

Evening service readings: Ecclesiastes 11 & 12, 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Ecclesiastes 12:1. Remember your Creator in the days of your youth... Teenagers Curriculum 2 Timothy 2:2 is key verse for TEE because of its transferability (replication ability)

OTS started its ministry in 1971, under the name PACTEE (Pakistan Committee for Theological Education by Extension) with the purpose of making theological education available to all. The first three centres were in Gujranwala / Lahore (John Meadowcroft, a New Zealand CMS missionary and Gujranwala Theological Seminary professor, who became the first TEE coordinator in Pakistan), Rahim Yar Khan, South Punjab (Eric Wright of Pakistan Christian Fellowship), and Qalandarabad in the North West Frontier Province (Russ Irwin of The Evangelical Alliance Mission TEAM). Thus from the very beginning it has been fully interdenominational. Zafar Ismail, later became the first National Director, had previously worked in every aspect of the job from cyclostyling copies of lessons to writing courses. After a few years with a British missionary as interim director, the present Director is Rev. Dr. Kaiser Julius.

PACTEE changed its name to the Open Theological Seminary OTS in 1989 (as people were familiar with the Open University). It is **Open**: to every Christian, regardless of denomination, age, gender or educational level. The only requirement is the ability to read and write, and even that can come later. In one recent programme a student of the teenagers' courses shared that he had been illiterate when he began studying but learnt to read and write as a result of doing the first course. All denominations are represented among our students, from Roman Catholic to Salvation Army, from Pentecostal to Brethren, and even Church of Pakistan and Presbyterian, although those churches don't encourage their lay people to study the Bible as much as some of the other churches do.

It is **Theological**: explaining and applying Bible teaching to the Pakistani context.

It is a **Seminary**: providing training up to Degree level (B.Th.) and now M.A.

Our Vision: "To equip God's people for work in His service, so that the body of Christ may be built up". (Ephesians 4:12).

Our Purpose: To strengthen and deepen every Christian's understanding of God's Word so that they can develop their Christian identity in the Pakistani context, bringing revival in the Church and transformation in society.

Enrolment: Over 9000 students including almost 4000 teenagers

Discipleship Level 6 courses

 Certificate of Theology 6 + 6 = 12

 22 = 12+10 Diploma of Theology

 Bachelor of Theology 22+10= 32

Master of Arts in Christian Studies (MACS) 3-year modular programme

All Accredited by the Asia Theological Association (ATA)

MACS: Cohort-1 22 students Cohort-2 23 students

 Cohort-3 31 students Cohort-4 30 students

Methodology:

1. Head: Cognitive part, Self Study of course book at home

2. Heart: Weekly class with local tutor in local context / Group discussion is a key element, discussion in the light of self study & experience, changing attitudes, making applications

3. Hands: in the light of class discussion taking practical steps,

Christian Education Curriculum for Teenagers (CECT)

There are lots of excellent resources available in Urdu for Sunday School teachers, but not much for the older age group, so OTS created a brand new curriculum, aimed at children aged 11-17, who are too old for Sunday School, but too young for Youth group or adult OTS courses. It can be used in Christian schools (as daily classes) and churches (usually as weekly

classes). There are 10 courses, all written by Pakistani Christians for the Pakistani context. The students study interactive work-books & the teachers' guides include guidelines for fun learning activities in the classroom (games, quizzes, handwork, discussion) that help young people apply the Bible's teaching to their everyday lives. The final course in the curriculum, **Me & My Faith**, helps young people to answer questions about Christian beliefs and practices that the surrounding non-Christians (mostly Muslims).