington Times reported a historic event where over 12,000 individuals were baptized across California, described as one of the largest synchronized baptism events in U.S. history, involving hundreds of churches from diverse denominations (Murashko, 2024). Additionally, many young people are showing renewed interest in spiritual practices such as Bible reading, small group studies, and engaging with Christian music videos and teachings on social media. Let us continue to pray and lift up this generation, trusting in the power of God’s work in their lives.

We look forward to seeing you this summer at the Bible Institute of Hawaii!



Summer 2024 New Faculty



Kainoa Valente

holds a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and an M.P.Th. in Worship from The King’s University. He is currently working

on an M.Div. from The King’s University. Kainoa is the Upper School Chaplain and a teacher at Kaimuki Christian School. He also serves as an ordained minister at Kaimuki Christian Church, where he served for five years as a youth pastor.

Raised as a Navy brat all over the world but originally from Hawaii, Kainoa grew up attending church and believing in God. However, he did not become a committed follower of Jesus until his final semester of college after God allowed events in his life to break him down so he could see his need for redemption. He enjoys lifting weights, coaching his kids’ soccer teams, and challenging high school students to question the assumptions that influence their worldviews to guide them to a relationship with Jesus. Ultimately, Kainoa’s passion is to train and equip Christians for effective ministry and cultural impact in their spheres of influence.



Terence Paraso

holds a B.A. from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and an M.A. in Christian Studies from Pacific Rim Christian University. Currently, he is a

full-time teacher at DreamHouse Ewa Beach Public Charter High School. In addition to his teaching role, he volunteers his time discipling a small group of young adults at New Hope Kapolei.

Terence’s journey as a pastor has led him through numerous congregations, including New Hope Christian Fellowship Oahu, New Hope Pearl Community, Wellspring Covenant Church, Community Church of Honolulu, and Island Family Christian Church. Born in Los Angeles, Terence moved to Hawaii with his family during the late sixties to escape the tumultuous climate of California. He grew up in the Kaimuki/Palolo districts and worshipped with his family at Aldersgate Methodist Church. Terence is passionate about growing alongside others in faith and

exploring God’s transformative Word, filled with grace and truth. He considers it a privilege to share his journey and insights, always giving praise to Jesus now and forevermore.



Kamaaina Leiton and Lisa Espineli Chinn

Leiton holds a B.S. from California Baptist College and the University of Georgia, an M.A. in Cross-Cultural

Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary, School of World Missions, and a Diploma in Bible from Columbia Graduate School of Bible & Missions. Lisa earned a B.A. from the University of the Philippines and an M.A. in Communications from Wheaton Graduate School.

Currently, Leiton and Lisa are actively involved in teaching and mentoring within various International Student Ministry (ISM) contexts, bringing decades of experience and leadership to their work. Kamaaina served as President of the Association of Christian Ministries among Internationals (North American network of ISMs) from 1999 to 2008 and as the Lausanne Catalyst for ISM, contributing to the development of a global ISM movement. Lisa, a former international student from the Philippines, served with InterVarsity Philippines before joining InterVarsity USA, where she worked for 25 years, including 14 years as the National Director for International Student Ministry. Together, the Chinns have also founded two church-based ISMs, continuing their commitment to supporting international students.

Bible Institute of Hawaii’s Mission and Vision

Our Mission

To partner with churches to provide Christ-centered, life-changing biblical teaching.

Our Vision

Communities and individuals loving, learning, and leading in response to Christ.

Dr. J.R. Cuevas: A Passionate Visionary Shepherd for Kaimuki Christian Church

In mid-June, coinciding with this Newsletter's publishing, Dr. J.R. Cuevas will be officially installed as the new Lead Pastor of Kaimuki Christian Church. J.R., whose name stands for Julian Robert (despite many people mistakenly thinking he's a "Junior"), has been a valued faculty member of the Bible Institute of Hawaii for several years. To celebrate his new role, we conducted an interview with him to share his journey, vision, and inspirations.

Originally dreaming of becoming a research zoologist, J.R. studied Biology in college. However, during his final year, he felt a strong call from God to minister His Word to people full-time. "The Lord placed a desire in me to minister His Word...my desire to see people transformed by the Word became overwhelming," he explained.

