



Ka 'Ōlelo 'O Ke Ola

“THE WORD OF LIFE”

Fall 2024, Volume 49 Issue 3

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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Exploring the Heart and Depth of God's Love: A Recap of the Seminar on "Jewish Roots of Jesus the Bridegroom"



By Rodney Wong,
BIH Executive
Director

What do a wedding at Cana, a bridegroom, wine, a crown of thorns, and the Apocalypse have in common? If you're scratching your head, you missed an eye-opening seminar that connected these elements in profound ways.

On Saturday, July 27, 2024, over 30 participants gathered at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Kapahulu Avenue for a seminar with an intriguing title, "Jewish Roots of Jesus the Bridegroom," taught by Dr. Randy Furushima. This event, co-hosted by the Emmaus Center for Biblical Teaching and the Bible Institute of Hawaii, provided an exploration into the rich biblical themes that often elude a comprehensive grasp of Jesus' first coming and ministry on earth. Dr. Furushima, who is also the Executive Director of the Emmaus Center, brought his wealth of scholarship to the forefront, guiding attendees through these complex themes.

Dr. Furushima taught with a down-to-earth and accessible style, translating complex theological concepts into understandable and insightful truths. His deep grasp of the Scriptures and other scholarly writings, coupled with his humor, made the seminar very engaging. While this article reflects my understanding and touches on just a few of the many profound insights shared during the seminar, these highlights convey the depth and richness of the discussion. Dr. Furushima framed the session by challenging our usual assumptions, encouraging attendees to view the Scriptures through ancient Jewish perspectives. He contrasted the appall-

ing imagery of Christ's crucifixion with the lavish love symbolized by a beautiful wedding, where Jesus is depicted as the Bridegroom. This comparison painted a vivid picture of the ultimate act of spousal sacrificial love. Paul's metaphor in Ephesians 5:25 reveals the profound mystery of Jesus' passion—a love story that is truly otherworldly, in which His coming is not merely a guarantee of heaven but an invitation to a special union with Him as intimate as a marriage covenant relationship.

We catch a glimpse of this love in the Song of Songs, often depicted as love between human lovers, but revealed as a deeper spiritual truth—God's impassioned love for His people. This love and bond are so strong that breaking the covenant isn't just an infraction of a rule; it's spiritual betrayal and adultery, as vividly portrayed in the prophetic writings of Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. The ultimate goal of Christ's first coming is not just to offer forgiveness of sins but to invite us into a daily union with Him in a renewed marriage covenant—a stark contrast that showcases His unending mercy, compassion, and reconciliation toward His often unfaithful, idolatrous people (Hosea 1:2-3; Isaiah 1:21; Jeremiah 2:32; 3:30; Ezekiel 16:15-17).

(Continued on page 2)

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One compelling highlight of Dr. Furushima’s seminar was his exploration of the connections between the wedding at Cana, the Passover meal, and the Passion of Christ. At Cana, Jesus’ miracle of turning water into wine prefigures His role as the divine Bridegroom, who inaugurates the New Covenant through His sacrificial blood. This first miracle, performed at a wedding, alongside His statement, “My hour has not yet come,” points to His ultimate mission—His death and resurrection—when He, as the Savior and Bridegroom, would serve the wine that is the Blood of the New Covenant.

Dr. Furushima illustrated how the Passover meal and the crucifixion fulfill a divine marital covenant. By linking ancient Jewish wedding traditions with the events of the Last Supper and Christ’s crucifixion, he highlighted significant symbols such as the crown of thorns, the seamless robe, and the flow of blood and water from Jesus’ side. These elements underscore Jesus’ kingship and priesthood, with the Church as His beloved bride. Space will not allow us to take a deep dive here, so I’ll encourage you to do the research to make those connections in your own study.

The imagery of Christ as the Bridegroom runs through the Last Supper and His crucifixion. Jesus’ abstention from the fourth cup during Passover hints at its ultimate fulfillment on the cross, connecting Passover with Jewish wedding traditions. Then, a statement that caught me by surprise: “The Day of Jesus’ Death is His Wedding Day,” marking the profound moment He unites with His bride. (I was taken aback—like faithless Israel, almost all His disciples had abandoned Him. His closest friends didn’t even bother to show up for the wedding, yikes!) With parallels like the crown of thorns, the seamless garment, and the flow of blood and water, the connections to Jewish wedding customs are striking. Many other rich symbols—though not covered here in detail—were presented. Check out the links to Revelation 19 (cf. Matthew 19 and 22) to ignite your curiosity.

