

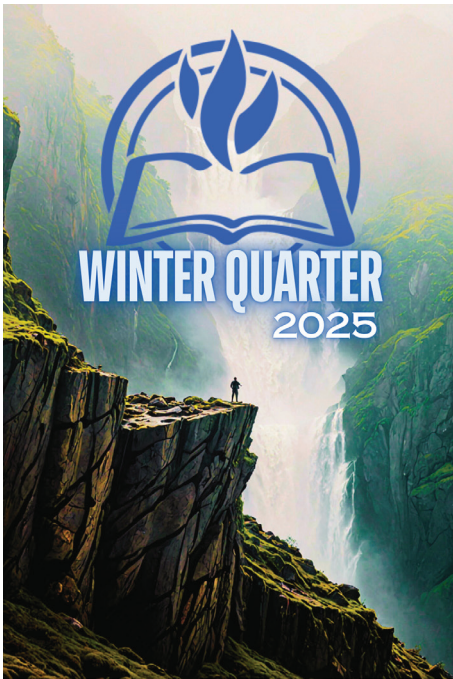


Ka 'Ōlelo 'O Ke Ola

“THE WORD OF LIFE”

Winter 2025, Volume 49 Issue 4

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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Holiday Cheer, Bible Year!



By Rodney Wong,
BIH Executive
Director

The holiday season is upon us—a time of gratitude, reflection, and perpetuating that yearly resolution: *I need to start my Christmas shopping earlier!* While the calendar year winds down, the Bible Institute of Hawaii looks eagerly toward 2025, a year “full” of hope for spiritual growth and fresh encounters with God and His Word, and “less” of regret and missed opportunities.

At our Fall Quarter closing meeting of **Just Show Up: The Public Reading**

of Scripture, one participant shared a heartfelt prayer for 2025: “My prayer is for more people to start reading the Bible regularly, and if they are already doing so, to read it even more.” She recounted how a deliberate decision to reduce television time a few years back allowed her to read more broadly, dedicating more time to the Bible. This intentional shift led to deeper engagement with God’s Word, bringing greater clarity to her life and fostering a closer relationship with the Lord and others.

Losing Touch with the Word

Bible engagement in America is on a troubling decline. According to the *State of the Bible USA 2024* report, only 38% of Americans open their Bibles even 3–4 times a year outside of church. Even more sobering, over half of adults are now classified as “Bible Disengaged.” Wow—a new (or old) classification of people: the *Bible Disengaged Christians*?

The *State of the Bible* report further highlights how disengagement impacts optimism: individuals who rarely read Scripture are less likely to believe in a hopeful future shaped by God’s Sovereign plan. Instead, they often feel weighed down by life’s challenges, lacking the anchor Scripture provides (*American Bible Society, 2024*).

What is at stake? Our hope, clarity, and relationships. Scripture serves as a constant reminder of God’s sovereignty, His purpose, and His ultimate will. Without a regular diet of Bible reading, hope diminishes, spiritual clarity fades, and the voices of this world drown out the voice of our Lord and Shepherd (John 10:27). Lacking this anchor, we risk drifting into despair and losing sight of His promises.

The implications are significant, but it’s not too late to change course.

Time to Reconnect

If you have felt spiritually “disengaged” lately, you are not alone. Disconnection happens. But the good news is that reconnection is just a page away. Whether it is five minutes a day or a chapter a week, every moment and any moment spent in God’s Word draws us closer to Him.

The *American Bible Society* recommends starting with a simple daily reading plan to help reestablish this vital connection, making Scripture a regular part of your routine and fostering a deeper relationship with God.

Your Invitation for 2025

Bible Institute of Hawaii invites and challenges you to make 2025 a year of **intentional renewal by reading and studying God’s Word more deeply**. With new classes, seminars, and meaningful study gatherings, we’re here to support you in strengthening your walk with the Lord.

As you enjoy the holiday season, we encourage you to take a small step: pick up your Bible and let it guide your conversations, decisions, and hopes for the new year. It can also help you navigate the potential pitfalls and hazards that life may bring.

