



Ka 'Ōlelo 'O Ke Ola

"THE WORD OF LIFE"

Winter 2026, Volume 50 Issue 4

Bible Institute of Hawai'i • Founded in 1972 • 2345 Nu'uānu Avenue • Honolulu, HI 96817 USA • Phone: (808) 595-4700 • Website: www.biblehawaii.org
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Rise, Fall, and Faithfulness: What Truly Endures in a Changing World



By Rodney Wong,
BIH Executive Director

Mahalo ke Akua — gratitude has a way of sharpening our vision by helping us see God's faithfulness more clearly amid the busyness of the holidays. As I reflect on this past year—the challenges, the lessons, and the ways God has sustained us—I'm reminded how Scripture continues to shape lives here in Hawaii through the ministry of Bible Institute

of Hawaii and our dedicated faculty, volunteers, and partners in biblical education.

As 2026 approaches, we're stepping into a remarkable milestone: **the 250th anniversary of the United States—a semiquincentennial**. It's a quarter of a millennium. Historians note that the average lifespan of a world power is about 250 years. [sigh] Now, before you make a run to Costco and hoard all the toilet paper—relax. It's not prophetic.

And yes, planners are already thinking ahead: the 500th anniversary would be called the *Quincentennial*, complete with its own time capsule. But we've got the current 250-year milestone to celebrate first.

When America was signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776, these islands were still governed by independent chiefdoms under the traditional kapu system—a time marked by shifting alliances, ruthless betrayal among rival chiefs, and clashes for control to no end, as historians often note. It would be another nineteen years before a future king—**Kalani Pai'ea Wohi o Kaleikini Keali'ikui Kamehameha o 'Iolani i Kaiwikapu kau'i Ka Liholiho Kūnuiākea** (Kekoolani Genealogy Database, n.d.)—would unite them in 1810. Yes, that was a shortened version. (Imagine Jason Momoa using Kamehameha's full name in Chief of War; the opening credits would need two episodes.) After Kamehameha's unified kingdom was established, it would be another eighty-three years before a foreign power overthrew the monarchy in 1893, and five years later

the islands were formally annexed.

Empires rise and become formidable, yet they eventually fall—a 100% track record since recorded history began proves that point. Even today's "superpowers" have their Kryptonite and eventually face the same fate. So, what truly lasts when even the mighty fade? And what does a life look like when its direction is shaped by faith—or by the lack of it? The answer comes into focus when you look at the life of Asa...

Asa: From Strong Start to Enduring Lesson

In our last session of **Just Show Up – Public Reading of Scripture**, we ended with a lesser-known story of King Asa (2 Chronicles 14–16). Asa didn't

Continued on page 2

SAVE THE DATE!
Happy Centenarian!

100 ADA LUM

Join us in celebrating Miss Ada Lum's
100 years young Birthday!

Saturday, February 28
10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Lunch and program
at Kalihi Union Church Gym

Scan QR code or visit
our website to RSVP
www.biblehawaii.org



fail at the start line. He stumbled in the middle miles. His story reminds us—faithfulness isn’t a sprint. It’s endurance.

Asa began well. He tore down idols, obeyed the Lord, and led the people through spiritual reform. Judah’s King Asa cried out to God:

“O Lord, there is none like You to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O Lord our God, for we rely on You.” (2 Chronicles 14:11, ESV)

And God answered—decisively. The victory was complete. But years later, facing a smaller threat from the **north-ern kingdom of Israel**, Asa panicked. He emptied the Temple treasury and bought a military alliance with Aram instead of trusting the Lord (2 Chronicles 16:2-3).

That is when a prophet named **Hanani** confronted him with one of Scripture’s most searching lines, *“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to*

those whose heart is blameless toward Him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9, ESV)

Was this a warning that God’s searching eyes were now looking elsewhere—away from Asa? *Yikes.*

Then, when disease struck his feet, Scripture says, *“Even in his disease he did not seek the Lord, but sought help from physicians.”* (2 Chronicles 16:12, ESV) Hmm...