Now, try to wrap your mind around all that in one morning! And that was just a sketch sampling of the rich theological research available to you. We value Dr. Furushima’s fresh biblical insight, which brought us a renewed appreciation of the profound mysteries of God’s love. Stay tuned as we look forward to more rich, thought-provoking seminars offered through BIH and collaborations with the Emmaus Center for Biblical Teaching. May we together continue to grow in the depths of God’s unchanging love and His covenantal relationship with us.



Congratulations to Marti Ann Koizumi: A Journey of Faith and Excellence

A big shout out to Marti Ann Koizumi for her exceptional accomplishment at the Bible Institute of Hawaii! Starting her journey in Spring 2022, Marti Ann completed her Certificate of Biblical Studies with a perfect 4.0 GPA in Summer 2024. Her dedication is truly inspiring.

Marti Ann’s journey perfectly reflects Proverbs 2:2-5, as she sought wisdom and understanding through God’s Word. Balancing her roles as a mother and wife, her commitment—supported by her family—has borne remarkable fruit.

In a memorable and celebratory event, Marti Ann was awarded her certificate with her loved ones by her side. BIH Board President Ken Humphries and Executive Director Rodney Wong had the honor of presenting her certificate and delivering special address. Marti Ann praised the nurturing BIH faculty and fellow students, highlighting how impactful the teaching was in deepening her faith. Her experience underscores the importance of perseverance and the transformative power of Scripture.

Congratulations, Marti Ann! We celebrate your outstanding achievement and pray for continued blessings as you serve the Lord with all your heart.

From Classroom to Calling: Introducing Our New Certificate in Mentored Ministries (CMM) Program

The Bible Institute of Hawaii is about ready to launch the Certificate in Mentored Ministries (CMM), program designed to equip you for ministry service. Reviving and reinventing the year’s past CLAYM (Certificate in Lay Ministry) program, the CMM offers a blend of theological education and practical experience, ensuring you are prepared for ministry roles.

To qualify for the CMM, you must have completed the Certificate of Biblical Studies (CBS), which provides a comprehensive foundation through 12 course credits. The CMM curriculum adds 9 additional course credits, covering essential areas such as Theology, the Old and New Testaments, and specialized skills classes.

A key feature of the CMM program is its emphasis on hands-on experience through two substantial internships, each lasting a full quarter. These internships offer you the opportunity to apply your classroom learning in real-world ministry settings under the guidance of experienced mentors and ministry practitioners.

Bible Institute of Hawaii looks forward to support you in this next step of your ministry journey. If you’ve completed the CBS, the CMM is your opportunity for ministry engagement and growth. For more information and to begin your enrollment process, please contact our office today.





ONE DAY SEMINARS

SEM-BST134

The Holy Spirit Through the Bible, Part 3

Dr. Gary Manning Jr.

This seminar is a component of a comprehensive series dedicated to examining the biblical perspective on the redemptive work of the Holy Spirit in the world, the Church, and in our lives. Our study will follow the Spirit's presence and activities from Genesis to Revelation, with a particular emphasis on the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. (Paul's letters will be addressed in the fourth part of the series.) By investigating how the Holy Spirit has historically guided, empowered, and transformed believers as part of God's salvific plan, we seek to deepen our understanding of the Spirit's ongoing work in and through us today, drawing on both historical context and biblical teachings.

Administrative Fee: \$15 per household

October 19, 2024 (1-day)

Saturday, 9:00 – 12:00 Noon HT

Zoom Online from California

 CBS/CMM: Flex Credit Hours

SEM-TH02

Spiritual Gifts: Paul's World and Ours

Dr. Elaine Eng

Discover the meaning and purpose of spiritual gifts. The seminar will cover the definitions of gifts outlined in biblical passages, its purpose, historical and literary context, and relationship to Pauline theology. Participants will have an opportunity to consider their own spiritual gifts and/or potential for them and determine its application in their church community.

