

CURRICULUM VITAE

WALTER WILLIAM SAWATSKY

Professor of Church History & Mission, Director of Mission Studies Center

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary

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Born: July 23, 1945 in Altona, Manitoba, Canada. Canadian and American citizenship.

Education:

Ph.D. 1976 - University of Minnesota (Modern Russian history with focus on church and state in 19th century). Dissertation title: "Prince Alexander N. Golitsyn (1776-1844). Tsarist Minister of Piety."

M.A. 1970 - University of Minnesota (European history)

B.A. 1967 - Goshen College (Indiana) (History, with honors)

Sacred Music Diploma 1965 - Steinbach Bible Institute (now College)

Current Appointment:

Professor of Church History and Mission (2000-present; (Associate Prof. 1990-2000, visiting professor 1985-87),

Director of Mission Studies Center (1997-) at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart Indiana,

seconded to Mennonite Central Committee (Akron, PA. USA) as East/West Consultant (1990-2010 (25% appointment).

Editorial Work with Scholarly Journals

Editor of *Mission Focus: Annual Review* 1997-;

Editor and Co-Editor of *Religion in Eastern Europe* 1997-;

Consulting Editor for *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 1990-, Chair of MQR Publication Committee

1993-99, MQR Board of Editors, 2000-; *Vision* Editorial Council member, 2003-; Consulting

Editor for *Conrad Grebel Review*; Consulting Editor for *Mennonite Life* (2000-8); Advisory Editorial

Board for *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe*(1985-97); International Editorial Board of

Religion, State & Society (1997-); Consulting Editor for *East/West Church & Ministry Report* 2003-.

Organizational Membership:

Global Mennonite History Committee organizing committee 1997-; Mennonite Historical Society,

President 1992-2000, American Society of Church History 1985- (on membership committee 1990-

3); Fellow of Institute of Mennonite Studies (on exec. comm. 1997-); Council of International

Anabaptist Ministries, (1978-, Chair of Europe Sub-Committee of Mennonite Council of

International Ministries 1996-2001); member of executive committee of Christians Associated for

Relations with Eastern Europe (CAREE) 1993-; Inter-Church Relations Committee (Mennonite

1994-); member of American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies 1970-; American

Historical Association 1970-; American Society of Missiology.1996-(nominating committee 2008);

Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture (2006-; American Academy of

Religion (2005-); International Association of Mission Studies (IAMS 2008-); Central & East

European Association of Mission Studies (CEEAMS 2007-).

Major Publications:

- Soviet Evangelicals Since World War II*, Scottdale: Herald Press, 1981, 527pp. (Russian trans. 1996).
- Penner, Peter & Walter Sawatsky, eds. *Mission in the Former Soviet Union*. Schwarzenfeld: Neufeld Verlag, 2005. Author of chapters 3, 6, 8, 10, 12.
- Sawatsky, Walter, Charles Van Engen, James R. Krabill. eds. *Evangelical, Ecumenical and Anabaptist Missiologies in Conversation*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2006. Author of "Living and Writing the Vision. The Missiological Pilgrimage of Wilbert Shenk" 1-18; "What if the Three Worlds of Christian History Converged" 38-48.
- Sawatsky, Walter. editor. *The Prague Consultations - Prophetic and Renewal Movements*. Proceedings of the Prague VI and Prague VII Multilateral Ecumenical Consultations (2000 & 2003). Studies of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. Geneva, 2009.

Coordinator for 15 volume *New Testament Bible Commentary* by William Barclay translation project into Russian 1979-1988; and 18 volume Old Testament translation project (a partnership project involving Baptist World Alliance, Mennonite Central Committee and All Union Congress of Ev. Christian-Baptists (Moscow) 1988-1994.

Coordinator for books in Russian translation series 1987-98.