Ironic, since Asa’s very name may come from a Hebrew root meaning “healer” or “physician.” Some scholars suggest his “diseased feet” mirrored his spiritual walk—a warning for all of us who begin with zeal but lose focus along the way and neglect our spiritual **longevity**.

Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 3:11**: *“For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

You can build with gold or straw, marble or marshmallows—only one foundation lasts. Kingdoms are overthrown and constitutions may crumble, but God’s promises never expire.

Speaking of Longevity

This February—as the Lord wills—we will celebrate **Miss Ada Lum’s centenarian birthday, being 100 years young**—our beloved Emerita who has inspired, prayed for, and poured into generations of students at Bible Institute of Hawaii. Personally, I was deeply impacted by her teaching ministry and impressed by her unhurried style—never in a rush to rattle off facts, but attentive to every detail of

the living text. She has honed a skill that outpaces many seasoned teachers: using reflective pondering and vivid imagery that drew me in time and time again.

Ada inspired a generation, and many of our faculty at Bible Institute of Hawaii continue that same legacy. She is also our **Lifetime Achievement Award** recipient—and deservedly so. Her faith was active and unwavering, producing a lifetime of ministry.

Her celebration will be held **Saturday, February 28 | 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM**, with lunch and a celebratory program at **Kalihi Union Church Gym**. Seating is limited, so please **RSVP** by scanning the **QR code** on page 1 or visiting our website at www.biblehawaii.org. You may also write a birthday message to be presented to her at the celebration.

I think you noticed that “Asa” and “Ada” differ by only one letter—but that small difference tells a big story. Asa—whose name means “healer”—began well but drifted from the One who truly heals. Ada, whose name carries the sense of “noble” or “adorned,” has faithfully adorned Christ’s Word through her life and ministry. One letter apart, yet their lives show very different paths: Asa’s story fades, while Ada’s legacy shines.

Looking Ahead: A Sharpened Vision

At **Bible Institute of Hawaii**, we enter the new year with a **sharpened vision: to be a leading institute for biblical literacy in Hawaii and the Pacific, accessible to all who seek to grow in Christ.**

Mahalo ke Akua for guiding and sustaining us.

I also want to express sincere gratitude—to the Lord first, and to each of you—for the overwhelming response to our **Give Aloha!** campaign. By God’s grace, your generosity **doubled** what we received in previous years. We were humbled and encouraged—grateful for the Lord’s provision that keeps our vision clear.



**JUST
SHOW
UP**

ALL INVITED!
A PUBLIC READING
OF SCRIPTURE

Facilitators Rodney Wong and Vernelle Oku

January 20 – March 10, 2026 (8 weeks)

Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Zoom Online FREE visit www.biblehawaii.org





Winter 2026 New Faculty



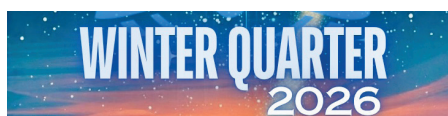
Rev. Christopher Nayyir

An ordained pastor and dedicated church planter, Pastor Christopher Nayyir holds a B.Com in

Accounting, Auditing, and Management from the University of Karachi, advanced diplomas in bookkeeping and accounting & finance, and hands-on CPA articleship. He now serves as our new part-time bookkeeper at Bible Institute while managing full-time bookkeeping at Kalihi Union Church in Honolulu, drawing on extensive accounting experience across Hawaii, London, and Karachi.

Originally from Pakistan, Christopher gave his life to Christ thirty years ago and, with his wife Stella, grew a single Bible study in Karachi into twenty-two groups, a Worship Center, six churches in the city, one in Islamabad, and two Life-Building Centers serving Christian and Muslim children alike. After relocating to Hawaii in 2011, they founded One in Christ Asian International Church Hawaii—the state's first Pakistani and Indian congregation—and recently sparked a children's ministry in Pakistan now reaching thirty-eight children. Fluent in English, Urdu, and Hindi, Christopher and Stella, parents of three adult children, give all glory to God for sustaining their family's church-planting journey through persecution and beyond.