When asked about his inspiration for pastoring and teaching, he shared, "I am driven by seeing people transformed by God's Word. Seeing people be fed God's Word, grow, and change in the process inspires me to do what I do every day."

As he steps into his new role at Kaimuki Christian Church, J.R. envisions shepherding the congregation so that Christ is formed in them. He expressed, "I have one ambition - to shepherd the people of KCS such that Christ is formed in them...I know that my duty before Him is to minister to the church such that one day the people would be presented to Him mature in their faith."

He also highlighted his joy in teaching at the Bible Institute of Hawaii, emphasizing the passion of the students. "Seeing saints in Hawaii who are already seasoned in their faith thirsting for the Word...it's an absolute joy to behold."

Reflecting on his spiritual journey, J.R. shared a significant experience that shaped his faith and ministry: "Seeing God answer my prayer for 15 years to be able to return to Hawaii...really impacted me with respect to the power of prayer in ministry."



Dr. J.R. Cuevas



He hopes to impact the Kaimuki Christian Church community by fostering spiritual growth through his preaching and teaching. "I hope that...the community/congregation at KCC would truly grow spiritually...I hope to see discipleship continue to happen in an organic and deep way."

His diverse background and experiences have deeply influenced his approach to teaching and pastoring. "By God's providence, I've lived in many different regions and worked many different jobs...I think through this, God has given me a strong understanding of people," he said.

Finally, he spoke about his spiritual gifts and calling: "Looking at Romans 12:6-8, I've always been affirmed to have the gift of teaching, exhortation, and leadership...God has called me to Hawaii to pour into the souls of His saints here. There is no place I would rather be than here."

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. J.R. Cuevas on his new role as Lead Pastor. Kaimuki Christian Church has been a wonderful partner in ministry with the Bible Institute of Hawaii, and we look forward to witnessing J.R.'s continued impact on the church, the wider community, and Hawaii.

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

**SUPPORT OUR
ORGANIZATION
TO FUNDRAISE
EVEN FASTER!**



Make a donation to our organization at any Foodland, Sack N Save or Foodland Farms checkout, and Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will make a donation to our organization, too!

Organization Bible Institute of Hawaii

Our Organization Code is 78257

HOW TO HELP:

- 1) Show your Maika'i Card and make a donation to our organization (up to \$249 per person) at any Foodland, Sack N Save or Foodland Farms checkout from September 2024
- 2) Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match all donations up to a total of at least \$300,000 for all organizations combined.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



ALL INVITED!



**JUST
SHOW
UP**

A PUBLIC READING OF SCRIPTURE

Jason Sumner and Rodney Wong

**July 9 – August 27, 2024
(8 weeks)**

Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:15 pm

**Zoom Online FREE visit
www.biblehawaii.org**

A Life of Active Faith: The Journey of Dr. Martha Stinton

By Dr. Rick Stinton

An amazing lady, Martha has lived a lifetime of active faith.

As a young adult, her love for Jesus led her to share the gospel in Europe. Her missions experience prompted her to seek equipping at Dallas Theological Seminary. We met there in a “God connection” and became lifetime lovers and partners in the adventure of serving Christ. The Lord blessed us with four sons in four years. He clearly had his own plans for our family planning! So, Martha found herself an active mom of preschoolers, whom she lovingly called her “four on the floor.” She served alongside me as a Pastor’s wife in our first church in



Martha welcoming her latest grandson, Ezra, born May 1st.

Victoria, British Columbia, where she exercised her gifts by implementing the Women’s Ministry. Martha’s care for her family included her mother, who came to live with us when she needed assisted living,

she actively supported me by “holding down the family fort” while I pursued doctoral studies.

Martha’s vibrant life of faith continued when our family was called to serve in Hawaii in 1996. She served as Pastor’s wife at Faith Baptist Church, again leading the Women’s Ministry. She worked as a College Counselor at Hawaii Baptist Academy, where she could keep an eye on her sons.

In 2007, Martha helped plant New Hope Kailua, and joined the staff at PacRim Christian University. She first served as Registrar, then as Vice President of Academic Affairs under the leadership of President Randy Furushima. Martha flourished as a Pastor’s wife, mentor, and teacher at PacRim, not to mention being a wonderful wife and mom!

