

# **ORIENTAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

## **CATALOG 2022-23**

Oriental Theological Seminary (OTS) is a graduate institution of higher learning and is committed to the lordship of Jesus Christ, academic excellence, and ministry formation. The vision of OTS is to nurture Christian leaders for postmodern as well as developing contexts towards intellectual proficiency, theological coherence, spiritual maturity, and practical efficacy.

At OTS we recognize the various gifts of students for Christian ministry that await development and direction. We strive to fulfill the aspirations represented by the students even as we envisage their varied callings to be pastors, missional leaders, educators, counselors, community workers, and social activists. OTS is therefore committed to equip students with academic and professional skills while instilling in them a deep conviction of who they are as disciples of Jesus Christ as they prepare to minister in a complex world.

OTS, since its establishment in 1991 by the Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC), has conducted 24 commencements with over 500 graduates in its list. OTS is located 20 km South-west of Dimapur town in a lush green space covering an area over 70 acres of land, generously donated by the inhabitants of Bade village.

With the theme “Being Transformed to Transform,” OTS is en route towards contributing significantly to the ongoing ministry of Christ and His Kingdom to the ends of the earth.

## **HISTORY**

The NBCC had long felt the need of establishing a theological seminary in Nagaland. A milestone in the history of the NBCC was thus achieved with the founding of OTS in 1991. Under the ownership and sponsorship of the NBCC, OTS continues to aim for excellence as an institution and as a community of God.

The convictions behind OTS have been clear from its very birth. On the practical side, OTS would fulfill the felt need of having a graduate level theological school in Nagaland. This would ease the growing demand of theological students seeking admissions for higher studies in other parts of India or abroad for lack of adequate institutions at home. OTS has the distinctions for being the first theological seminary to provide graduate studies in Nagaland.

A more serious conviction of establishing OTS, is the primary purpose of imparting dialogical theological education and upholding the uniqueness of Jesus Christ in the realm of theological studies. Such a focus we believe, will prepare men and women for relevant and adequate leadership in our churches and society.

The first academic session began in July 1993 with the first graduating class in 1996. Since then, our graduates as of 2018 consist of close to 400 men and women, placed in different ministries at home and abroad. We are proud of our alumni and their ministries as they live out their calling and commitment.

## **FOCUS AND GOALS**

Oriental Theological Seminary exists to develop Christian ministry leaders who can influence culture with an integral biblical worldview. Our intent is to train men and women to be more effective witnesses to Jesus Christ and to encourage development of the skills that are necessary for ministry in today's world.

The academic curriculum at OTS is designed not only for academic quality but to nurture the call and commitment of all the students and to equip them to serve effectively and relevantly in an ever-changing world. Beyond the campus pedagogy a key component of education at OTS takes place outside the classroom. The practical ministry and internship programs contribute immeasurably towards holistic development of the students, equipping them with rich empirical experiences to minister to people of all ages and backgrounds.

The goal of academic excellence is perceived to be a Christian responsibility at OTS. OTS is firmly committed to admitting only the best, who will effectively and meaningfully communicate the gospel to an ever changing and complex world. This is nowhere more visible than in our teacher/students ratio. At OTS we believe in quality and not in quantity.

Besides academic excellence, spiritual growth is as essential for a theological student as is academic development and practical experience. For this reason, OTS takes a deep interest in the life of all the students to see that they are guided to their highest ability in exercising their spiritual gifts for the benefit of the community. Chapel services are conducted twice weekly for personal enrichment and as a ministry committed to the rest of the seminary community. There are also opportunities for small group work, spiritual direction and mentoring, and discipleship. These are some of the ways in which OTS nurtures the spiritual growth of our students.

## **CORE VALUES AND COMMUNITY STANDARDS**

OTS seeks to maintain high standards of integrity in all areas of life - academic, spiritual, ministry, and relationships. This Community Standards expresses the purposes and specific objectives of OTS. Academic and co-curricular programs at OTS are planned and carried out in the hope that all members of the seminary community will:

- Affirm the communion of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- Earnestly consider the claims of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- Appreciate that all truth is from God and that Jesus Christ is acknowledged as the Lord of our intellectual faculty.
- Cultivate intelligent, vigorous, and joyful commitment to Jesus Christ, His church, and His world.
- Display knowledge of sound biblical teaching and their application to life situations.
- Develop a Christian world-view.
- Be committed to excellence in academic work and to life-long learning.
- Be aware of one's own worth and potential.
- Be aware of one's historical and theological heritage.
- Be prepared to live in an interdependent world, aware of global issues and local situations, and dedicated to bring God's justice and peace to all individuals and societies.
- Take community relationships seriously, seeking to understand and live them in light of biblical and theological commitments.
- Seek and create an environment in which all community members feel safe to engage in courteous and respectful conversation in the pursuit of truth, as we seek to be formed and transformed by the Scripture.
- Embrace the implications of being the "new humanity in Christ" by treating gender, ethnic, class, and denominational differences with equality (Galatians 3:28).

- Exercise Christian stewardship of time, possessions and bodies.
- Be equipped with the communication skills of the gospel which will enable us to participate meaningfully and creatively in churches and in societies.

## **PROGRAMS OF STUDIES**

- ***MASTER OF DIVINITY***
- ***MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL COUNSELING***
- ***MASTER OF THEOLOGY***

### **MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDiv): THREE-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAM**

The MDiv degree is the core program of the seminary and is designed for academic competency and professional ministry. The MDiv program is tailored for students with a Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from a recognized college/university. The MDiv program is accredited by Asia Theological Association (ATA).

The MDiv program has the unique concern for an acquaintance with the theological, spiritual, and practical traditions of significance in the life of the church so that the personal faith of the students may be broadened and deepened. The program also seeks to develop a mature theological perspective through a personal acquaintance with God, with the work of the church, and with the needs of the world, which can be the basis for the students' work as a minister of the Word and a stimulus toward continued education and growth.

The MDiv program ensures that students develop skills in preaching, teaching, church administration, leading worship, counseling, and community services, which will effectively assist in the communication and implementation of the gospel. These skills are based upon a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Bible, its content and teaching as the written word of God, and the rule of faith and practice for the Christian. Students get to involve in the systematic study of scripture and theology while being exposed to the current theological issues and positions of the day, with the goal of equipping to think independently and constructively in the areas vital to ministry.

The MDiv program is therefore designed to develop students who are intent on equipping themselves for professional Christian work such as pastoral ministry, mission, counseling, Christian education, youth ministry, among others. The program also serves as the foundation for those interested in acquiring higher theological degrees. Thus, students are well prepared to meet the various aspects

and challenges of ministry as well as preparing themselves for higher studies with sound biblical, theological, historical, and practical perspectives.