Chapters contributed to Books:

- "Religious Administration and Modernization", in Dennis Dunn, ed. *Religion and Modernization in the Soviet Union*. Boulder CO: Westview Press, 1977. pp.
- "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics", *Mennonite World Handbook*, Lombard IL 1978.
- "Religious Renewal and the State Among Soviet Evangelicals", in Dennis Dunn, ed. *Religion and Society in the Soviet Union*, Berkeley Slavic Specialities, 1983. Proceedings from the Second World congress of Slavic Studies.
- "Gemeinde und Mission", in Daniel Geiser, ed. *Das Leben Wagen - Die Zukunft Gewinnen*. Weisenheim/Berg: Agape Verlag, 1986.
- "From Russian to Soviet Mennonites 1941-1988", in John Friesen, ed. *Mennonites in Russia*. Winnipeg: CMBC Publications, 1989. 299-337pp.
- "Protestantism in the USSR", in Pedro Ramet, ed. *Protestantism and Politics in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe*. Vol. 3 of series Religion and Politics in Eastern Europe. Durham NC: Duke University Press, 1993
- "Protestantism in the USSR" (abbreviated version) in Sabrina Ramet, ed. *Religious Policy in the Soviet Union*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.
- "Christianity and Marxism in Theory: Marxism and the Christian Response" introduction and bibliography contributed to Mark Elliott, ed. *Christianity and Marxism Worldwide: An Annotated Bibliography*. Wheaton College: Institute for the Study of Christianity and Marxism 1988.
- "Russian Mennonites and Baptists, 1930-1990", in Paul Toews, *Mennonite Brethren and Baptists: Historical and Theological Connections*, Fresno: Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies, 1993.
- "Visions in Conflict: Starting Anew Through the Prism of Leadership Training Efforts", in Niels Nielson, ed. *Christianity After Communism in Russia* Boulder CO: Westview Press, 1994.
- "After the Glasnost Revolution: Soviet Evangelicals and the Western Missions" in *Missiology An Ecumenical Introduction. Texts and Contexts of Global Christianity*. edited by A. Camps, L. A. Hoedemaker, M. R. Spindler and F. J. Verstraelen (general editor). Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1995.
- "A Mennonite Response" [to Carter Lindberg's "A Specific Contribution of the Second Reformation" in Milan Opocensky, *Towards a Renewed Dialogue. The First and Second Reformations*. #30 in Studies from the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Geneva: World Alliance of Reformed Churches,

1996, pp. 63-71.

- "Pacifist Protestants in Soviet Russia Between the Wars" in Tatiana Pavlova, ed. *The Long Road of Russian Pacifism*. Moscow, 1996 (in Russian)
- "Eschatology and Social Ethics in Ecumenical Perspective: Reflections on the Prague Consultations" in Loren Johns, ed. *Apocalypticism and Millennialism. Shaping a Believers Church Eschatology for the Twenty-First Century*. Kitchener: Pandora Press, 1999, 309-325.
- "To Balance or to Integrate - Global and Local Aspects of Koinonia Fellowship" in Lies Brussee-van der Zee, Annelies Verbeek, Piet Visser en Ruth Winsemius, eds. *Balanceren op de smalle weg. Liber Amicorum voor Kees van Duin, Alle Hoekema en Sjouke Voolstra*. Zoetermeer: Boekencentrum, 2002.
- "Mennonite Ministry and Christian History", in Erick Sawatzky, ed. *The Heart of the Matter*. Elkhart: IMS publication, 2004.
- "Mennonite Sectarians in the Eyes of Russian/Soviet Authorities - What the Official Archives Reveal", in Denis A. Sdvizkov and Daniel Heinz, eds. *Postizhenie ideala iz istorii mirotovorchestva i intelligentsii. Memorialnyi Sbornik Dr. Tatiana Aleksandrovna Pavlova*. Moscow: Russian Academy of Sciences, 2005; 93-117 (in Russian).
- "Educators for Mission and the Western Missionaries", in Peter Penner, ed. *Theological Education as Mission - Mission in Theological Education*. Schwarzenfeld: Neufeld Verlag, 2005.
- "The Re-Positioning of Evangelical Christians-Baptists and Sister Church Unions between 1980 and 2005," in Sharyl Corrado & Toivo Pilli, eds. *Eastern European Baptist History: New Perspectives*. (Prague: IBTS, 2007)
- "The Many Faces of Anabaptism and Mission Since 1860," in Wilbert R. Shenk & Peter F. Penner, eds. *Anabaptism and Mission*. (Schwarzenfeld: Neufeld Verlag), 2007. (Appeared earlier in Mission Focus 2006.
- "Teaching about the Other - Inter-church Dialogue for Russian/Ukrainian Christianity," in Ines Angeli Murzaku, ed. *Quo Vadis Eastern Europe? Religion, State Society after the Fall of Communism*. Bologna: University of Bologna Press, 2008.