To fuel her own personal growth and ministry, she completed her doctoral degree at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. Martha was further blessed when her mentoring and teaching ministry expanded to BIH in 2016.

In all of these ways and more, God has favored Martha with a vibrant life of faith and service. In the fall of 2021, however, she was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease, a terrible degenerative illness that attacks her physical vitality. How did she respond? The same way she has lived her entire life – trusting in her Lord Jesus. Asking him to be her Great Physician. Seeking

Holy Spirit’s healing. Knocking on her heavenly Father’s door. Joining with family, friends, and loving church members to ask, seek, knock. Holding on to the LORD’s loyal love.

Asking the Lord for healing has also meant taking rigorous actions to facilitate her healing: diet, exercise, traditional medical treatments as well as nonconventional and experimental procedures. We pray for God’s direct intervention, yet we realize that he sometimes chooses to heal through medical means.

Though Martha suffers physical degeneration, her faith remains vibrant. She fights her physical afflictions with a courageous faith. She draws near to her Lord daily and relies on him. He strengthens and renews her spirit. She laughs a lot and enjoys her family and friends.

Martha’s faith and joy is rooted in the reality that the Lord Jesus Christ has already won the victory. Whether or not God chooses to heal her in the near future, her ultimate healing has even now been achieved. Every day is a day closer to her resurrection body. Powerful. Indestructible. Glorious! Because Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

She sings:

O my soul, bless God...

He forgives your sins—everyone.

He heals your diseases—everyone.

He redeems you from hell—saves your life!

He crowns you with love and mercy—a paradise crown.

He wraps you in goodness—beauty eternal.

He renews your youth—you’re always young in his presence.

(Psalm 103:1-5, The Message)



Executive Director’s Note: Martha Stinton’s courageous faith in the face of Parkinson’s Disease, alongside the unwavering support of her husband, Pastor Rick, and their family, is both inspiring and humbling. Her trust in God’s grace amid adversity reminds us of the power of active faith.

If you feel led to support Martha, whether through prayers or financial assistance, please visit her GoFundMe page or scan the QR code below. Your support will provide much needed help and be a tangible expression of love for our dear sister in Christ.



Mahalo for standing with Martha on her journey of faith and healing.



SUMMER QUARTER 2024 SCHEDULE OF COURSES

July 8 – August 28, 2024 (6–8 weeks)

Register online at www.biblehawaii.org.

For mail-in registrations, it must be postmarked by Monday, July 1, 2024

Registration fee: \$15 – \$40.

Monday

OT028

Minor Prophets for Modern Times

Pastor Kainoa Valente

Economic exploitation. Corruption in leadership. Racial tension. Sound familiar? This was the world into which God sent prophets whom we classify as “minor” but whose message is anything but. Over six weeks we’ll explore what God communicated through the Minor Prophets with a dual emphasis of understanding their proclamations in historical context and applying their message in our own 21ST century context.

Administrative Fee: \$40 per household

July 8 – August 26, 2024 (8 weeks)

Mondays, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Zoom Online

† CBS/CMM: OT – Prophetic Books

CLV211

Tracing God’s Hand

Pastor Terence Paraso

A deeply reflective activity using poster boards, post-it notes, and a spreadsheet designed to help disciples discover how God has already been moving in their lives beneath the obvious, mine it for valuable lessons grounded in scripture, identify patterns that may need to be re-deemed, and discern what God may have in store for them in this and/or the next season of life. Participants will need their own Bible, laptop, iPad, and/or notebook and a pen or pencil.

Administrative Fee: \$35

(Bring-a-Friend Free)

July 8 – August 12, 2024 (6 weeks)

Mondays, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

In-person only at New Hope Kapolei

Ministry Center

94-199 Leonui St #4, Waipahu

† CBS/CMM: Skills

Thursday

OT019

Encountering God through the Psalms

Dr. Rick Stinton

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

Administrative Fee: FREE

(BIH Summer Series)

July 11 – August 15, 2024 (6 weeks)

Thursdays, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Free Zoom Link at www.biblehawaii.org