"For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" Romans 12:4 NASB

Administrative Fee: \$15 per household

November 9, 2024 (1-day)

Saturday, 9:00 – 12:00 Noon HT

Zoom Online from New York

 CBS/CMM: Flex Credit Hours



FALL2024



Fall 2024 New Faculty



Steven F. Sturm

B.S.L., Ozark Christian College; M.A., California Graduate School of Theology; Master of Science in Counseling Psychology (MSCP),

Chaminade University; D. Min., and a Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction (DASD), San Francisco Theological Seminary. Since 1976, Pastor Sturm has faithfully served as minister at Waiialua Christian Church, alongside his work as an adjunct professor in the Graduate Counseling Psychology Department at Chaminade University of Honolulu. He has also contributed to the academic sphere through teaching roles at institutions like the Bible Institute of Hawaii and New Hope Christian College (now Pacific Rim Christian University). Pastor Sturm resides in Waiialua, Oahu, with his wife Kumu Blossom Sturm and their family.



Cheyne Rippey

MA, from Dallas Theological Seminary, is the Founder of The Giftedness Group®, a consulting agency that helps individuals discover their

giftedness and find the right job fit. He brings extensive experience in discipleship ministries, Christian teaching, and worship leadership. Whether leading a small group Bible study or teaching in a university classroom, Cheyne's goal is to equip people to live out God's purpose for their lives. Originally from Oahu, he has traveled extensively across the mainland for ministry and education.



Brooke Wei

BA in Theology from Pacific Rim Christian University and an MBA in International Marketing from an international institution. She is currently pursuing a Master

of Biblical and Theological Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, with an expected graduation date of December 2024. Additionally, she has studied in

the Master of Arts in Bible Exposition Program at Talbot School of Theology, although she has not yet graduated due to time constraints. Brooke is a licensed pastor with over a dozen years of missionary experience in the 10/40 window in Asia, where she was instrumental in planting two churches. Passionate about training young leaders to reach the lost, she is dedicated to preaching and teaching the Word of God in Mandarin. Her contributions include translating Dr. Rick Stinton's book, "40天神的" (40 Days of God), which is available on Amazon.

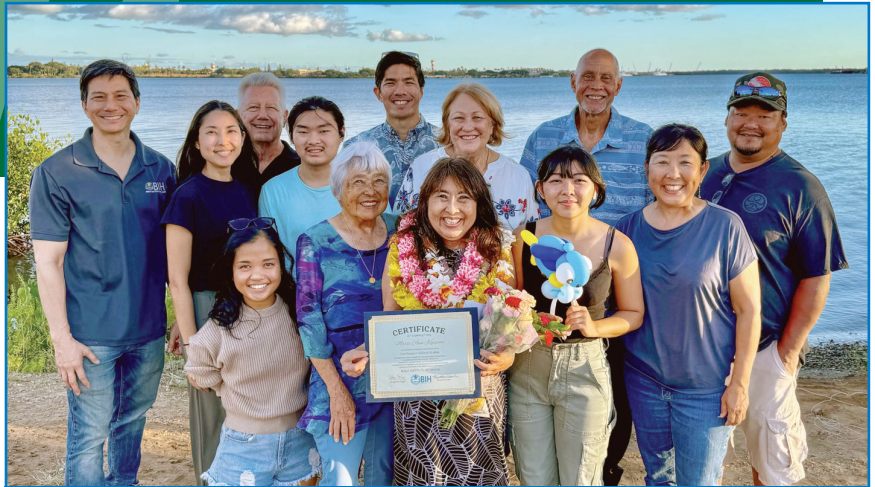
As a member of the staff at New Hope Kailua, Brooke oversees the Chinese ministry, leads Sunday prayers, and supports church-wide events and evangelism efforts. In addition, she teaches Bible and mission courses in Mandarin at the Bible Institute of Hawaii.



More Precious Than Gold: My Journey at Bible Institute of Hawaii

By: Marti Ann Koizumi

Growing spiritually takes a lifetime and more. It is a long journey but a good one to be on. God put me on a journey which led to finding the perfect place to support that growth. It's so important to be part of a community that helps to strengthen your faith and deepen a correct understanding of the Bible. This is what you will find by taking classes at Bible Institute of Hawaii (BIH). Here's my story of how being a student here helped my spiritual journey.



Marti Ann Koizumi, supported by her family, celebrates receiving her Certificate in Biblical Studies by Pearl Harbor's East Loch on July 17.