From all of us at BIH, have a blessed Advent and a Scripture-filled holiday season! **Psalm 119:105**



Celebrating Sue Yoon: A Journey of Faith, Achievement, and Overcoming

By Rodney Wong



“What does it take to balance faith, perseverance, and academic excellence? For BIH student Sue Yoon, it’s a story of unwavering commitment, even through life’s toughest challenges.”

Bible Institute of Hawaii is thrilled to honor Sue Yoon, who earned her **Certificate in Biblical Studies (CBS)** on September 7, 2024. To celebrate this achievement, Sue and her husband, **Matthew**, hosted a special luncheon at Gytaku in Pearl City, where Matthew created a festive balloon arch for fun commemorative photos. The event featured thoughtful favors and was joined by her church and accountability friends, making it both a **celebration and a spiritual ceremony**. The **Certificate presentation, dedication prayer, and remarks of achievement** were conducted by **Board President Ken Humphries** and myself. This joyous gathering was a testament to the unwavering mental and spiritual support that surrounded Sue throughout her spiritual journey as a follower of Christ.

An Inspired Journey

Sue’s journey at BIH started with a spark of curiosity, encouraged by friends who urged her to explore the institute’s classes. What began as a casual interest quickly grew into a deep passion. “I enjoyed it so much that I would continue to take classes from time to time,” Sue shared. Among her earliest experiences was a class with **Ada Lum**, where she encountered a profound blend of worship and education. “It’s like having church and class all wrapped up in one,” she remarked.

Impactful Educational Experience

Reflecting on her time at BIH, Sue expressed profound gratitude for the courses and instructors that enriched her spiritual journey. “I am eternally grateful for my experience... how my faith has grown through each class,” she said. One particularly impactful course was **Hermeneutics**, taught by **Pastor James Kwong**, which deepened her understanding of Scripture. She also praised **Pastor Gary Lau**, whose approachable teaching style made biblical principles **relatable and practical**.

Overcoming Challenges

Sue’s academic path was marked by significant challenges. She courageously navigated a stroke and a breast cancer diagnosis during her studies. Despite these hardships, her faith and determination never wavered. “There was never a time during my break that I considered not returning to the program,” she affirmed. Sue’s perseverance is a spirit-filled testament to her trust in God’s plan, even in the face of adversity.

Looking Forward: A Second Wind

Having completed her CBS certification, Sue has already embarked on her next academic journey: the **Certificate in Mentored Ministries (CMM)** program at BIH. Her thirst for God’s Word and spiritual growth continues to keep her moving forward.

Wholeheartedly, Sue encourages anyone who, like herself, has been auditing classes for many years to pursue the CBS program, emphasizing the invaluable in-depth study, a light practicum component, and extra faculty attention that BIH provides. “The relationships you will gain are priceless. We are all wanting to learn and grow in our faith together,” she said.

A Story of Faith and Triumph

Sue Yoon’s journey is one of perseverance, faith, and the transformative power of biblical education. Congratulations, Sue, on your incredible achievements—and may God bless your next steps in ministry!

FALL CLASS HIGHLIGHT: God’s New Community: A Study of the Book of Ephesians

Dr. Rick Bartosik led an in-depth study of Ephesians at **Kailua Christian Church**, exploring the theme of “God’s new society”.

The course examined the church’s formation through Christ, its purpose, growth, and ultimate destiny as Christ’s holy bride. Participants gained insights from biblical scholars and theologians, enriching their understanding of the Ephesian letter.

Dr. Rick’s extensive ministry experience, spanning over four decades, includes roles as a pastor, minister, missionary, and chaplain. He has served in various capacities, including as Chaplain of Hawaii State Prison, Professor and Academic Dean, and Senior Pastor of Mililani Community Church. Dr. Bartosik also dedicated over 15 years to the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry in Hawaii.



Participants in Dr. Rick Bartosik’s in-depth study on the letter to the Ephesians hosted by Kailua Christian Church, Fall 2024.

Recently, he established the “Myanmar Church Planter Training Partnership” to train church planters throughout Myanmar. Throughout his career, Dr. Bartosik has ministered God’s Word in 12 countries across Europe and Asia. He and his wife **Diane** continue to serve the Lord together.



BIH Welcomes Back the Friesens for Marriage Conference

We are delighted to announce that popular speakers **Dr. Paul and Virginia Friesen** will return for our Marriage Conference on **March 7–8, 2025**, hosted by Kalihi Union Church.