### ***Degree Requirements for the Master of Divinity Program***

#### ***90 Credit Hours + 9 Credit Hours of Practicum***

- The MDiv program comprises 60 Hours of Core Courses and 30 Hours of Elective Courses inclusive of 15 Hours for Practicum during the three-year full-time studies. These 90 Credit Hours include:
  1. Course Works
  2. Project Paper
  3. Field Education/Internship

#### ***The Master of Divinity degree is awarded to students meeting the following requirements***

- Completion of all academic, practical, and community requirements as prescribed by the seminary
- Securing a minimum average grade of “C+” to graduate with the Master of Divinity degree.
- The student must exemplify a quality life and commitment suitable for ministry
- The recommendation of the faculty to the Board of Governors who formally award the degree
- Complete payment of all accounts and fees to the seminary.

#### ***Admission Requirements for the Master of Divinity Program***

- A Bachelor’s Degree from any recognized University or College
- High School (HSLC) and Higher Secondary (HSSLC) Passed or 10+2 (Statutory State/Central Board)
- Fulfill the requirements stated in admission policies
- Pass the interview conducted by the seminary

#### ***Duration of Studies***

MDiv in OTS is a three-years residential study program. Students who cannot finish his/her study within the stipulated period for one reason or another should petition to the Academic Dean for extension. Under normal circumstances six months extension can be granted. Any extension beyond that will be done upon the evaluation of the student’s performance by the faculty. In any case, it should be noted that under no circumstances the duration of study for MDiv shall exceed six years from the year of enrolment. This does not apply to students who failed and have to repeat.

#### ***Failed & Withdrawn***

Students who fail in three or more subjects (courses) in an academic year will not be allowed to continue his/her study in OTS. A certificate will be issued and status “withdrawn” will be marked. This certificate should not be considered as a graduation from OTS. In such cases, no recommendation for transfer to other institution will be issued by the authority.

MDiv Year 1 students who otherwise pass in all subjects but whose GPA stands below C+ will be given the option to accept a one-year theological study certificate and leave the seminary. This certificate should not be considered as a graduation from OTS. In such cases, no recommendation for transfer to other institution will be issued by the authority.

### ***Senior Project for MDiv***

As part of the academic exercise seniors are required to write a Project Paper. This is done so to enable students to incorporate what they have learned in any discipline into a scholarly treatise. The work should be a critical-analytical reflection on the topic of research. Originality and coherent research methodology must be demonstrated. The project should not be less than 25 pages and not more than 30 pages, excluding bibliography. Students are expected to start their writing during Fall Quarter of the Final Year of study. The topic for research has to be approved by the Academic Dean and each student will be assigned a mentor to supervise his/her Project Paper.

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL COUNSELING (MACC): TWO-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAM**

The Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling is a two-year full-time program that aims to prepare theoretically proficient, clinically skilled, and compassionate mental health practitioners. This program underscores the long felt need in our region to clarify mental health, an often misconstrued term, and develop counseling and psychotherapy as a respectable, publicly-recognized discipline, and effective medium for promoting growth and healing. Students will be trained and nurtured within a supportive Christian environment for the development of the whole person – spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, and relationally. What makes this program unique is its strong emphasis on the practice of clinical counseling using the multiple lens of psychology, theology, and Christian faith-based practices. The curriculum is designed with an integrative approach, offering cross-disciplinary courses in the areas of psychology and theology. As a result, it prepares students to interact with and work in the mental health field while maintaining a Christian worldview.

### **Program Format:**

- Two-year, full-time graduate program.
- Focused on training individuals to demonstrate the skills and competencies required to work with diverse populations – adults, children,

- individuals, groups and families from various cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds thereby making them competent in the area of multicultural and social justice issues.
- A combination of didactic instruction, field exposure, supervised therapy, and consistent mentor-peer supervision.
  - A strong emphasis on the practicum training with inpatient and outpatient agencies, to provide hands-on, in-depth clinical experience in professional settings.
  - Delivered by a highly competent, professionally-experienced and diverse faculty, dedicated to the cultivation of Christian ethical practices, multicultural counseling competency, lifelong learning, and personal character formation in students.

**Prerequisites for Program Admission:**

- Bachelor's degree from a recognized institution
- 6 credits of course works in psychology/education/counseling
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 or B

**Graduation Requirements:**

- Completion of 60 credit hours.
- Completion of 100 client-contact counseling; 60 hours of supervision; and 8 hours of personal therapy.
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 or B

**Courses offered:**

Orientation to the Program, Psychology – Theory & Practice, Integrative Psychotherapy, Family Systems, Marital Counseling, Theology/Biblical courses, Christian Education, Spiritual Formation, Research Methodology, Self-care for the Professional.

**Practicum Avenues:**

- Hospitals
- Educational Institutions
- NGOs
- Christian Ministries

**Future Prospects for Graduates of MACC:**

- Churches
- School/College Counselor
- NGOs
- Hospitals
- Private Practice

**MASTER OF THEOLOGY (MTh): TWO-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAM**

The Master of Theology (MTh) is a two to four-year study-research program for students who have earned a Bachelor of Divinity (BD) or Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree from a recognized institution and wish to broaden and deepen their theological knowledge and to sharpen their critical-analytical skills through advanced research. This goal is achieved by providing the students the opportunity to take advanced courses in areas previously undertaken and courses that would help them in their preferred field of ministry. The program allows students to become conversant and competent in developing their methodological framework and specialize in their area of interest.

The MTh program is a joint initiative of Oriental Theological Seminary (OTS) and Shalom Bible Seminary (SBS) under the aegis of ATA. The consortium of OTS and SBS for the MTh program is run by the **Asia Graduate School of Theology-North East India (AGST-NEI)**

### **The Aim and Structure of AGST-NEI**

“We are two seminaries in North East India entrusted with the charge to impart sound, holistic theological education to impact the church and society in our region. Recognizing that there is an urgent need to train skilled, competent personnel at the post-MDiv level to meet the varied challenges of church ministry in a variety of settings, we sincerely embark on this challenging task. Through rigorous training and equipping of God’s people, we desire to impact our region and beyond with transformational leadership.”

The Dean of AGST-NEI serves as the coordinator of the program. He/she works directly in consultation with the AGST-NEI Academic Council, Deans of the Post Graduate Studies and Academic Deans.

### **Asia Theological Association**

“Asia Theological Association was formed in 1970 as a direct outcome of the Pan-Asia Congress of Evangelism held in Singapore in 1968. The initial intention was to serve as a coordinating agency for evangelical theological education in Asia. In 1977, it began offering accreditation services to evangelical institutions in Asia. The Asia Graduate School of Theology was established as the research and education arm of the association in 1983” (Source: “Article II: History” of the ATA constitution)

### **The Purpose of Asia Graduate School of Theology**

“The AGST seeks to promote coordination and sharing of resources across regions through federated and joint programs at the post-M.Div. degree levels, joint research projects, and the interchange of postgraduate students and faculty. At the regional level, the aim of the AGST is to promote federated and joint programs and the interchange of post-graduate students and faculty between member institutions. (Source: “Article XIII: Asia Graduate School of Theology” of the ATA Constitution).



