**Church History Outline 44: The Russian Mennonites**

I. Starting in the 1760s, Russian ruler \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ invited Germans to settle in what is now Ukraine.

A. Russia had just \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ this land in a war with the Turks, and wanted to secure its rule there by quickly establishing settlements.

B. Mennonites from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ began moving to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (as it was then called) in the 1780s.

1. Increasing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the government and a lack of available \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Germany made the Ukraine very attractive to Mennonites.

2. The Russian government made settlement attractive by offering Mennonites complete religious \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, including freedom from all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ service, “forever.”

II. Mennonites in the Ukraine established largely self-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, self- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ communities usually referred to as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. It was Russian government policy to keep foreign settlers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the native Russians and Ukrainians.

B. Mennonites were glad for the opportunity to establish “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” Christian communities.

C. Great prosperity and even \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ followed after many years of hard work.

D. The colony structure led to troubling \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. A type of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ developed.

2. Mennonite/German \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ became confused with Christian living.

3. Mennonites largely failed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the surrounding Russians and Ukrainians.

III. As the bulk of the church \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ spiritually, new churches were formed in efforts to remain faithful to Christ and the Bible.

A. The *Kleine Gemeinde* (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ church) was formed in 1812.

B. The Mennonite Brethren Church, greatly influenced by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, was formed in 1860.

C. The main body of Mennonites experienced \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the late 1800s.

1. A new emphasis on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sometimes led to imprisonment for Mennonites, who were not allowed to evangelize among the Russian Orthodox.

2. Educational and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ efforts were increased.

IV. Russian Mennonites began migrating to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the 1870s.

A. The government began pressuring Mennonites to become more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into Russian society.

B. New laws seemed to threaten Mennonite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from military service.

C. Most Russian Mennonite immigrants settled in Kansas, Nebraska, Manitoba, and other parts of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, while large communities were established in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ soon after.

D. Immigrants were greatly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by American Mennonites.

E. The Mennonite Brethren and *Kleine Gemeinde* churches remained \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in America, while other Russian Mennonites joined American Mennonite groups.

1. Most joined the Mennonite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Many others joined the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Mennonite.

V. Many Mennonites were still in Russia when the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Revolution established the Communist Soviet government in 1917.

A. Mennonites \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ greatly.

1. Civil war brought \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to their land.

2. Mennonites were especially vulnerable because of resentments caused by their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and aloofness from society.

3. Communists seized private \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all religious people.

B. Through the 1940s, many Mennonites fled Russia, settling mostly in Canada, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and Mexico.

C. Under \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mennonites were still in the Soviet Union when that country dissolved in 1991.