Please join us in praying for Christians in Pakistan to remain strong amid suffering and for God's protection over them and all Christian churches there; for our ongoing church-planting and development projects in Pakistan; and for the nation's political situation to be resolved by God for His glory.



ONE DAY SEMINAR

**WINTER
2026**

SEM-BST120

Three things related to the historical reliability of the NT

Dr. Gary Manning Jr.

This seminar argues for the historical reliability of the New Testament through three key lenses: the early dating of ancient manuscripts, which surpasses other classical works in preservation; the meticulous process of translation that maintains fidelity to the original Greek while addressing linguistic

nuances; and the external historical corroboration from archaeology, non-Christian sources, and cultural context, which anchors New Testament events in the first century

Administrative Fee: \$15 per household

February 21, 2026 (1-day)

Saturday, 9:00 – 12:00 Noon HT

Zoom Online from California

CBS/CMM: Flex Credit Hours



Rev. Yoshitaka Fujinami

Reverend Yoshitaka Fujinami earned his BA in Pastoral Studies and a post-graduate Certificate in Jewish

Studies from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, later completing a Th.M. at Dallas Theological Seminary. He currently serves as Pastor of the Japanese Ministry at Makiki Christian Church in Honolulu, a role he has held since April 2018.

Originally from Osaka, Japan, Yoshi came to know the Lord as a youth at Kishiwada Bible Church, a congregation planted by missionaries from Makiki Christian Church. After completing his studies at Moody, he moved to Hawaii in 1994 to serve as Director of Older Adults Ministry at Makiki Christian Church, where he met Yumi, the church's worship pianist, who became his wife in 1996. Following the birth of their first son, the Fujinamis relocated to Texas, where Yoshi pursued his seminary studies and graduated in 2003. Upon graduation, he was called to Kalihi Union Church to pastor their Japanese fellowship. After raising their three sons, Yoshi and Yumi returned to Makiki Christian Church, where he now continues to shepherd and teach within the Japanese congregation.

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.



Understanding and Reaching People with Other Beliefs

By Vernelle Oku

This past fall quarter, I participated in Dr. Pat Zukeran's BIH Class "Another Gospel: Identifying and Engaging Cult Groups" at Mililani Community Church (also offered online). It's convenient to attend online, but even nicer to meet, fellowship, and share delicious snacks with the warm and friendly Bible Institute and Mililani Community Church congregation students!

Every class was full of informative and interesting facts and personal stories from Dr. Zukeran's wealth of knowledge and experiences. From my perspective, I had not known much about what Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, or any of the "other gospels" believed until Dr. Zukeran's teachings. The historical origins were fascinating—surprisingly, many of these groups originated in the United States of America during the 1800s.

Regarding their theology, for example, Mormonism teaches that God was once a man who became exalted and that men can become gods through obedience and righteousness. They also believe that Jesus and Satan are spirit brothers, and that faithful men may one day become gods of their own celestial kingdoms. Jehovah's Witnesses, on the other hand, deny the full divinity of Christ and instead teach that He is a created being. This clearly contradicts Scripture: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1), and Jesus' own words, "Before Abraham was born, I am" (John 8:58).

Each of these "cults" uses certain Scriptures to justify their beliefs but ignores others that contradict them. They also have their own writings or books—such as the Book of Mormon and The Watchtower—which they consider as sacred as the Bible. Thankfully, none of these writings have been authenticated like the Bible, which has been historically reliable and divinely inspired. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

It was also interesting to learn how Jehovah's Witnesses study the Bible and can quote Scripture very well. Taking this class really put into perspective how important it is for every believer to read, memorize, and study the Bible so that the truth of God's Word is firmly rooted in our hearts. "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11), and Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

I'm thankful for the tips Dr. Zukeran gave on how to speak to those in "other gospels," especially the suggestion to ask

gentle, thoughtful questions and always speak with love and understanding. "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

I hope that every Christian believer can take a BIH class like this to grow in discernment, understand what others believe, and be equipped to lovingly reach out to those who follow teachings apart from the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. "Even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse" (Galatians 1:8). We are saved by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ—"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

We are saved by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ, and this class inspired me to lovingly share that truth with others who are still searching for the real Gospel message.