When I first came to BIH, one of the first things I noticed was the atmosphere of learning that the teachers and students provide. It really was a surreal experience. Every teacher had one thing in common and it was that they were Jesus-like. In spring of 2022, in my first semester, I took four classes and two seminars. I was really excited to get started. It was great! I really enjoyed being surrounded by so many men and women, tirelessly working to serve others with so much humility and kindness. I felt very blessed to be a part of that community. It held me to a higher standard, and it encouraged me to follow such great examples of Christ followers!

As a certificate student, I was required to turn in written papers for each class. They were all challenging, but in retrospect, I am very glad that I was required to do them. It took my learning to a different level, and I can say that I learned more by doing the assignments than if I hadn't. There was even one paper that I had to write

about "God's rest" in Hebrews. The knowledge that I gleaned from that remains close and deep in my heart today. It helped me to grow my trust in God because I learned more about Him.

Now, a little over two years later, I feel happy to say that I completed the certificate program. I have a much better understanding of the Bible, and I can feel confident to know that I have a good foundation when I share the Bible with others. I know now that the Bible wasn't written to me, but for me. It is a story about God. Thank you BIH! You have given me gifts of friendship, knowledge, faith and growth; a treasure worth more than gold!



Facilitator: Rodney Wong
September 24 – November 12
(8 weeks)
Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:15 pm
Zoom Online FREE visit
www.biblehawaii.org

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SUPPORT OUR
ORGANIZATION
TO FUNDRAISE
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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!





FALL QUARTER 2024 SCHEDULE OF COURSES

Sept. 23 – Nov. 23, 2024 (4–8 weeks)

Register online at www.biblehawaii.org.

For mail-in registrations, it must be postmarked by Monday, Sept. 16, 2024

Registration fee: \$15 – \$40.

Monday

OT001

Exposition of Genesis

Dr. James Kwong

This course will examine the biblical events of creation, the fall of man, Noah and the flood, and the patriarchs. Students can expect weekly lecture, discussion, and application. Required materials: Bible and a pen/pencil.

Administrative Fee: \$40
(Bring-a-Friend Free)

September 23 – November 18, 2024
(7 weeks, except 10/14)

Mondays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Hybrid: on Zoom & In-person @ Kaimuki Christian Church

1117 Koko Head Ave, Honolulu

 CBS/CMM: OT – Pentateuch

Tuesday

NT010

God's New Community: A Study of the Book of Ephesians

Dr. Rick Bartosik

Ephesians is essential for every Christian and leader. James M. Boice calls it “a miniature doctrine of the church.” In today’s world, a sound doctrine of the church is crucial. Often, we think of the church as created and managed by us, rather than by God and for His glory. This verse-by-verse study of Ephesians will correct our view, helping us understand what the church is, why it exists, and how it should function.

The Apostle Paul shows how we were once dead in sin, living in darkness, and doomed to God’s wrath. But God, in His love, saved us. Now, by His grace, we are citizens of His kingdom and members of His royal family. Together, we form a holy temple where God dwells by His Spirit, and we are called

to live lives worthy of Him as His holy and beloved people.

NOTE: Highly recommended book: The Message of Ephesians (Revised edition) by John R. W. Stott. Bring your Bible and a notebook. Outlines and handouts will be provided.

Administrative Fee: \$40
(Bring-A-Friend Free)

October 1 – November 19, 2024 (8 weeks)
Tuesdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

In-person only @ Kailua Christian Church
317 Manono St, Kailua (Rm. 3)

 CBS/CMM: OT – NT Letters

WM201

Challenges of Modern Missions

Dr. Bong Rin Ro

This course will explore the increasing persecution against Christianity and its impact on global missions, alongside the growing Christian mission movement. We will examine the cultural, political, and social challenges modern missionaries face and how these obstacles shape mission strategies today. Participants will gain insights into how the global church can effectively respond to these challenges and continue advancing the gospel.

Administrative Fee: \$40
(Bring-a-Friend Free)

October 1 – November 19, 2024 (8 weeks)
Tuesdays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

In-person only @ Kaimuki Christian Church

1117 Koko Head Ave, Honolulu

 CBS/CMM: OT – Theology

Wednesday

CLV107

Introduction to Classic Christian Spirituality

Dr. Steven Strum

Come explore ancient Christian contemplative practices that can help you draw near to God and grow more like Christ. These disciplines and exercises have

blessed Christians Down through the centuries, and across traditions. There is now a renewed interest in spirituality and spiritual formation. This invitation to “sop, look, and listen” is especially needed by today’s busy believers. Learners will need an open mind, a willing heart, and a spirit of adventure.