Contributed revisions or background texts for: C. J. Dyck, *Introduction to Mennonite History*, Scottsdale: Herald Press, 3rd ed. (Russia section); James Cracraft, ed. *The Soviet Union Today*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2nd ed. 1988; Trevor Beeson, *Discretion and Valour*. London/New York: Collins, 2nd ed. 1982.

Articles in Scholarly Journals:

- "Bible Work in Eastern Europe", *Religion in Communist Lands* (RCL) 3, 1975 p.4-10. Reprinted as pamphlet by United Bible Societies.
- "Secret Soviet Lawbook on Religion", *RCL*, 4 Spring 1976, 24-34.
- "The New Soviet Law on Religion", *RCL*, IV, 2, Summer 1976. 4-10.
- "A Russian Baptist Leader's Call for Baptist-Mennonite Unity", *Mennonite Quarterly Review* (MQR) 3, 1976, 230-39.
- "Mennonite Congregations in the Soviet Union Today", *Mennonite Life*. March 1978, 12-26.
- "What Makes Russian Mennonites Mennonite?", *MQR*, 1978.
- "Russian Baptists Hold a Congress", *RCL* 1975.
- "The Reform Baptists Today", *RCL* 1, 1980, 28-38.
- "Religion and Legislation", *International Review of Socialist Law*. 1980.
- "Power in Church-State Relations in Eastern Europe", *MQR*, July, 1981, 214-217.
- "Soviet Evangelicals Today", *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe*, March 1984, 1-20.
- "Evangelicals in Eastern Europe Compared", *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe*. August 1986.
- "Another Look at Mission in Eastern Europe", *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*. January 1986, 12-18.
- "Glasnost, Perestroika and Religion", *Conrad Grebel Review* Fall 1988, 233-248.

"Die Sowjetmennoniten 1941 bis 1989" *Mennonitisches Jahrbuch*, 1990. 28-32.

Co-author of "Religion and the Law" in *Religious Liberty in the Soviet Union*, Keston College, 1975, a special report prepared for the World Council of Churches.

Co-author with Gerd Stricker, "Mennonites in the Soviet Union" in German in *Kirche im Osten*, 1984; and an abbreviated English translation in *RCL* 1984.

"Truth Telling In Eastern Europe: The Liberation and the Burden", *Journal of Church and State* Vol. 33, Autumn 1991, 701-729. (Also appeared in *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe*, August 1991).

An introduction to Natalia Baranova's "Cultural Factors of Labor Activity. A Mennonite Village in Siberia", for *MQR*, July 1991.

"Reading History Right as Missionary Task" *Witness* (MB Missions/Service) July 1991.

"After the Glasnost Revolution: Soviet Evangelicals and the Western Missions", *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, April 1992.

"Soviet Evangelicals and Church/State Understandings and Experiences", paper presented at International Conference of Fellowship of Evangelical Mission theologians in Osijek, Yugoslavia, April 1991.

"Prince Alexander N. Golitsyn: Formidable or Forgettable?" paper presented at AAASS, Phoenix AZ, November 1992.

"Critical Ecumenical Christian History for Post-Modernity - How Might Florovsky Help?", unpublished paper presented at Father Georges Florovsky Centenary Conference, U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, October 1993.

"Reflections on Church, Mission and Society in the Former Soviet Union Today", *Mission Focus*, 1994.