### ***MTh Programs for 2022-2023***

- Christian Ethics (OTS campus)
- Christian History (OTS campus)
- Christian Theology (OTS campus)
- Practical Theology (SBS campus)

### ***Christian Ethics***

The MTh program in Christian Ethics is designed for offering a disciplined understanding of the moral identity and ethical responsibility of individuals, Christians, Churches and institutions in the twenty first century. It helps students in developing a Biblically grounded, a theologically coherent, a pastorally sensitive and an ethically prophetic framework of Christian life and a visionary mission of socio-political witness for engaging the multiple facets of contemporary public life.

Grounded in both historical and contemporary traditions of Christian ethical methodologies, it draws on the various disciplines of theology in presenting constructive proposals on the personal, spiritual, social and political matters that have a direct bearing on the well-being of Christian communities and the wider society. It employs and critically engages the empirical and qualitative data from human and social sciences for deepening its understanding of the dynamic forces and institutions that shape today's complex human and planetary situations. These objectives are achieved through a dialogical engagement with analytical tools, such as: foundational texts and figures, methodological and hermeneutical mediation, contextual case studies, social analysis and pastoral reflection on Christian ministry.

Representative courses include the following: Christian Ethical Methodologies, Themes and Issues in Christian Ethics; Contextual Theologies and Contemporary Ideologies; Culture and Social Theory; Community Transformation and Christian Public Witness; Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding; Implications of Key Social and Pastoral Documents; Text Seminar; Theo-ethical Engagement of Contemporary Voices; Spirituality/Stories of Prophetic-pastoral Leadership; and, Integration Seminar.

### ***Christian History***

The MTh degree program in the field of History of Christianity provides continuing education through the discipline of academic excellence to broaden and deepen theological knowledge beyond MDiv level. The program aims to develop in the students an informed, critical approach to pursue advance training to enhance their knowledge and competence for future ministry, as well as, prepare students for research degree programs. It focuses at the Christian past from both theological and historical perspectives. It provides options for special study of themes from the

Early Church period to the present World/Global Christianity. The program will enable the students to understand and reflect critically upon the historical contexts in which Christian thought has developed. It is particularly advantageous to the students of Northeast India, as instructors are well informed of the regional cultures and contexts within which Christianity evolved. Students will be given the opportunity to experience interdisciplinary approach to learning through elective courses offered by historians, theologians and ethicists.

Students will be taught mainly in small seminar environment, and one-to-one directed readings. They will be given training in research methodology which offers a practical approach to postgraduate level skills of critical research and writing. Representative courses in the discipline: Historiography (core), Global Christianity (core), History of Christian Doctrines (core), Asian Church History (Core), Global Missions, Theology of the Reformers, Pentecostal History, Women in Church History and Ministry (core), History of Missions in Modern Christianity. Other elective interdisciplinary courses can be selected at the students' discretion and in consultation with the assigned academic adviser.

### ***Christian Theology***

The MTh program in Christian Theology is designed in order to train scholars who can serve the church both locally and globally as teachers, researchers, pastors, and leaders of the church and society. The program aims at nurturing faithful men and women to the teaching of Scripture coupled with a strong Christological emphasis towards strengthening and equipping the church in its mission. Representative courses include: Theological Systems I (God, Christology, and Pneumatology), Theological Systems II (Soteriology, Ecclesiology, and Eschatology), Studies in Christology, and Advanced Readings on Contemporary Theologians.

Theology is a critical reflection on the belief and praxis of faith communities. It requires a critical-ethical analysis, historical awareness, and contextual understanding. Deep theological reflection and burning contemporary issues related to the church and society are brought up and analyzed in the classroom through classes like Christian Ethical Methodologies (integrated course), Theological Readings of Religion and Society, Themes and Issues in Christian Ethics (integrated course), and Contextual Theologies and Contemporary Ideologies. The program is committed to teaching students to recognize the connection between Christian theology and responsible Christian action. Both the Christian faith and practice serve as a basis of the curriculum.

### ***Practical Theology***

The MTh in Applied Theology is a 2-year research oriented program designed for students who have earned an MDiv degree from a recognized theological institution/seminary. Upon admission, the student is introduced into an environment where a high level of integration of spiritual formation and academic

learning is facilitated. The course encourages each student to take initiative and explore personal interaction with dedicated tutors.

This program allows students to concentrate their coursework in the field of Applied Theology to develop a high level of competency in ministry with focus on integrating various practical disciplines. In the end, the course enables students to become conversant with diverse ministerial subjects such as Biblical Theology and Interpretation, Christian Education, Counseling, Missions, Religion, Leadership and Conflict Management, Apologetics, and Ethics.

### **Duration and Degree Requirements for the Master of Theology Program**

The Master of Theology is a two-year full-time research degree program and can be extended up to four years part-time to complete the prescribed requirements for graduation. It should be clearly understood that completion of the two years in residency or whatsoever without fulfilling the requirements does not constitute the completion of the program. A minimum grade of B should be secured to graduate with the MTh degree in all course works and thesis. This time limit may only be extended in special circumstances by petition to the AGST-NEI Academic Council.

#### **Credit Break Down of MTh Program**

Core: 18 Credits
Electives: 12 Credits
Thesis: 6 Credits
Practical Ministry: 3 Credits
<b>Total units: 39 Credits</b>

### ***Admission Requirements for the MTh Program***

Applicants should possess an MDiv/BD degree with a GPA of 3.0 in a scale of 4 (B grade). Applications for admission including all transcripts from high school onward to MDiv/BD must be submitted. Decision for admission to the program will be made by the respective departments, based on the evaluation of academic transcripts, performance in the entrance examination and other pertinent factors. Admissions will be given only to graduates of institutions (Serampore and ATA accredited schools) currently recognized by AGST-NEI.

During the application process, applicants are encouraged to contact faculty members with whom they would like to work to discuss their area of interests. Admission to the program is done with good faith but if the faculty find any student lacking the academic capacity and the aptitude for the degree to which he/she is admitted he/she will not claim the right for continuation. This policy is based on the fact that MTh degree, like any other academic degree in the academic pursuit, must be pursued only by those who are capable. Therefore, when such case

arises, the decision of the department and AGST-NEI Academic Council shall be final.

## **Plan of the MTh Program**

### ***Academics***

- Courses: core, electives, thesis
- Disciplined theology and research methods (workshop)
- Thesis writing workshop
- Research and library exposure
- Extra credits: extra units would be awarded for attendance in courses offered by visiting lecturers
- Certificates: Recognition for attendance in specialized seminars/workshops falling under the students' area of specialization
- Academic responsibilities: Post graduate students are asked to serve as co-organisers in college academic programs. They are given the opportunity to serve as respondents, moderators and facilitators in seminars, and in faculty and post-graduate colloquium.