As founders of Home Improvement Ministries, the Friesens bring over 40 years of experience in family ministry to this special event. Known for their humorous, engaging, and insightful presentations, they weave personal stories with scriptural wisdom to explore God’s design for marriage.

This two-day event promises an enriching experience for married couples, engaged pairs, and singles alike. **Mark your calendars and register now** to prepare for a weekend of growth, laughter, and spiritual enrichment!



ONE DAY SEMINAR

SEM-CO2

Marriage Conference: The Great Marriage Adventure

Dr. Paul and Virginia Friesen

There is arguably no greater adventure story told in the Bible than the account of God delivering the Children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the lush land of Canaan.

There is likely no greater adventure for us as humans than the marriage journey. It starts with the prospect of settling in a wonderful “promised land” called marriage. Along the way, however, outside circumstances and inner struggles deter us from experiencing the promised land of marriage we may have imagined. But through it all, God is with us,

continuing to guide us toward His gift of a vital marriage.

Come explore God’s desire for us, our expectations, challenges along the way, and the path to enjoying the “milk and honey” of marriage.

Conference Sessions:

1. “Expectations for the Journey of Marriage”
2. “Challenges along the Journey of Marriage”
3. “The Power of God in the Journey of Marriage”
4. “The Promised Harvest of the Journey of Marriage”

This conference promises to be an enriching experience for **married couples,**



ONE DAY SEMINAR

SEM-BST135

The Holy Spirit Through the Bible, Part 4

Dr. Gary Manning Jr.

This seminar is part of an in-depth series exploring the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the Bible. We will trace the Spirit’s presence and activity across Scripture—from Genesis to Revelation—with Part 4 focusing specifically on the Apostle Paul’s letters.

Our study will reveal how the Spirit has guided, empowered, and transformed believers as a vital part of God’s redemptive plan. Through this exploration, we aim to gain a deeper understanding of the Spirit’s ongoing work in our lives today, grounded in biblical teachings and historical context.

Administrative Fee:

**\$15 per household
February 22, 2025 (1-day)**

**Saturday, 9:00 – 12:00 Noon HT
Zoom Online from California**

 CBS/CMM: Flex Credit Hours



WINTER2025

Sharing God's Aloha with International Students Seminar

By Vernelle Oku

On August 17, 2024, **Olivet Baptist Church** and the Bible Institute of Hawaii hosted a free seminar, "Sharing God's Aloha with International Students," led by **Leiton and Lisa Chinn**. The event focused on engaging in local missionary work by reaching out to international students through hospitality and friendship.

The Chinns, with extensive experience in **International Student Ministries (ISM)**, shared their expertise. Lisa served as **National ISM Director** for 14 years, while Leiton held leadership roles including President of **ACMI (Association of Christians Ministering Among Internationals)** and Co-Leader of the **Anglican ISM Network**.

The seminar emphasized the biblical foundations for ministering to foreigners and highlighted the strategic opportunity to reach students from countries where Christianity is restricted. The Chinns provided practical steps for getting involved, such as prayer, assessing resources, and partnering with existing ministries. **Meredith Palicte**, Worship and Internationals Minister at University Avenue Baptist Church (UABC), expressed enthusiasm about the seminar's impact.

The event brought together diverse organizations, including **YWAM Honolulu, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Hawaii, UABC, Olivet Baptist Church, and Gracepoint Church**. Examples of ongoing initiatives were shared, such as **UABC's English Coffee Hour** and International Baptist Ministries' donation program for new students.

The event concluded with a call to action, urging churches and individuals in Hawaii to pray for opportunities to connect with international students. Attendees were encouraged



Sharing God's Aloha with International Students: Engaging Global Missions at Home | BIH Seminar by Leiton & Lisa Chinn | Saturday, August 17, 2024, at Olivet Baptist Church

to extend God's love and hospitality to the nations brought to their neighborhoods, emphasizing that fulfilling the Great Commission can begin with something as simple as sharing a cup of coffee.