"Mennonite Historiography and the New Mennonites of Asia, Africa, and Latin America: Attempting a Critical Evaluation", *Conrad Grebel Review*, Winter/Spring 1997

"Zum Lebensbild Conrad Grebel Heute", *Mennonitisches Jahrbuch*, 1998.

"New Concerns about Proselytism in Contemporary Mission", *Mission Focus*, Vol. 6, 1998, 6-16.

"Dying for What Faith: When do Martyrologies Inspire and Heal or When do They Foster Christian Division", *Conrad Grebel Review*, spring 2000, 31-53.

"A Radical Reformation Perspective on Appropriating a More Inclusive Reformation Legacy Today" Strassbourg Feb. 2000 presented to Prague VI Consultation, published in *Studies from WARC* (Geneva, 2009).

"Impressions from Traveling in Russia/Ukraine and Central Asia, Spring 1999", *Religion in Eastern Europe*, XIX, No. 4 (August 1999) 9-20.

"Mission Focus: Annual Review - Refocusing the Future", *Mission Focus*, Vol. 8, 2000, 149-154.

"New Roles for CAREE Since the Great Transformation", *Religion in Eastern Europe*, XX, No. 3 (June 2000), 30-48.

"Historical Roots of a Post Gulag Theology for Russian Mennonites", *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, LXXVI, 2 (April 2002), 149-180.

"What Are They Really Saying? Recent Scholarship on the Proselytism Problem in Eastern Europe Assessed.", *Fides et Libertas*, 2001, 97-111.

"Russian Orthodoxy Faces Issues of the Day and of the Century - Church and Society, Religious Pluralism, Martyrs and Mission," *Religion in Eastern Europe*, XXII, 2 (April 2002) 1-15.

"Taking Church History Seriously When Weighted Down by Yoder's Dismissal of Constantinianism" presentation (unpublished) at *Believers Church Conference: Assessing the Theological Legacy of John Howard Yoder*, March 8, 2002. University of Notre Dame.

"Elusive Road to Mutuality in Global Mennonite Mission", *Mission Focus: Annual Review*, Vol. 10 (2002) 96-110.

"RELIGION IN EASTERN EUROPE Journal as Forum for Conversation", *Religion in Eastern Europe*, XXIII, No. 3 (June 2003), 12-24.

W. Sawatsky Curriculum Vitae, page 5.

- "From Mono-linear Paradigm Shifts to Multi-linear Transformations", *Mission Focus: Annual Review*, Vol. 11 Supplement (2003), 212-24.
- "Slavic Evangelicals in Mission Within the Commonwealth of Independent States: Inter-Church Mission Dialogue - Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant & Evangelical", *Transformation*, 21/3, July 2004, 195-204.
- "Mennonites and Mission in Eurasia", *Mission Focus: Annual Review*, Vol. 13 (2005) 128-135.
- "Paradigm Shifts in Mission Training at AMBS", *Mission Focus: Annual Review*, Vol. 14 (2006) 52-58.
- "The Many Faces of Anabaptism and Mission since 1860" *Mission Focus: Annual Review*, Vol. 14 (2006) 134-148.
- "Tensions Between Evangelical Protestants in the Former Soviet Union and America since 1989 - A Reflective Commentary," *Religion in Eastern Europe*, 27/4, 2007, 24-32.
- "Orthodox-Evangelical Protestant Dialogue on Mission - Challenges and Shifting Options," *Acta Missiologicae*, (CEEAMS Journal), Vol. 1 2008, 11-32.

Book Reviews: Have reviewed books on Mennonite and general East European themes, and on mission and ecumenism for *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, *Conrad Grebel Review*, *Journal of Mennonite Studies*, *Church History*, *Slavic Review*, *Slavonic Review*, *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe*, *Christian Century*, *Religion in Eastern Europe*, *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook*, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, *East-West Church and Ministry Report*, etc.

Contributions to Encyclopedia.