### ***Supervision and Mentoring***

- The following offices are involved in the over-all supervision and mentoring of students: Dean of AGST-NEI, AGST-NEI Academic Council, Dean of Post Graduate Studies, Principal, and Academic Dean.
- SBS and OTS faculty, departmental faculty Mentoring and Thesis Supervision: The department coordinator and the thesis supervisor in the area of the student's concentration is responsible for advising the student about courses and research plans.. Department coordinators will assign faculty supervisors. The supervisor and the student are responsible for selecting a second reader.

### ***Spiritual Formation and Practical Ministry***

- Serve as leaders and facilitators in growth group, chapel, worship services, retreat
- Ministry orientation, weekend practical ministry, church outreach
- Opportunities in different committees formed by the college
- Community service

### ***Designing and Selection of Core and Elective Courses***

**Core Courses:** Core courses are mandatory as they introduce students to the historical and contemporary concerns of a specific discipline by attending to its foundational sources, assumptions (perspectives), concepts, figures, issues and areas of pastoral, ecclesial and social implications.

**Elective Courses:** Electives are essential for promoting interdisciplinary approach in theological study. Elective courses allow the student and supervisor to design the study plan of a candidate with more academic creativity and foresight. Electives can be chosen within or outside the discipline of a candidate. Selection and designing of electives have two primary functions:

- To promote deeper and specialized understanding of a subject matter or acquire advanced reading in the area of one's thesis writing or academic interest
- To allow other disciplines to learn and familiarize with specific subjects/topics that they will find helpful.
- Students who wish to have specialized input (not available in his/her discipline) from other disciplines for strengthening his/her developing area of research interest can design the elective courses in consultation with the supervisor.
- Students may be given the freedom to elect courses from the same or other departments/areas or even elect to take courses from the MDiv program if there is sufficient justification.

### ***Nature of Core and Elective Courses***

The offering of the both core and elective courses would be determined by a number of factors: student enrolment, nature of the study, learning needs, specialization of the student in a particular discipline, workload of the teachers, etc. Depending on these factors, courses can take any of the relevant forms:

- Seminar
- Reading Seminar
- Research seminar
- Directed Study
- Independent study
- Colloquium
- Reading Courses: Reading course or directed study will be offered and the requirements will be set by the instructor. In any case, students will read no less than 1500 pages and will include book summary, review, interaction and a term paper of no less than 25 pages.

### ***Assigning of Course Credit***

Credit is given only to the approved courses which a student successfully completes. No course which receives a grade lower than a B may count toward the degree. In this case, the Instructor will determine if extra work needs to be done to improve the grade or to retake the course.

### ***Crediting of MDiv Courses***

Students may be required to seat for courses offered in the MDiv program, but in that case the Instructor will personally design the course outline and set the requirements for MTh students. The requirements will be over and above the course syllabus requirements for the MDiv students.

## ***Thesis***

Requirement for thesis writing and submission:

- Students must write and present a thesis proposal for approval by the supervisor and second reader, to be granted the status of candidacy by the end of the first year. This status will entitle the student to begin to write the thesis. No student will be permitted to proceed with thesis research until candidacy is granted.
- Thesis proposal must be drafted, presented and approved in Year 1 on or before the deadline indicated in the AGST-NEI Academic Calendar.
- The writing of thesis is designed to demonstrate the student's competence in his/her area of concentration. It should deal with a specific topic in a way comparable with a paper published in professional journal.
- The thesis is for 6 credit Units.
- The normal length of the Thesis 100 - 120 pages exclusive of Bibliography and annexures.
- A thesis is considered complete and passed when the following expectations are fulfilled:
  - The thesis is graded B or above
  - Three standard bound copies printed in Executive Bond paper are submitted to the Dean of PG studies, at the institution in which the degree program is offered.

## ***Residency and Non-residency***

Students will be required to be in residence until all the course works are complete. However, exceptions can be made when a student is left with only writing of the thesis. In this case, he/she can do the research off campus. For this status to be granted, he/she will petition to the mentor and the Academic Council of the respective schools. This decision should be notified to the AGST-NEI Academic Council. This status will be granted if the student can provide evidence that he/she can be off campus and finish the research without any hindrance to the progress of the research.

## ***Deficiency and Incomplete Status***

In some cases if the Academic Council feels that a student is incompetent for the degree, but nonetheless sees the potential and the prospect of developing the student, he/she will be required to take some remedial courses in the MDiv level to make up the deficiencies. Courses taken under this category will be entered as elective and will not count toward the total unit required for the MTh degree.

At any point in time the academic performance of a student will be reviewed by the Academic Council of the respective schools. If the Council feels that the student will not be able to do an advance study and research he/she will be asked to withdraw and will be awarded a Post-graduate Diploma in Theological Studies (PGDTS). In any case, students whose GPA falls under B will not be permitted for continuation unless the student agrees to make up the deficiencies by taking extra courses. Alternative arrangements must be made in consultation with the subject instructor, Dean of PG studies, and the Academic Dean. This may eventually lead to the extension of study duration.

### **Fees and Payment**

Since MTh is the highest academic degree offered by the institutions, there is no reduction of fees based on the units taken. The students will have to pay the stipulated fees as stated in the catalog. Apart from the fees stated in the catalog, MTh students will have to pay a separate thesis registration. A thesis registration fee of Rs. 13,000 (Rupees thirteen thousand only) will be realized once the Thesis Proposal is approved. An MTh graduate may also pay and acquire the academic hood separately at a cost of Rs. 1,500 upon graduation. After a completion of two academic years if, however, the student has not completed the work, he/she will have to pay a fee of Rs. 7,000 (seven thousand) as continuation fee, and Rs. 10,000 (ten thousand) as thesis reading fee and all other applicable fees. This is required in order to activate the student to a full time status. Other fees (dorm fee, library fee, etc.,) will be determined according to the need and utilization of the seminary facilities.

### **Graduation**

Graduation is the final stage of the student's work. Upon fulfillment of the requirements, the Academic Council will recommend the candidate for graduation. A minimum GPA of B must be secured for graduation. No student will be allowed to march in the graduation with any hang over. Students may be cleared for graduation during any quarter of the academic year, but conferring of degree will only take place during the Graduation/Commencement Exercises. All academic requirements and dues in the accounts office must be cleared for graduation.

## **ACADEMIC PROCEDURES**

### ***Academic Year***

OTS follows the Trimester system. The academic year is divided into three 12 week trimesters.

