

OUTLINE FOR PROJECTED MENNONITE BRETHREN HISTORY COURSE

1. Our specific assignment was to prepare an outline for a course in M.B. History together with a selected bibliography and some suggestions in respect to purpose and approach. A number of difficulties immediately presented themselves. First of all, it seemed obvious that the outline and method could vary somewhat, depending on whether it was intended for high school, Bible school, or College students. Furthermore, the nature of such a course would depend very much on the nature of the curriculum as a whole, particularly course offerings in Anabaptist-Mennonite history and theology but also course offerings in the history of Christianity. Some schools, particularly high schools, may find it necessary to structure a single course in Mennonite and M.B. history and theology. Even so, some of the elements of the proposed outline may be useful to these schools. A broader background and understanding of Anabaptist-Mennonite history and theology is, however, assumed.

2. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES:

- a) To create a critical awareness of our own historical-theological roots and of the various influences that have affected and shaped the M.B. Church.
- b) To awaken and stimulate an appreciation for, and commitment to the Anabaptist-Biblical ideal of faith and discipleship.
- c) To enable our own historical self-understanding to become the basis and inspiration for individual and congregational renewal.
- d) To create a new vision for the spiritual renewal of the Christian Church as such.
- e) To create a new vision for, and commitment to the mission of the Church throughout the world.

3. STATEMENT OF METHODOLOGY:

The course outline and bibliography suggested below have been drawn up on the assumption of a methodology that incorporates the following elements:

- a) A fairly extensive exposure to primary sources. Even students at the senior high school level can benefit considerably from first-hand exposure to primary documents and their interest is more easily awakened thereby. The new book of documents on M.B. history should certainly be helpful in this regard.

It is hoped that a preliminary kind of "union catalog", listing the principal materials (in terms of Conference and church records as well as personal papers) which are already present in our several M.B. archival collections, will be available soon. Such a "catalog" should prove a most important research aid to both instructors and students in their selection and use of primary sources.

- b) A stronger emphasis on theological and cultural aspects rather than on institutional developments. The high school, Bible institute, and college student is frequently alienated by the mere presentation of ecclesiastical and institutional details apart from the larger historical-cultural content to which such details can be related.

- c) An attempt at every point to relate developments within the M.B. Church to broader historical developments and developments, particularly, in Protestant Christianity in Europe and America.
- d) A selective bibliography. The bibliographies which accompany each of the main units in this course outline are restricted to studies available in English on the assumption that students for whom the course is designed do not have sufficient grasp of the German language, generally speaking, to make ready and profitable use of German materials. They are highly selective bibliographies, moreover, which include only the most basic kinds of studies (including primary sources, in several instances) pertaining to each unit. It is, of course, assumed that instructors teaching a course such as this one will acquaint themselves with German materials as well (especially where these are primary sources) and will refer their students to other (English) pertinent materials bearing on each of the course units. H. Giesbrecht's The Mennonite Brethren: a Bibliographic Guide to Information (now being updated), and of course the bibliography which accompanies J.A. Toews' own history, should be useful to them in the search for, and selection of such further studies.
- A very recent and helpful bibliographic survey of materials bearing on the Russian Mennonite scene has been provided by David G. Rempel in the October, 1974 and January, 1975 issues of MQR: "An Introduction to Russian Mennonite Historiography".

4. COURSE OUTLINE - WITH UNIT BIBLIOGRAPHIES:

I. THE AGE OF THE REFORMATION AND ITS HERITAGE

- A. Luther, Zwingli, and Magisterial Protestantism
- B. The Radical Wing of the Reformation
- C. The Anabaptist Vision

1. R.H. Bainton: The Age of the Reformation
2. C. Clasen: Anabaptism: a Social History, 1525-1618.
3. W.R. Estep: The Anabaptist Story.
4. G.F. Hershberger, editor: The Recovery of the Anabaptist Vision.
5. H.J. Hillerbrand, editor: The Protestant Reformation
6. F.H. Littell: Tribute to Menno Simons.
7. L. Verduin: The Reformers and Their Stepchildren.
8. J.C. Wenger, editor: The Complete Writings of Menno Simons, 1496-1561

II. PROTESTANT ORTHODOXY, RATIONALISM, AND PIETISM.

- A. The Emergence of Creedalism and Rationalism
- B. European Pietism and the Evangelical Awakening

1. G.R. Cragg: The Church and the Age of Reason.
2. C.L. Manschreck, editor: A History of Christianity.
3. P.J. Spener: Pia Desideria.
4. W. Walker: A History of the Christian Church. (1970 edition).