- "Belarus", "Georgia", "Kazakhstan", "Kirgizstan" & "Moldova" in *International Encyclopedia of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, vol. 1, 1997, vol. 2, 2000. Vol. 3, 2003; "Ukraine", "Uzbekistan", "Tajikistan", and "Turkmenistan" for *International Encyclopedia of the Church* Vol. 5 (Eerdmans, 2008).
- "Believers Church", and "Russia", for Jon Bonk, ed. *Encyclopedia of Mission and Missionaries*, Berkshire 2008.
- "Alexander I" in *Modern Encyclopedia of Religions in Russia and the Soviet Union* (MERRSU), edited by Paul Steeves. 1989.
- "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics"; "Russian Soviet Socialist Federated Republic"; "Spetskomandantura"; "Kirchliche Mennonites"; "All Union of Ev. Christian-Baptists"; and other entries for *Mennonite Encyclopedia*, Vol. V 1990.

Some Translation work

Translation from German to English: Perry B. Yoder & Willard M. Swartley, eds. *The Meaning of Peace. Biblical Studies*. Original German essays translated by Walter Sawatsky. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992; John A. Lapp & C. Arnold Snyder, eds. *Testing Faith and Tradition. Global Mennonite History Series: Europe*. Intercourse PA: Good Books, 2006 (chapter VII).; frequent translation from Russian to English articles for *Religion in Eastern Europe* journal

Other Media:

The Church Under Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. July 1986. 12 cassette tapes in vinyl album for extension course, Institute of Soviet and East European Studies, Wheaton IL.

Earlier Memberships:

- Member of European Mennonite Bible School Board 1980-1985;
MCC representative on administrative committee for Mennonitische Umsiedlerbetreuung 1975-1985;
Board member of EIRENE, Christian Service for Peace 1980-1985;
Founding member of Church and Peace, 1977-1985;

Travel and Speaking Experience:

Working with Mennonite Central Committee in Europe (1973-1985) resulted in extensive and regular travel in Western and Eastern Europe, usually visiting all East European countries (except Albania) annually (42 times to the Soviet Union or successor states). About one third time focus on 'church ambassador' which involved visiting with and preaching at many churches in Europe and North America. In addition there were semi-annual administrative and lecture tours to USA and Canada.

MCC role since 1985 from North American base (Director of USSR Concerns office at MCC Canada, 1987-90). This became a 25% assignment January 1990-2010, with semi-annual trips to the former USSR region and periodically to other East European countries, and editing *Religion in Eastern Europe* (1997f).

Some Specific Research, Travel & Speaking Experiences:

Sabbatical travel in Europe (Feb. 2 - March 10, 2009) calling on numerous ecumenical and Mennonite leaders, and presenting a paper "Whose Mission in Whose Europe - What Is Our Witness?" at a conference on "Mission in Orthodox Contexts" sponsored by University of Sofia Faculty of Theology & International Baptist Theological Seminary (Prague, Czech Republic).

Two lectures on evangelism and mission at Remembering the Whole Story (Pomnyi ves put') conference on reconciliation Part III, at Donetsk Christian University, March 2009.

Two lectures on church and state at Remembering the Whole Story (Pomnyi ves put') conference on reconciliation, Part II at Donetsk Christian University, March 2008.

Keynote Lectures (3) - at Remembering the Whole Story (Pomnyi ves put') conference on reconciliation at Donetsk Christian University, March 2007.

Teaching intensive one week course on Slavic Evangelical history at Almaty Bible Institute, Kazakhstan, Sept. 2007 plus consultations with theological educators in Novosibirsk, Omsk, Moscow & Petersburg.

Presenter at conference on Baptist History in Eastern Europe, Int. Bapt. Theo. Seminary (Prague) May 2005.

Presenter at conference on Mission and Theological Education, Prague (Int. Bapt. Theological Seminary) February 2005.

Central Europe visit of consultation in Prague & Budapest, leading continuing education workshop for MCC workers in Europe, August 2004.

Prague VII (final multi-lateral consultation) as Mennonite presenter and member of Findings Committee, Dec. 2003; Teaching History of Slavic Evangelicals, at REALIS in Kiev, Ukraine, Sept. 2003

Participant at Global Mission Forum and Mennonite World Congress in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe (August 2003) and visit to Meserete Kristos Church in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia.