### ***Admission on Condition***

In few cases admission is granted to candidates with condition. In such cases “No Candidacy” is granted till the candidate’s proficiency is proven in the first year by demonstrating:

- (a) A desirable life style of commitment and dedication to ministry.
- (b) A matured life style during his/her one year of seminary life.
- (c) His/her academic ability to undergo a master level of study and research by maintaining a GPA of C+ and above.

If these conditions are not made apparent in the first year, the student will be asked to withdraw his/her study from OTS.

### **Grading Criteria and Guidelines**

1. Scale: Grade Point Average is based on a scale of 4.0

A+	4.0	B+	3.3	C+	2.3	F	1.6 and below
A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0		
A-	3.7	B-	2.7	C-	1.7		

2. Grading Guidelines: Grades are marked with letters only guided by the following general criteria:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Qualitative Interpretation</b>
A+	Outstanding	An outstanding/exceptional/excellent performance. The student demonstrates commendable knowledge of the subject matter, critical analytical and assessment skills, perceptive judgment, and a high degree of independent thinking and originality
A	Exceptional	
A-	Excellent	
B+	Very Good	A very good/good/satisfactory performance. The student demonstrates good/satisfactory knowledge of the subject matter, competent analytical and assessment skills, fair judgment, a viable degree of independent thinking, and acceptable reading and writing ability
B	Good	
B-	Satisfactory	
C+	Average	An average/inadequate/poor performance with significant shortcomings. The student demonstrates a limited degree of knowledge of the subject matter, deficient analytical and assessment skills, flawed judgment, lack of any independent thinking, and weak reading and writing ability
C	Inadequate	
C-	Poor	



F	Fail	A performance that is not acceptable. The student demonstrates insufficient knowledge of the subject matter, no analytical and assessment skills, an absence of both judgment and independent thinking. Any other unacceptable conduct and performance should be marked "F"
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In case some courses/subjects (e.g., language) are evaluated numerically because of their objective nature, the numerical figures should be converted to letter grades as given below:

**Equivalency of Letter and Number Grades**

<b>A+</b> 90 and above	<b>B+</b> 75-79	<b>C+</b> 60-64	<b>F</b> 49 and Below
<b>A</b> 85-89	<b>B</b> 70 -74	<b>C</b> 55-59	
<b>A-</b> 80-84	<b>B-</b> 65- 69	<b>C-</b> 50-54	

***Incomplete***

A course is counted as an F in the compilation of the grade point average (GPA) until the student’s work is completed and submitted. Incompletes are granted only when a student can demonstrate sufficient cause for not completing the course work on time. Acceptable reasons are limited to illness, family crisis and other significant hindrances. Approval must be obtained from both the Course Facilitator and the Academic Dean prior to the last day of the class. Incompletes are due 15 days after the end of the term. Thereafter, an incomplete becomes an F and will be counted as an F in the compilation of the grade point average (GPA). This is not to be confused with a straight fail in the subject, where the student is permitted to retake the course when offered. An incomplete turning to F is part of academic discipline and therefore, in order to retake the course the student will need a special permission from the Academic Dean.

***Policy of Grade Reduction for Late Submission of Assignments***

For assignments that are past due but do not fall under the incomplete policy, grade reduction will be determined by the course facilitator/instructor. Any extension beyond three days will be directly petitioned to the Academic Dean. Extension may be granted or else grade turned to IC (Incomplete). Even if extension is granted, there will be a reduction of a third of a letter grade from the percentage given to that particular assignment. It should be noted that at OTS late submission of assignments are considered a reflection of the student’s poor academic disciplines.

***Failed and Withdrawn Status***

Students who fail in three subjects (courses) in one academic year and whose GPA falls below the minimum requirement of a degree program will not be promoted and he/she will be asked to withdraw his/her study from OTS. No petition to continue shall be entertained. In such a case, transcript will be issued

with “FAILED AND WITHDRAWN” marked on the transcript. Students with such record shall not be considered alumni of OTS and no transfer nor recommendation letter to other institution be issued by the institution.

### ***Academic Probation***

A student is placed in academic probation for his/her poor performance in studies. If a student remains in this status for more than three consecutive terms, unless there are extenuating circumstances the student shall be dismissed from studies at OTS.

A student is also placed in academic probation when he/she receives any disciplinary action from the faculty. The academic probation in this case serves as a warning to the student and may range from one quarter to one whole year of leave from study. If the student fails to conduct himself/herself as specified during the probation period, he/she shall be terminated from the seminary without any further considerations. It should be noted that academic probation status is not always necessary for the student to be terminated. Breaking any rules and regulations as stated in the Students’ Handbook constitutes enough reason for a student to be terminated.

### ***Leaves and Transfers to Other Schools***

A student who expects to drop out of OTS permanently, or who expects to transfer to another institution, should notify the Academic Dean in writing at least three months before the scheduled leaving of the seminary. In no case will there be a refund of admission fees.

A student who intends to leave the seminary temporarily due to health reasons and expects to return to studies at OTS should petition the Academic Dean before leaving for permission to return to studies. This temporary termination of studies is granted to a student only on medical grounds, and therefore, the petition should be substantiated by a certification from a medical doctor.

Since reinstatement is expected after a quarter there will be no refund of fees. Students in this category should have all the outstanding fees paid before taking such a leave.

If a student medical leave exceeds two quarters, upon his/her return he/she should produce a fitness certificate to continue study from a medical practitioner.

### ***Transcript***

A transcript will be issued to all students free of charge for the first time. A fee of Rs. 500 will be realized towards request for subsequent issue of official transcripts to be collected in the office. If, however, a student’s record of transcript is to be mailed by post or sent electronically (scanned copy, email)

directly to an individual or an institution, a request letter along with Rs 1000 has to be submitted to the Academic Office. Only then the record will be released.

### ***Diploma (Degree)***

Diploma (certificate) is issued to a student only after all the academic differences are cleared and dues paid. The seminary cannot issue any provisional diploma. Issuance of Diploma would mean that the student has successfully completed his/her studies and is entitled to a degree offered by OTS. A fee of Rs. 500 will be realized towards request for subsequent issue of original Diploma.

### ***Transfer of School to OTS***

OTS does not encourage admission of transfer students. However, in unavoidable circumstances such case may be considered. In this case, the student will have to go through a normal interview. The seminary will have to make a direct contact with the school where the student previously attended to clarify the reasons for such a transfer. In any case, the student should carry out at least two years of residency at OTS.

### ***Deficiency***

A student whose GPA falls below “C+” in the MDiv or “B” in the MACC/MTh programs will not be awarded the degree but given a certificate. This arrangement is made by the Academic Council.

### ***Continuation fee***

This applies to students who, for some extraordinary circumstances, have not finished part of the requirements during the stipulated minimum duration of a program. In this case, no diploma is given and the student will not be considered for participation in the commencement exercises. Further, the student will have to pay a continuation registration fee as prescribed by the seminary until the requirement is submitted and diploma granted. However, if after three months the student still does not complete the requirement(s) he/she will have to pay full admissions and registration fees and all other fees applicable. Once the work is complete, the diploma will be granted only after all dues are cleared.