Administrative Fee: \$35
(Bring-A-Friend Free)

September 25 – November 20, 2024
(8 weeks)

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

In-person only @ Central Oahu Christian Church

54 Westervelt St., Wahiawa

 CBS/CMM: Skills

OT101

Old Testament History

Pastor Kainoa Valente

The liberation of a people. The birth of a nation. The rise of a kingdom. Civil war. Exile. Restoration. If you read those six statements in the “Movie Trailer Guy” voice, it sounds like an epic Hollywood movie. What it actually describes is the narrative of the historical books of the Old Testament. Join us as we explore the historical narratives of the Old Testament and discover its impact on our understanding of the New Testament and our role as the church.

Administrative Fee: \$40 per household
September 25 – November 13, 2024
(8 weeks)

Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Zoom Online

 CBS/CMM: Survey/Theology

Thursday

CLV 203

Discovering Your Giftedness

Mr. Cheyne Rippey

Everyone has a unique contribution to the body of Christ and world, but what does the Bible say about how to discover your gift and utilize it? Every member is creat-

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

ed for good works (Eph. 2:10), but how are pastors supposed to equip every single member to flourish in their own calling? Join us as we embark on a revolutionary journey in redeeming people's callings by using the Giftedness Discovery method of shining a light on design and life stories. This class will help individuals unearth their callings, as well as prepare leaders to invest in their mentees. Participants will walk away with a renewed, redeemed, and actionable vision for their callings and best ministry and work fit.

Administrative Fee: \$40 per household
September 26 – November 21, 2024

(8 weeks, except 10/31)

Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Zoom Online

 CBS/CMM: Skills

Saturday

BST115

RECLAIM 神的国 God's Kingdom (This course will be taught in Mandarin)

Ms. Brooke Wei

We will explore the entire Bible together, understanding the central theme of each book from Genesis to Revelation to grasp

God's plan for His kingdom. Through engaging Bible stories, this course will help us uncover the core theme of the Kingdom of God, examining His plan to save humanity and restore His kingdom. Each class will lead you on a deeper spiritual journey, and as you discover your identity and life in God's Kingdom, you will also be challenged to experience recovery, renewal, and transformation. Course in Mandarin.

Administrative Fee: \$15
(Bring-A-Friend Free)

September 23 – November 23, 2024
(8 weeks)

Saturdays, 1:30 – 3:00 PM

**In-person only @ Chinese Lutheran
 Church of Honolulu**

1640 Liliha St., Honolulu

 CBS/CMM: Bible Overview

CLV110

Four Things to Help Us Grow Chaplain Leroy Grant

This interactive four-week course is designed to help Christians understand the key elements God uses to foster spiritual growth and strength. Through a combination of teaching, discussion, and practical

application, participants will explore four foundational ways God shapes our faith:

Painful Circumstances: Discover how adversity and challenges are used by God to strengthen our faith (1 Peter 5:10); **Powerful Teachings:** Learn the importance of practical, biblical teachings in spiritual development (2 Timothy 3:16); **Powerful Friendships:** Understand the role of close, supportive friendships in our growth as Christians (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12); **Personal Disciplines:** Dive into the significance of spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, and study in becoming stronger Christians.

Join us as we uncover these principles and learn how to apply them in our daily lives for greater spiritual maturity and resilience.

Administrative Fee: \$35 per household
September 28 – October 19, 2024

(4 weeks)

Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00 AM HT

Zoom Online from Texas

 CBS/CMM: Flex Credit Hours



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.

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 September 16, 2024

See Schedule of Courses for more details

Course No.	Course Name	Admin Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> OT001	Exposition of Genesis 	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> NT010	God's New Community 	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> WM201	Challenges of Modern Missions 	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> CLV107	Intro to Classic Christian Spirituality 	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> OT101	Old Testament History 	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> CLV 203	Discovering Your Giftedness 	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> BST115	RECLAIM 神的国 God's Kingdom 	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> CLV 203	Four Things to Help Us Grow 	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-BST134	The Holy Spirit Through the Bible, Pt 3 	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-TH02	Spiritual Gifts: Paul's World and Ours 	\$15
Total Administrative Fee		_____
Optional gift to BIH		_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED		_____



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2345 Nu'uuanu Avenue
 Honolulu, HI 96817
 (808) 595-4700
www.biblehawaii.org

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