Five Lectures on Missiology for CIS Evangelicals at Int. Baptist Theological Seminary, Prague (February 2003) & 3 weeks interview/research in western Europe.

Teach History of Slavic Evangelicals, Odessa Baptist Theological Seminary, Ukraine March 2003, 4 weeks interviews/research in former Soviet Union April 2003.

Teaching course on 20th Century Christian History at Ev. Theological Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia (June 2000),

Lecture tour sponsored by Lithuania Christian College (Feb. 2000); presented paper at Prague VI Consultation in Strasbourg (Feb.2000).

Conducting Oral History Conference, Kyiv Ukraine (October 11-15, 1999), seminar speaker at Euro-Asiatic Accrediting Association meetings in Kyiv, Ukraine.

FSU trip May 15-June 14, 1999 (1 week intensive teaching at Shchuchinsk Bible School (Kazakhstan), MB

mission program assessment tour (Kirgizstan, Kazakhstan, Russia & Ukraine), read paper at Khortitsa99 conference on Mennonite archival research.

Teaching "History of Orthodoxy" at Donetsk Christian University, Feb. 1999.

Teaching "Rethinking Mennonite History" at Great Plains Seminary Extension Program, Newton KS Jan. 10-22, 1998; public speaking in Kansas/Oklahoma area churches.

Mennonite participant at Prague 6 (Strasbourg, Feb. 2000), at "Prague 5- Justification & Sanctification" - ecumenical conversations in Geneva (Feb. 13-17, 1998) between First, Radical, and Magisterial Reformation representatives, and Prague 4 in Geneva 1994.

Workshop supervisor and translator at Mennonite World Conference, Calcutta India (Jan/1997), participant at Consultation on Theological Education in Five Continents (Calcutta Jan/97).

Teaching History of Orthodoxy, Moscow Baptist Theological Seminary, Sept-Oct. 1995.

National Endowment for the Humanities sponsored Summer Archive Research Seminar in Moscow on Church and Society 1860-1930, June/July 1994.

Keynote speaker at South American German Mennonite Conference, (Asuncion, Paraguay) February 1995 on Christian Education from an Anabaptist/Mennonite perspective, plus one month touring of Mennonite churches in Uruguay, Brazil & Paraguay with illustrated lectures on Russian Mennonites.

Teaching Russian Church History at Light of the Gospel College, Donetsk Ukraine, June 1992

Participant/speaker at Consultation on Pacifism in Russian History sponsored by Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow) October 1992.

Seminar on Suffering and Hope in the Mennonite Story, Pastors' Week, Jan. 1992

Presentation on Taking another Look at USSR, for Mishawaka Rotary Club, March 24, 1992

Four lectures on the Moral Revolution in Eastern Europe, Laurelville Mennonite Center, May 8-10, 1992

Consultant for Business and Ethics Consultation in Moscow, USSR, sponsored by Wheaton College, October 1991.

Interterm Lectures (5) on Russian Mennonite History at Bethesda Mennonite in Henderson NE. Jan. 28-30, 1991.

Paper presented at International Conference of Fellowship of Evangelical Mission theologians in Osijek, Yugoslavia, April 1991.

Lecture on Economics and Ethics in church history, at seminar on Ethics and Business in Moscow USSR, Oct. 1991

Lecture on Current Religious Situation in USSR, CAREE Annual meeting, Nov. 2, 1991.

Speaker at Peace Lecture Series, Bethel College, Kansas November 1990.

Keynote Speaker (4 lectures) on Rethinking Mission in Eastern Europe, at E. European Missions Conference, London England (Oct. 1989).

Tour Leader for Mennonite Mental Health Exchange Tour to Soviet Union (Oct. 1989)

Host for Soviet Mennonite Delegation to USA (Jan-Feb. 1989)

Member of Mennonite Central Committee delegation to USSR, Feb. 1988.