### ***Academic Research and Writing***

The seminary takes integrity and professionalism in the area of theological research very seriously. All students at OTS are expected to follow the **OTS Research and Writing Manual** alongside other manuals recommended by the faculty based on discipline and departmental requirements.

### ***Bible Knowledge Exam***

The purpose of this exam is to enhance the student’s knowledge of the Bible. Every student is expected to thoroughly read the whole Bible through as he/she finishes his/her studies at OTS. The exam will be conducted at the end of the each Term.

- This exam will be purely based on the content of the Bible.
- Those who score 80% and above will be considered passed. Those who score below 80% will have to retake the exam.

### ***Year 1 over-all Evaluation***

Admission to the seminary is based on the standard specified in the admission requirements as stated in the Admissions Policy. However, it is the policy of the seminary that at the end of the Third Quarter of the first academic year all students go through an over-all evaluation. The evaluation covers academic, spiritual, social and other areas that pertain to seminary life as stated in the Students' Handbook. The Principal and the Academic Dean in consultation with the faculty will sit with the students individually and convey the evaluation result to the students.

Students are evaluated as follows:

If the student fails to demonstrate a graduate level standard in his/her academic performance, he/she will be asked to withdraw from the seminary or be detained to repeat the course. If no improvement is seen in the student's academic performance in the first two quarters of the probationary year, the student will be asked to withdraw from the seminary.

If the student demonstrates an inconsistent life style that is not in keeping with the seminary code of conduct, both spiritually and socially, the student will be asked to leave the seminary.

The student's weaknesses and strengths as a prospective Christian leader will be evaluated and communicated verbally during the evaluation.

## **FINANCES**

### ***Financial Arrangement***

Students should make all necessary financial arrangements before joining the seminary. Unless other arrangements are made all fees are to be paid during admissions at the beginning of the academic year. Late payment of fees will result in 3% additional charges on the balance.

### ***Fee Structure***

The fees structure and payment methods are updated annually. A copy of the current fees is normally given out during the admissions application process. It can also be requested from the Admissions Office anytime through the year.

For the 2021-22 Academic Year, the Annual Fee structure are as follows:

Master of Divinity - Rs. 90,000 exclusive of monthly mess fees

Master of Arts in Clinical Counselling - Rs. 98,000 exclusive of mess fees

Master of Theology - Rs. 1,05,000 exclusive of mess fees.

The fees are payable in quarterly installments.

### ***Refunds of Fees***

Refund of fees paid to the seminary for admission is possible under certain categories:

- If a student decides to leave the seminary at the beginning of the first two weeks of the first academic quarter, refund is possible after a deduction of 10% from the total annual fees
- If a student decides to leave the seminary at any given period of time after the second week within the first quarter of the academic year. there will be a deduction of 35% from the total annual fees
- If a student decides to leave the seminary during the second quarter of the academic year there will be a deduction of 75% from the total annual fees.
- No refund is possible if a student decides to leave the seminary after the second quarter of the academic year.
- No refund is given out if a student leaves the seminary for good at any point of time through the academic year without the knowledge of the authority or on unreasonable grounds.
- Refund policy is not negotiable under any circumstances.

## **ADMISSION POLICIES**

OTS admits qualified men and women of any Christian denomination, race, color, ethnic origin, and nationality. As a Christian educational institution, the seminary is redemptive but not rehabilitative in nature. The decision to admit a student rests with the Admissions Committee. Admission to any of the program is based on the following considerations:

### ***Christian Character***

As evidenced by membership and active participation in the life of a church, recommendation by Christian leaders, and compatibility with the stated purposes of the seminary.

### ***Commitment to Ministry***

As evidenced by an endorsement from a congregation or church governing body and a personal statement of call to ministry and vocational goals.

### ***Academic Preparation***

As evidenced by a command of the English language demonstrated in the admission essays and in the written test and by possession of a Bachelor's or

Master's degree or equivalent from a recognized institution.

***Interview***

No student is admitted without a formal interview which consists of both written and oral exams.

***ADMISSION PROCEDURES***

Applicants apply directly online from the seminary website.

***Visit the Campus***

Prospective students are normally encouraged to visit the seminary campus prior to application. The visit usually involves an informal interview with the Academic Dean. The prospective student is welcome to visit classes, participate in school life for one day and talk with the students, faculty, and staff.

***Completed Application File***

- Submit the completed application online.
- A Rs 500/- fee for the application registration, processing, and interview will be charged on the day of the interview.
- Original transcripts from high school/college/university attended should be produced during the time of interview. The academic transcript(s) should confirm the applicant's completion of the Bachelor's/Master's degree from an accredited institution.
- Two letters of recommendation, as follows:
  1. A letter from the applicant's pastor in his/her church/denomination who knows the applicant's spiritual progress and character.
  2. A letter from a professor of an applicant's last attended college/university who is familiar with the applicant's academic background and character.

It should be noted that once an application is submitted to OTS for admission, it will automatically become the property of the seminary and therefore, in no way will the application and other related documents be returned.

## **FINANCIAL Aid and SCHOLARSHIPS**

OTS awards a limited number of financial aid and scholarships to deserving students either on need or merit basis. More information for the

### **Charis Scholarship**

The Charis Scholarship is endowed by a generous family and is awarded to one needy student who is in the final year of the three-year Master of Divinity (MDiv) program at OTS. The scholarship covers the full tuition fees for the recipient for the entire final year of the student's study at OTS.

### **Donor Scholarship**

The Donor Scholarship is instituted in gratitude to Bade villagers who are the land donors in which the seminary is established. The scholarship is awarded to one student of OTS each year from Bade Village who has good standing in the community and is also an active member of Bade Baptist Church.

### **Family Scholarship**

The Family Scholarship is awarded to students who are related to an employee at OTS as a family member and who also meet and fulfil the laid down criteria for the grant. This scholarship is renewable for subsequent years depending on the recipient's all round good standing in the seminary. This awarded amount will be applied to tuition fees contingent on the availability of the scholarship funds during that year.

### **General Need-based Scholarship**

The General Need-based Scholarship is awarded to a limited number of students who meet and fulfil the laid down criteria for a need-based grant, which is renewable for subsequent years depending on the recipient's good standing all round in the seminary. This award can be applied to tuition fees and/or to mess fees or other personal needs contingent on the availability of the scholarship funds during that year.

### **Merit Scholarship**

The Merit Scholarship is awarded to a limited number of students on the basis of pure academic merit and who also meet and fulfil other criteria laid down for the grant. This scholarship is renewable for subsequent years depending on the recipient's all round good standing in the seminary. The awarded amount is applied to tuition fees contingent on the availability of the scholarship funds during that particular year.