III. THE MENNONITES: FROM BELIEVER'S CHURCH TO PARISH CHURCH (1550-1850)

- A. The Emergence of a Cultural Identity
- B. The Impact of Contemporary Religious Movements
- C. Developments in Mennonite Theology and Worship

1. H.S. Bender and C.H. Smith, editors: The Mennonite Encyclopedia, Volumes I-IV.
2. C.J. Dyck: An Introduction to Mennonite History.
3. J. Horsch: Mennonites in Europe.
4. P.C. Keller: The German Colonies in South Russia, 1804 to 1904. (Translated by A. Becker). Volume II.
5. D.G. Rempel: The Mennonite Colonies in New Russia. Unpublished doctoral dissertation (Stanford University, 1933).
6. C.H. Smith: The Story of the Mennonites.

Note: See D.G. Rempel's bibliographic survey in the October, 1974 and January, 1975 issues of MQR: "An Introduction to Russian Mennonite Historiography" for further pertinent materials.

IV. THE ORIGINS OF THE MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCH

- A. The Immediate Impetus Towards Renewal - Pietism
 - B. The Larger Context of Renewal - Anabaptism
 - C. The Search for Religious Identity -
1. V. Adrian: "Born of Anabaptism and Pietism: an Attempt to Discover the Theological Roots Which Have Nurtured the Mennonite Brethren Church". Reprint from Mennonite Brethren Herald (March, 1965 issue).
 2. J.P. Bekker: Origin of the Mennonite Brethren Church.
 3. Projected English version of P.M. Friesen's Die Alt-Evangelische Mennonitische Bruderschaft in Russland . . .
 4. A.J. Klassen, editor: Documents of the Mennonite Brethren Church.
 5. J.A. Toews: A History of the Mennonite Brethren Church.

V. CONSOLIDATION, MIGRATION, AND THE EXPANSION OF THE MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCH

- A. Russia
 - B. United States
 - C. Canada
 - D. South and Latin America
 - E. India
 - F. Africa
 - G. Japan
 - H. Europe - Germany and Austria
 - I. Other Countries
1. F.H. Epp: Mennonite Exodus
 2. A.J. Klassen, editor: Documents of the Mennonite Brethren Church
 3. P. Martens: The Mustard Tree.
 4. M. Nikkel: Conquest for Christ: a Study in Mennonite Brethren Missions.
 5. G.W. Peters: The Growth of Foreign Missions in the Mennonite Brethren Church.
 6. J.A. Toews: A History of the Mennonite Brethren Church.
 7. J.B. Toews: Lost Fatherland: The Story of the Mennonite Emigration from Soviet Russia, 1921-1927.
 8. J.B. Toews and J.J. Toews: projected work on Mennonite Brethren missions.
 9. D.V. Wiebe: They Seek a Country: a Survey of Mennonite Migrations.

VI. THE LOCAL CHURCH AND ITS MINISTRY

- A. Pastoral and Preaching Ministry
 - B. Evangelism
 - C. Education
 - D. Music
 - E. Deaconal and Other Related Ministries
 - F. Towards a Theology of Brotherhood and Service
1. P. Hamm, editor: The Ministers Manual (1972)

2. W.D. Hiebert: "The Caring Ministry of the Church", in The Church in Mission.
3. E.A. Martens: "Facing the Mission of the Church at Home", in The Church in Mission.
4. J.A. Toews: A History of the Mennonite Brethren Church. See chapters 14, 15, and 18 especially.
5. E.H. Warkentin: "Planning for Church Growth", in The Church in Mission.
6. D. Wiens: New Wineskins for Old Wine. (M.B. Herald insert, 1965).
7. Study Conference Papers:
 - * "Conference on Issues Concerning Church and Home". Study Conference at Reedley, Ca. November 23-24, 1967.
 - * "Conference on Evangelism and Discipleship". Study Conference at Winnipeg, May 7-9, 1968.
 - * "Conference on the Ministry: Men and Media". Study Conference at Buhler, Kansas, March 5-6, 1970.
 - * "Discussions at Denver". Study Conference at Denver, Colorado. August 15-17, 1971
 - * "Church, Word and World". Study Conference at Clearbrook, B.C., May 10-11, 1974

VII. CHURCH AND CONFERENCE

- A. Church Polity in Theory and Practice
- B. Conference Ministries

1. Conference Yearbooks at General Conference, Area Conference and District (Provincial) Conference levels.
2. Constitutions of the Mennonite Brethren Church at General Conference, Area Conference, and District (Provincial) Conference levels.
3. P.H. Berg, compiler: Resolutions of the Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America (1948).
4. A.E. Janzen, compiler: Resolutions of the General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches: 1878-1963.
5. J.A. Toews: A History of the Mennonite Brethren Church. See Chapter 13.