Keynote Speaker at Translators Consultation for East European Churches, sponsored by Eur. Baptist Federation, at Rueschlikon, Switzerland, May 1988.

Member of Mennonite delegation to three Consultations on the First and Radical Reformations, held in Prague Jan. 1986, June 1987 and June 1989.

Co-leader of East/West Peace Study Tour, August 1984 (Czech, GDR, Germany, Netherlands)

Member of Mennonite World Conference delegation to Soviet Union, 1980.

Fraternal Mennonite Representative at All-Union Congress of Evangelical Christian-Baptists in Moscow, 1974 and 1979.

W. Sawatsky Curriculum Vitae, page 8.

Fraternal observer at All-Christian Peace Assembly, Prague, June 1979.

Earlier Employment Record:

1973-1976 Research Scholar at Keston College (Centre for the Study of Religion and Communism) Keston ENGLAND (sponsored by Mennonite Central Committee).

1977-1985 Volunteer church worker with Mennonite Central Committee based in Neuwied, West Germany, with duties as East/West research scholar, Secretary for Europe (1980-85) administrator for all Mennonite Central Committee ministries in Europe, and 'Church Ambassador' in relating to Mennonites and other Christians in Europe.

1985-1987 Visiting Professor of History at Mennonite Biblical Seminary (Elkhart IN, USA) and East/West Research Scholar for Mennonite Central Committee.

1987-Jan. 1990 Director of East/West Concerns with MCC Canada, which included 1/4 time teaching in Canadian Mennonite colleges and schools plus part time Coordinator of Council of USSR Ministries (involving Mennonite agencies and conferences in USA and Canada), and quarter time administrator/coordinator of Russian Bible Commentary project.

Church Activity:

Member of Hively Avenue Mennonite church (Mennonite Church USA, formerly General Conference of Mennonites), Elkhart IN (1986-89, 1992-), moderator 1994, discernment committee 2003-05; worship committee chair 2005-08. Periodically leading worship, leading congregational singing, preaching.

Former member of Sargent Mennonite Church (GC), Winnipeg Manitoba (has included Adult Sunday School teaching, preaching, choir.; Gospel Mennonite Church (EMMC) Winnipeg Manitoba (1961-86); active participant in Ev. Mennonitengemeinde, Neuwied Germany (1980-85). Served on regular preaching rota of an Soviet Emigrant Mennonite Church in Neuwied West Germany (1977-1980), also regular Bible study leader; Associate member of Faith Mennonite Church, Minneapolis MN (1968-73) which included work with choir, adult education and church council member. Chair of Youth Committee and member of Board of Education of Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference (1963-1965).

Family:

Married 1966 to Margaret Warkentin, Canadian, chaplain at Greencroft Retirement Center 1998-2008, Goshen IN. Children: Natasha (1972) & Aaron Sawatsky Kingsley, grandchildren Terran (2004), Ania (2008); Alexander (1974) & Wendi Sawatsky and grandchildren Marianne(2000) & Lukas (2001).

Home Address:

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2406 Roys Avenue,
Elkhart Indiana, USA 46517

Current Research Interests:

1. Final editing of book length manuscript on Mennonite History from a Global Perspective.
2. Completing book manuscript Soviet Evangelicals and the Transformation of Russia.
3. Revisiting the velvet revolutions of 1989-91 to assess the nature of the nonviolent revolutions, and the subsequent challenge to east European Churches toward finding a role in building civil

society (sabbatical book project 2009.)

Broader scholarly projects:

4. Fostering historical scholarship on Christianity in the former Soviet Union, having coordinated a 5 year (1995-2001)(protracted) project on Oral History of Evangelical Christianity, also acting as consultant to Ukrainian Ev-Baptist Archives Project. Now relating to both activities through the EuroAsiatic Accrediting Association, and since 2003 via annual consultations at International Baptist Theological Seminary, Prague. Serving as adviser to several doctoral students in the Prague program.

5. Exploring means for fostering inter-confessional missiological discourse in Euroasia and eastern Europe, currently through an advisory committee of CEEAMS collecting data on oral history and archival resources on mission studies.