## **VVV Scholarship**

The Valiant Vezota Vasa Scholarship (VVV Scholarship) is instituted by the family of late Vezota Vasa, who valiantly served as a cadre of the military band as a drummer in the Jath Regiment of the Indian Army . The scholarship is awarded to a limited number of students who come to study at OTS from outside of the state of Nagaland and who meet and fulfil the laid down criteria for a need-based grant. The scholarship This scholarship is renewable for subsequent years depending on the recipient's good standing all round in the seminary. This award can be applied to tuition fees and/or to mess fees or other personal needs contingent on the availability of the scholarship funds during that year.

**The Alumni Scholarship:** All alumni of OTS are granted a scholarship amounting to a quarter of the total fees who are given admissions for a second degree at OTS.

## **AWARDS and OPPORTUNITIES**

OTS gives out several major awards at the time of graduation each year to deserving member(s) from the graduating class:

THE OTS AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE is given to a student who has excelled in academic performance during the three years of studies at OTS by consistently maintaining high academic credentials, and who has also exhibited good Christian character throughout.

THE OTS AWARD FOR MINISTRY is given to a graduating student, who in his or her study period at OTS, has shown the zeal for mission and evangelism and has consistently and selflessly rendered service towards Christian ministry during the entire seminary experience. Further, the award is based on academic performance, demonstration of good Christian character, exemplary life of servanthood, and growing maturity.

THE OTS AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE is given to a graduating student, who in the judgment and assessment of the faculty and the community of OTS, has contributed to community service within and outside of OTS. A candidate is selected on the basis of his/her selfless service in the community with an attitude of servanthood, conscious effort towards cultivating work ethics in the community and the society at large, living out a life of integrity, and exhibiting good Christian character and conduct. The quality of academic work as well as Christian commitment is taken into account.

THE OTS AWARD FOR PREACHING is given to a graduating student, who in the assessment of the faculty and the community of OTS, has delivered significant sermons over the years in classroom practicums, community



worships, and ministry contexts, and who has lived up to practicing those sermons in actual life.

## **COMMUNITY LIVING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

At OTS we believe that theological education consists of three dimensions: body, mind and soul. And we believe that it is imperative that the seminary endeavors to strike a balance by imparting knowledge and the tools that are necessary to help students develop a holistic approach to life, academics, spirituality, and ministry. To achieve this goal, the seminary aims at imparting education not only through lectures, assignments and exams but also provide an atmosphere of informal interactions outside of the formal classrooms learning.

Community life at OTS includes activities that will nurture students spiritually, intellectually, socially, and physically. Students are expected to participate in all the activities planned and executed throughout the year. They include worship services, weekend ministries, internships, short term ministry trips, chapels, vespers, social and cultural activities, games and sports, retreats, seminars and workshops, etc.

### ***Growth-Groups (GG)***

The purpose of GG get-to-gather are:

- To build a better/stronger relationship of trust among the community of faith by sharing personal concerns as we seek to be obedient to our call and commitment.
- To develop a mentor-mentoring relationship between the faculty and the students community.
- To advise students in matters relating to personal problems, challenges and academics performance.
- Students are divided into groups of 10-12 with one faculty as adviser.

### ***Colloquium***

Our contemporary world with new worldviews is challenging and at the same time exciting for theological students. The Colloquium classes are designed to incite an engagement to inform, explore, and reflect upon various issues.

At OTS we take developing of personality of the students very seriously. Students are required to attend at least three colloquiums. Colloquium provides the opportunity to share and interact with one another in making a critical assessment of peers and the self, leading to a constructive wholesome development of personality.

### ***Community Book and Paper Presentations***

Faculty members as well students are given the opportunity to do independent research on issues that are pertinent to our situation and present their findings to the community for discussion and interaction. Year-two students are given the opportunity to read a book of their choice during the summer break and present in a book review format to the community at some point during the academic year. The purpose of this is to develop critical and analytical aspects of the students' intellectual development and for dialoguing with the community.

### ***Autumn Fest***

A week-long community sports event between the two semesters is set aside for engaging in sports for the entire community. Students are given the responsibilities to organize and innovate on the kind of games and sports in which the entire community participates. Creative and unconventional sports played in the sandy river bank, in the stream, and on the various campus grounds are part of the fun and competitive spirits displayed during this time.

### ***Spring Fiesta***

The Spring season at OTS is full of community activities which are extended beyond the campus. ***Spring Fiesta*** is one such event with entertainment and learning projects comprising food, sports, music, films, literature, and the fine arts. These activities give exposures for the community to be in tune with the world and in dialogue with indigenous and pop culture which become pedagogical contexts through the intersection of theology and contemporary culture.

### ***Community Service***

Student life at OTS includes not only study, worship, and fellowship, but also humble service. As a community in training to serve the wider society, at OTS we believe that rendering of our service in some areas of need in the seminary as well as outside of the seminary will inculcate in us a sense of responsibility to serve in any situation and circumstance.

Services may vary from cleaning classrooms, wiping window panes and sills, collecting and disposing litter, hospitality services, cleaning and vacuuming the Library/Chapel, mowing of lawns and planting trees, tutoring children, giving care to the sick and the elderly etc. One Saturday will be set aside each month as Community Service Day and all students will be expected to contribute to the Seminary community in a suitable area of service. Students will either sign-up for a particular work or be assigned various tasks for service as the seminary requires. All students are expected to participate in this activity. Those who satisfactorily complete their community service during their study period at OTS will be given credit in their transcript.

It is mandatory for all students both in the MDiv and the MTh programs to participate in this activity. Those with serious health conditions may be exempted based on advisory by a medical practitioner.

## **FIELD EDUCATION**

Based on our motto “Being transformed to transform,” OTS understands that FE is an integral part of the Seminary training. Applying praxis and reflection method of learning, our students are facilitated to test their vocational calling, utilize persons and events as sources of theological and ministerial learning, and integrate theory with practice. Through this process, the Seminary hopes to aid students in the development of professional competency and confidence in ministerial identity and authority. The purpose of a sound FE is to help students acquire a general understanding of the church and its ministry in a variety of areas, and to help prepare students for general pastoral responsibilities and religious and community leadership roles. Thus, by advocating a sound field education, Christian pastors and Christian churches are enabled to be more effective in carrying out Christian ministries in their respective social locations.