VIII. MAKING DISCIPLES.

- A. Historical and Biblical Perspectives
- B. The Search for Methods

1. A.E. Janzen, compiler: Resolutions: Mennonite Brethren Board of Missions/Services. Volumes I and II.
2. A.J. Klassen, editor: The Church in Mission.
3. G. Lohrenz: "The Mennonites of Russia and the Great Commission", in The Legacy of Faith.
4. P. Martens: The Mustard Tree.
5. M. Nikkel: Conquest for Christ: a Study in Mennonite Brethren Missions

6. P. Penner: "An Historical Survey of the Home Mission Work of the Mennonite Brethren Conference of Canada". Unpublished Th.B. thesis, 1957.
7. G.W. Peters: The Growth of Foreign Missions in the Mennonite Brethren Church.
8. J.A. Toews: A History of the Mennonite Brethren Church. See chapters 7, 12, and 23.
9. J.J. Toews: "Early Mennonite Brethren Missions". Unpublished M.A. thesis, 1966.
10. J.B. Toews and J.J. Toews: projected history of Mennonite Brethren missions.
11. J.D. Unruh: In the Name of Christ: a History of the Mennonite Central Committee and its Service, 1920-1951.

IX. INSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION

- A. Development of Educational Institutions
- B. Defining a Philosophy of Education

1. J.G. Doerksen: "History of Education of the Mennonite Brethren of Canada". Unpublished M.A. thesis, 1963.
2. J.G. Doerksen: "Mennonite Brethren Bible College and College of Arts: its History, Philosophy and Development". Unpublished doctoral dissertation, 1968.
3. A.E. Janzen: A History of Tabor College. Part One.
4. A.J. Klassen: The Bible School Story: 1913-1963.
5. P.G. Klassen: "A History of Mennonite Education in Canada, 1786-1960". Unpublished doctoral dissertation, 1970.
6. F.C. Peters: "The Coming of the Mennonite Brethren to the United States and their Efforts in Education". Unpublished doctoral dissertation, 1957.
7. J.A. Toews: A History of the Mennonite Brethren Church. See chapter 16.

X. THE CHURCH, STATE, AND SOCIETY

- A. War and Military Exemption
- B. The Church and Nationalism
- C. The Church and Political Involvement
- D. The Church and the International Community
- E. The Church's Witness to Society

1. J.H. Redekop: "The Christian and Labor Unions". Layman's Study Conference (Winnipeg, Man.) paper.
2. _____: Labor Problems in Christian Perspective.
3. _____: Making Political Decisions: a Christian Perspective
4. J.A. Toews: A History of the Mennonite Brethren Church. See chapter 20.
5. _____: True Nonresistance Through Christ: a Study of Biblical Principles.
6. J.E. Wood: The Problem of Nationalism in Church-State Relationships.

XI. THE CHURCH AND CULTURE

- A. The Cultural Environment in Prussia and Russia
 - B. Confronting Cultural Change in America
 - C. Crossing Cultural Boundaries Around the World
 - D. The Church, Literature, and the Arts
 - E. The Quest for a Christian Lifestyle
1. A.J. Klassen, editor: The Church in Mission. See chapters 13, 14 and 16.
 2. J.A. Toews: A History of the Mennonite Brethren Church. See chapters 7, 15, 17 and 19.
 3. Study Conference Papers -
Study papers given at Canadian Conference in Vancouver, B.C. July 6-9, 1974.
 - * "Man and Woman Under the Lordship of Christ"
 - * "The Christian Woman in the Church and Conference"
 - * "Mobilizing Our Material Resources Under Christ's Leadership".
 - * "Mobilizing Our Human Resources".

XII. THE THEOLOGY OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

- A. Formative Influences: Anabaptism; Pietism; American Fundamentalism
 - B. Continuing Influences
 - C. Distinctive Theological Emphases
 - 1) Biblicism
 - 2) Experiential faith
 - 3) Evangelism and missions
 - 4) Brotherhood and service
 - 5) Christo-centric eschatology
 - D. Authentic Christianity: Faith and Practice
1. Confessions of Faith of Mennonite Brethren Church
 2. D. Ewert: Creation From a Biblical Perspective.
 3. A.J. Klassen: "The Roots and Development of Mennonite Brethren Theology to 1914". Unpublished M.A. thesis, 1966.
 4. A.J. Klassen, editor: The Church in Mission. See chapter 1-5 especially.
 5. J.A. Toews: A History of the Mennonite Brethren Church. See chapter 21
 6. D. Wiens: New Wineskins for Old Wine .
 7. Study Conference Papers -
 - * Study Conference at Denver, Colorado, July 12-16, 1958