A Call to Action

This seminar reminded me that fulfilling the Great Commission doesn't always mean crossing oceans—it can begin right here, with something as simple as sharing a cup of coffee. I urge every church and individual in Hawaii to pray for open doors to connect with someone from another country. Ask God to show you how you can extend His love and hospitality to the nations He has brought to our



FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: Dr. Bong Rin Ro's New Book Release

We are pleased to announce the release of the long-awaited book "**Asian Church History**" by our esteemed BIH faculty member, **Dr. Bong Rin Ro**, a recognized theologian, missiologist, and

founding leader and former executive secretary of the Asia Theological Association (just to name one of many titles held and accomplishments over his illustrious service of many years). Published by Kingdom Books Publisher in Korea (September 2024), this 575-page book offers a comprehensive overview of the historical development of churches across **25 Asian nations**.

The book was widely distributed during the recent **Lausanne Congress IV** in Seoul/Incheon, Korea, and will be utilized as a missiological textbook for Asian Church History courses in many of Asia's 1,300 Bible colleges and seminaries. This widespread adoption underscores the book's significance as a key resource for theological education across the continent.

Significance of the Work

Dr. Ro's book comes at a crucial time in the history of Asian Christianity. The rapid church growth in several Asian nations, including Korea, China, and various tribal groups in Thailand and Burma, has been a significant development in recent decades. This comprehensive work provides valuable insights into the diverse and dynamic Christian landscape across Asia.

Congratulations to Dr. Ro and his invaluable wife and proof-reader, **Alma**, to whom he has been married for over 60 years, on this remarkable contribution to the study of global church history!

For inquiries or to purchase a copy of the book, please contact Dr. Ro via email at rohonolulu@gmail.com.



WINTER QUARTER 2024 SCHEDULE OF COURSES

January 13 – March 17, 2025 (5–8 weeks)

Register online at www.biblehawaii.org.

For mail-in registrations, it must be postmarked by January 5, 2025

Registration fee: \$15 – \$40.

Monday

OT401

Exodus through Deuteronomy

Dr. James Kwong

This course will examine the events in the Old Testament during Moses' life from Egypt to the wilderness to the Promised Land. Students can expect weekly lecture, discussion, and application. Students should bring a Bible and a pen/pencil. Notes will be provided.

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

January 13 – March 17, 2025 (8 weeks,
except 1/20 & 2/17)

Mondays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

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

1117 Koko Head Ave, Honolulu

 CBS/CMM: OT – Pentateuch

Tuesday

NT005

ACTS: Preparing Our Lives for Mission

Pastor Todd Capen

This course will be an “eye opener.” With each chapter in Acts, attendees will learn how the kingdom promises of the Old Testament unfold in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. The class will get caught up in the movement of the Gospel. A verse-by-verse study with “big picture” overview handouts will be provided.

**Administrative Fee: \$35 per household
January 14 – March 3, 2025 (8 weeks)**

Tuesdays, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Zoom Online

 CBS/CMM: Acts



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

Wednesday

NT100

“Redeemed: Walking with the Savior from Birth to Resurrection” (For OCCC Inmates Only)

Pastor Rodney Wong

“Redeemed” guides inmates through a clear and engaging study of the life of Jesus. This course follows the journey of the Savior from His humble birth in Bethlehem to His transformative resurrection. Each session highlights key moments and teachings from Jesus' ministry, emphasizing the power of redemption and its life-changing impact. Participants will be encouraged toward personal growth and spiritual renewal throughout the study.

Your generous support is vital in providing biblical education to inmates at no cost to the inmate or their families. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to making a Christ-centered impact on their lives. Your sponsorship towards the class will be considered a tax-deductible donation to the BIH.

**Administrative Fee: \$35 per inmate
January 22 - March 12, 2025 (8 weeks)**

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM

 CBS/CMM: NT-Survey

NT010

To the Praise of His Glory: Exploring Ephesians 1:3-14

Ms. Nanette Williams

Who are you? If someone asked you this question, how would you answer? A student? A parent? A friend? But beyond these important earthly roles, it is life-giving for Christians to discover who we are *in Christ*.

This 5-week course will study Paul's doxology of praise in Ephesians 1:3-14. As Paul describes the wonderful blessings from the Father that are in Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit, we will begin to see God's heart for us and “the riches of His grace

which He lavished on us” (Eph 1:7-8, NASB). Through this grace, we as His church and His children are made new and are invited into a loving relationship with Him.