† CBS/CMM: OT – Wisdom/Poetic

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



ONE DAY SEMINARS

SEM-CO206

Finding Hope and Healing Through Narratives

Dr. Elaine Eng

Christians benefit greatly from studying the stories of biblical men and women. Hope and healing also occurs when we discover and share our testimonies. This seminar will present several areas of narrative work including recognizing narrative venues, dignity therapy for end-of-life growth, and discovering our spiritual autobiography. Community in the church flourishes when we share our stories to honor a faithful God and bless others.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” (Hebrews 12:1)

Administrative Fee: \$15 per household

July 20, 2024 (1-day)

Saturday, 9:00 – 12:00 Noon HT

Zoom Online from New York

† CBS/CMM: Flex Credit Hours

SEM-BST301

Jewish Roots of Jesus the Bridegroom

Dr. Randy Furushima, Emmaus Center for Biblical Teaching

When you see Jesus on the cross, what do you see? An execution, a punishment, a martyrdom, or a sacrifice? The apostle Paul saw all of this, but also something more – he saw the love of a bridegroom for his bride. You will see scripture and tradition through ancient Jewish eyes – the same perspective through which Paul saw the passion and death of Christ as the fulfillment of God’s eternal plan to wed himself to humanity in an everlasting marital covenant. Jesus was more than just a teacher or a prophet. He was the bridegroom Messiah, whose mission was to forgive the sinful bride of God and unite himself to her in an everlasting covenant of love. If you want to understand better who Jesus was and why he was crucified, then come along on this journey of discovery.

Administrative Fee: \$25 per person

Bring-a-Friend Free: Not Available

Enrollment: Limited to 30 people, due to space availability

Saturday, July 27, 2024

8:30 – 11:30 AM (1-day)

In-person only at St. Mark's Episcopal Church
539 Kapahulu Ave., Honolulu
Limited onsite and street parking available. Paid parking lot
across the street.



The Emmaus Center for Biblical Teaching is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational corporation in the state of Hawai'i that mentors a new generation of teachers for

biblical teaching in a variety of Christian settings by deepening their biblical and theological knowledge, increasing their pedagogical skills, and strengthening their character. Based on the revelatory experiences of the resurrected Jesus who taught the scriptures to two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24), the Emmaus Center values the unfolding of God's Word in transformative ways.

Dr. Randy Furushima (BIH Executive Director, 2018-21) has made a significant impact in the field of biblical teaching and theology through the establishment of the Emmaus Center for Biblical Teaching. With a dedication to education, he imparts his knowledge to students in churches and seminaries across the USA, Canada, and Japan. His influence extends globally, shaping the theological landscape and fostering a deeper understanding of the Bible.



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.



SEM-BST133

The Holy Spirit Through the Bible, Part 2

Dr. Gary Manning Jr.

In this seminar, we will explore the Holy Spirit's redemptive work in the world and our lives. We will trace His presence and actions from Genesis to Revelation, focusing on teachings about the Holy Spirit in the Gospels and the New Testament.

Administrative Fee: \$15 per household

August 10, 2024 (1-day)

Saturday, 9:00 – 12:00 Noon HT

Zoom Online from California

CBS/CMM: Flex Credit Hours

SEM-WM102

Sharing God's Aloha with International Students: Engaging Global Missions at Home

Mr. and Mrs. Kamaaina Leiton and Lisa Chinn

This practical seminar includes the Biblical Basis, Strategic Value, and Applicable Opportunities to engage in 'glocal' (global but local) missions ministry among International Students on Oahu. Examples of church-based international student ministry, campus-based ministry, and individual avenues for involvement will be provided with multiple free resources.

Administrative Fee: Free (BIH Summer Series)

August 17, 2024 (1-day)

Saturday, 9:00 – 12:00 Noon HT

In-person only at Olivet Baptist Church

1775 S. Beretania St; 2nd Floor, Preschool/Office Building.

CBS/CMM: Flex Credit Hours

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 July 1, 2024

See Schedule of Courses for more details

Course No.	Course Name	Admin Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> OT028	Minor Prophets for Modern Times	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> CLV211	Tracing God's Hand	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> OT019	Encountering God Through the Psalms	FREE
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-C0206	Finding Hope and Healing	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-BST301	Jewish Roots of Jesus the Bridegroom	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-BST133	The Holy Spirit Through the Bible, Pt 2	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-WM102	Sharing God's Aloha with International Students	FREE

Total Administrative Fee _____

Optional gift to BIH _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____



BIH
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