### **Objective/Goal:**

- To enhance, strengthen, and deepen the student’s spiritual gifts for a well-rounded ministry.
- Apply her/his classroom knowledge in reaching and serving out to others, irrespective of religious background (Christian, Islam, Hindu, Buddhist, or traditional indigenous religion).
- Create awareness in the life of the student to minister to others in need.
- Help students to develop strategies for future ministry.
- Help students to develop a holistic approach to ministry.
- Help students use different field research methods and translate their theological knowledge in developing a sound pastoral-theological response to a particular human-social issues or conditions in cross-cultural enterprises.
- Enable students to immerse, experience and empathize with the lived realities and struggles of people in a particular context.
- Help students to critically study the life of an NGO so that they can integrate relevant concepts and professional skills in the areas of leadership, community life and development, social activities and concerns, administration, technological expertise, human resource and financial management in their ministry.
- To help students see their work and involvement with a particular institution as an integral part of Christian witness/ministry and as a contribution to the ongoing mission of the church.

## **Nature of Field education:**

The nature of field education of OTS comprises three major categories which include the Weekend practical ministry, summer practical ministry, and summer internship program. In all of these ministries, the students are required to maintain daily journaling. Their journaling includes at least three components: Their ministry context, ministry activities, and their reflections and analysis of how God is at work in their ministry and in their lives.

### **1) Weekend Practical Ministry (WPM):**

WPM is a distinctive feature of education at OTS. With ministry groups in the 10 km radius surrounding OTS campus, WPM covers diverse and creative forms of ministry reaching out to men, women, children, young adults, and families. On weekends, students minister in the vicinity of our Seminary. The activities of the ministry include: Bible studies, prayer fellowships, house visitations, teaching music and songs, giving tuitions to children, teaching proper hygiene and cleanliness, and teaching Sunday school. Weekend ministry extends to neighboring people of other religious faith like the Gorkhas (Hindus), Dimasas (Hindus), and Muslims.

### **2) Summer Practical Ministry (SPM)/Summer Mission Exposure (SME):**

The first year students of Master of Divinity (MDiv) program are sent out during summer break for one month to remote villages or mission fields for exposure. In collaboration with the local churches or mission organizations they do holistic ministry. It includes working in paddy fields, chopping firewood, cleaning the church and community hall, care giving to the aged and the sick, teaching music, giving tuitions to children, and reaching out to people in various needs. In addition, the students are required to do church ministry in terms of leading worship services, teach Sunday school and adult Bible study, conduct seminars and workshops on issues as needed by the church. The purpose is to enable the students to identify their ministerial gifts so as to choose a suitable ministry for them as they graduate.

### **3) Summer Internship Program (SIP):**

SIP is designed for MDiv. second year students. It is a two months intensive program. This is done in collaboration with Foundation for Church and Society (FCS). FCS is an initiative of OTS that reaches out to individuals, churches, and the wider society. The vision of FCS is to work towards the renewal of the church and transformation of the society. The nature of SIP is holistic—working with NGOs and parachurch organizations and immersing with their activities in rural, urban, and various community and social settings. Some activities include hospital works, clean election campaign, working in rehabs, working in community development projects etc. The students are expected to learn, engage, and experience the work cultures of NGOs and Para-church institutions. The requirement for the students is to maintain a journal with analysis and reflections of their engagements

and the organizations they work with. The objective of SIP is to develop a creative space for enhancing the nature of theological education and expand our ongoing theological imagination and praxis in partnership with other institutions beyond the church mission and ministry.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS**

OTS is committed to creation care in permeating ecological concerns and of conserving the environment. While our practical engagement is a year round activity, the community of OTS is also intentional in setting aside a week during the Spring and takes initiatives to proactively involve in an activity within and outside of the campus.

## **The LIBRARY**

The WATI AIER PEACE LIBRARY, named after the first principal of OTS in recognition of his engagements in peace works, has a holding of about 15 thousand volumes of books and resources and the facility is computerized with the latest automation technology. The library is for the use of the faculty, staff, students, and the alumni. It is also extended to the general public who wish to enroll for membership. The main purpose of the library is to meet the academic requirements of the seminary by facilitating the needs of the faculty and the students. Guidelines on the privileges and conditions related to the use of the library facility is available in the library.

## **FOUNDATION FOR CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

The Foundation for Church and Society (FCS) is an initiative of Oriental Theological Seminary (OTS) that reaches out to individuals, churches and the wider society. The *vision* of FCS is to work towards the renewal of the church and transformation of the society. The *mission* of FCS is to engage in mutual learning and to partner together with people from various callings for addressing contemporary challenges to human development, initiating peace work and promoting effective ministry and Christian living in the church and society.

The Foundation for Church & Society (FCS) is committed to equipping both the clergies and the laity to face the challenges of the present day. It endeavors to facilitate capacity building (establishing theological foundation and skill development) among the leaders in the mission of God within the church and beyond.

## **The CENTER FOR PASTORAL RENEWAL**

The Center for Pastoral Renewal (CPR) is an initiative of Oriental Theological Seminary (OTS) envisioning the need of our contemporary churches, especially for those who engage in pastoral leadership, and also for those preparing to embark in pastoral ministry. With a multi-faceted agenda, CPR intends to reach out to pastors and leaders in church ministry for their renewal, recreation, rejuvenation and retreat, and by the same token, equip potential pastors towards formation in their vocation. Pastoral Formation Continuing Education, Resource Sharing, Retreats etc., are some of the activities of CPR.

### **BAPTIST RESEARCH CENTRE**

The only one of its kind in Asia, the Baptist Research Centre (BRC) is a current project being established at OTS for research and documenting resources on Baptist heritage and history. This project is funded by the Nagaland Baptist Church Council as an archival library for Baptist studies and research for the Christian community in Nagaland and beyond.

### **THE ALUMNI**

OTS has produced a good number of pastors, missionaries, teachers, youth leaders, ministers to children, and social activists, which may be attributed to the rich experience gained from “hands-on” theological education while being a student. With an alumni strength of about four hundred, OTS graduates are now spread far and wide beyond Nagaland in Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Andamans, the Indo-Nepal Himalayan range, various parts of India, and as far away as in Africa.

### **FACULTY and STAFF**

OTS is particularly confident of the faculty whose input is critical to its success. Besides the high academic credentials of the faculty, they also bring with them rich empirical experiences as pastors, missionaries, and administrators. The current faculty strength comprises 15 members, 9 with doctoral degrees and some in various stages of completing their doctoral candidacies, having pursued or pursuing degrees in Australia, Canada, Europe, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, and the United States. Educated in some of the finest theological institutions in the world today, the faculty is intent on the concept of “co-learning and co-serving” pedagogy.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE HEADS**

Dr. Joshua Lorin

*Principal*

Dr. James Kalong  
*Academic Dean*

Dr. Panger Kechu  
*Dean of Post Graduate Studies*

Dr. Sashinungla Pongen  
*Dean of Asia Graduate School of Theology - North East India (AGST-NEI)*

Dr. Akumsungla Aier  
*Dean of Students*

Rev. Dr. C. Cho-o  
*Director, Center for Pastoral Renewal*

Dr. M. Sashi Jamir  
*Director, Foundation for Church and Society*

**FACULTY**

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