Last Fall Quarter Students gathered in-person at Mililani Community Church and online as Dr. Pat Zukeran unpacked "Another Gospel: Identifying and Engaging Cult Groups."



WINTER QUARTER 2026 SCHEDULE OF COURSES

JANUARY 12 – APRIL 8, 2026
(4 – 8 WEEKS)

Register online at www.biblehawaii.org.

For mail-in registrations, it must be postmarked by January 6, 2026

Registration fee: \$15 – \$40.

Monday

OT042

The Kings of Israel and Judah

Dr. James Kwong

This class will feature Bible exposition of the passages featuring the United Kingdom of Israel under Saul, David, and Solomon and the Divided Kingdoms of Israel and Judah. We will discuss the topics of leadership and legacy. Expect weekly lecture and discussion. Bring a Bible and a pen. Notes will be provided.

Administrative Fee: \$40

Bring-a-Friend Free

January 12 – March 16, 2026

(8 weeks, no class 2/16 & 2/23)

Mondays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Hybrid @ Kaimuki Christian School

1117 Koko Head Ave, Rm. A205

 CBS/CMM: OT - Historical

CE118

Music Ministry Essentials

Mr. Cheyne Rippey

There are no musical skill-level requirements for this course. This class is built for those interested in getting involved on their worship team, pastors who want a Biblical theology of music and praise, and musicians who want to understand better how to play music on a team. Topics will include a Biblical survey of music, practical music theory and why it matters, playing with team dynamics, pitfalls to avoid in music ministry, and songwriting. **Recommended Reading:** *The Art of Worship: A Musician's Guide to Leading Modern Worship* by Greg Scheer

Administrative Fee: \$35 per household

January 26 – March 16, 2026

(7 weeks, no class 2/16)

Mondays, 12 Noon – 1:00 PM HT

Zoom Online

 CBS/CMM: Skills

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

REL201

Comparative Religion Studies (in Urdu, Hindi, and English)

Pastor Chris Nayyir

This course will introduce students to the living faiths of Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Hinduism through a rich study of their beliefs, practices, and sacred traditions. Taught in English, Urdu, and Hindi, it invites learners to appreciate the spiritual depth and cultural expressions of each religion. Students will gain insight into how these faiths shape everyday life and promote mutual understanding in a diverse world.

Administrative Fee: \$35 per household

January 12 – February 23, 2026

(6 weeks, no class 2/16)

Monday, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Zoom Online

 CBS/CMM: Theology

Tuesday

OT130

Knowing God through the Old Testament (in Japanese)

「旧約聖書を通して神を知る」

Rev. Yoshitaka Fujinami 藤浪義孝牧師

This course examines how God reveals Himself in the Old Testament through His names, attributes, and mighty acts. Students will explore how God made Himself known to Israel and how this contrasts with ancient Near Eastern beliefs. Emphasis is placed on knowing God through relationship—expressed in worship, prayer, and ethical living. *This course will be taught in Japanese.*

Administrative Fee: \$35 per household

January 13 – February 24, 2026 (7 weeks)

Tuesdays, 12 Noon – 1:00 PM

Zoom Online

 CBS/CMM: Theology



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.

CO210

Caring for the Soul and Mind: Theological Foundations in Mental Health Ministry

Dr. Elaine Eng

This course intends to engage ministry and church leaders to explore important influences on the mental health of the congregant and others that they serve. This course includes foundations of Christian theology, revelation, and Holy Scripture. Emphasis will be on how these topics are processed in a church setting. Lectures will cover a psychospiritual model of stress, basic biblical exegesis for counseling, dignity therapy, Christian self-care, and special needs ministry. This will be accomplished via lectures, discussions, information from the Lausanne global classroom on disability, and performing exegetical research on counseling scriptures.