The goal of this course is for us to embrace the beauty of who God is. And in light of who God is, who we are in Him. Then we can move forward with joy and strength as we cry out with Paul, “to the praise of the glory of His grace” (1:6).

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

February 5 – March 5, 2025 (5 weeks)

Wednesdays, 1:00 – 2:45 PM

In-person only @ Makiki Christian Church
829 Pensacola St., Honolulu (Lower Social
Hall Conf. Rm)

 CBS/CMM: NT-Letters

Thursday

OT019

Psalms: Meeting the Lord Jesus in the Spirit-inspired Prayers

Dr. Rick Stinton

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

**Administrative Fee: \$35 per household
January 16 - February 20, 2025 (6 weeks)**

Thursdays, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Zoom Online

 CBS/CMM: OT-Psalms

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.” (Philippians 4:6)

Administrative Fee: \$40
(Bring-a-Friend Free)
January 23 – March 13, 2025
(7 weeks, except 2/13)

Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:30 PM
In-person only @ Hawaii Kai Community Church
6650 Hawaii Kai Dr. #107, Honolulu

 CBS/CMM: Skills

CLV 204
Biblical Theology of Work
Mr. Cheyne Rippey

The marketplace is the frontier for evangelism and discipleship in the developed world. The Theology of Work movements in the past two decades have exploded as people have realized their desire for meaningful work is perfectly in line with

the Biblical definitions of work, vocation, calling, ministry, provision, and creativity. This class will survey a Biblical Theology of Work, the history of the Faith & Work movements, and equip the students to take these principles practically to their jobs. It will help pastors learn how to equip their members and go arm-in-arm with business leaders in The Great Commission.

Administrative Fee: \$40 per household
January 23 – March 13, 2025 (8 weeks)
Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM
Zoom Online

 CBS/CMM: Skills

Friday
CNS205
Discovering Your Spiritual Narrative
with Dr. Elaine Eng

Abraham’s life provides lessons for a contemporary believer’s journey and its challenges. In this course, we will examine Abraham’s story and how the Genesis account of his life informs our own narrative.

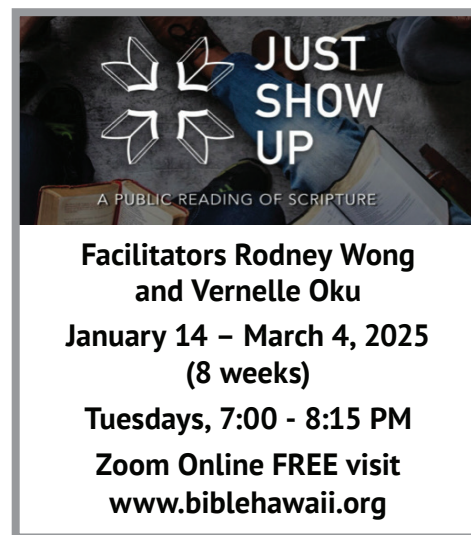
We will correlate Bible lessons with insights from the counseling field. The students will learn the importance of

developing one’s own spiritual autobiography and its impact on others. Ideas for implementation in the church will be addressed.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. By it the men of old gained approval.” (Hebrews 11:1-2)

Administrative Fee: \$40 per household
January 24 – March 14, 2025 (7 weeks, except 2/14)
Fridays, 9:30 – 11:30 AM
Zoom Online

 CBS/CMM: Skills



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 5, 2025

See Schedule of Courses for more details

Course No.	Course Name	Admin Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> OT401	Exodus through Deuteronomy 	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> NT005	ACTS: Preparing Our Lives for Mission 	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> NT100	“Redeemed: Walking with the Savior” 	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> NT010	To the Praise of His Glory: Ephesians 	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> OT019	Psalms: Meeting the Lord Jesus 	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> CNS204	Spiritual and Mental Health Counseling 	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> CLV 204	Biblical Theology of Work 	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> CLV 205	Discovering Your Spiritual Narrative 	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> BST115	RECLAIM 神的国 God’s Kingdom 	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-BST134	The Holy Spirit Through the Bible, Pt 4 	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> SEM-CO2	Marriage Conference 	\$20
	Total Administrative Fee	_____
	Optional gift to BIH	_____
	TOTAL ENCLOSED	_____



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