"All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness." (2 Tim.3:16, NASB)

Administrative Fee: \$40 per household

January 20 – March 10, 2026 (8 weeks)

Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:00 AM

Zoom Online

 CBS/CMM: Skills

**WINTER
2026**

OT002

Encounter Jesus in Exodus

Dr. Rick Stinton

When the risen Jesus met with two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24), he explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures. Including Exodus!

Join us as we encounter Jesus in Exodus. Like those first disciples, our hearts will burn within us.

Administrative Fee: \$35 per household
January 20 – February 10, 2026 (4 weeks)

Tuesdays 12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

Zoom Online

 CBS/CMM: OT - Historical

More classes and seminars to be announced—stay posted on our website for the latest additions!

www.biblehawaii.org

BTS110

Apologetics: The Defense of the Faith

Dr. Pat Zukeran

How do you know Christianity is true? How is it uniquely confirmed to be true and how does it compare with other religions that also claim to be true? In our post-Christian culture today, Christians must know not only what they believe but why. This course will cover the basic evidence for the Christian faith including: The evidence for God, historical reliability of the Bible, the miraculous life of Christ, the resurrection, the problem of evil, and more.

This course will strengthen your faith and provide you with reasons and evidence you can present to fellow believers who are doubting and skeptics who are questioning the truth of Christianity.

Administrative Fee: \$40

Bring-a-Friend Free

January 13 – March, 2026 (8 weeks)

Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Hybrid @ Waialae Baptist Church
1047 21st Ave, Honolulu

 CBS/CMM: Theology

Wednesday

BTS115

RECLAIM: 7 Steps to Rediscover Your True Identity (in Mandarin)

Ms. Brooke Wei

RECLAIM is a course rooted in biblical truth, designed to enable participants to identify areas of rebellion and lostness in their lives and to restore their true identity in Christ through the perspective of God's Kingdom. By exploring the RECLAIM plan within the context of God's Kingdom, it helps participants personally experience the transforming grace of God's redemption, encounter the profound love of His covenant, and reclaim their identity and worth in Christ—living a life that is called, faithful, and abundant.

Administrative Fee: \$35 per household

February 25 – April 8, 2026 (7 weeks)

Wednesdays, 12 Noon – 1:00 PM

Zoom Online

 CBS/CMM: Skills

Friday

CNS204

Spiritual and Mental Health Counseling for Anxiety

Dr. Elaine Eng

This course will examine the common causes of anxiety. Effective treatment methods such as cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) will be demonstrated using a case example. Biblical teaching and spiritual considerations regarding worry will be incorporated particularly when anxiety arises in the church congregation. Discussion on how the church can help will be facilitated in the class.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Phil. 4:6

Administrative Fee: \$40

Bring-a-Friend Free

January 23 – March 13, 2026 (8 weeks)

Fridays, 1:30 – 3:30 PM

In-Person TBA (Honolulu)

 CBS/CMM: Skills



**WINTER
2026**

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 6, 2026

See Schedule of Courses for more details

Course No.	Course Name	Admin Fee
☐ OT042	The Kings of Israel and Judah 	\$40
☐ CE118	Music Ministry Essentials 	\$35
☐ REL201	Comparative Religion 	\$35
☐ OT130	Knowing God through the Old Testament 	\$35
☐ CO210	Caring for the Soul and Mind 	\$40
☐ OT002	Encounter Jesus in Exodus 	\$35
☐ BTS110	Apologetics: The Defense of the Faith 	\$40
☐ BTS115	RECLAIM: 7 Steps to Recover...True Identity	\$35
☐ CNS204	Spiritual and Mental Health Counseling	\$40
☐ SEM-BST120	Three things related to the historical reliability of the NT	\$15

Total Administrative Fee _____

Optional gift to BIH _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____



BIH
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Founded in 1972

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