

Nevertheless: Finding Hope in Suffering

Proposal for 2022 Union University Pew Research Grant

Beth Madison

September 19, 2022

2022 UU Pew Grant Research Proposal for Beth Madison

Title of the project:

Nevertheless: Finding Hope in Suffering

Statement of the end products:

1. 20,000 -30,000 (100-120 pages) book titled *Nevertheless: Finding Hope in Suffering*
2. 6-8 segment video series (40-50 minutes each) to be used for individual or group studies alongside the book

Explanation of scholarly activity:

I. Statement of the scholarly activity

Researching Scriptural principles of how to thrive in life when living with suffering as seen in the lens of real-life stories and examples from geology and soil and environmental sciences as to provide a framework for finding hope in the midst of long-term grief and loss or chronic pain while living in a culture that defines an individual's worth by his ability to overcome adversity.

II. Description of the activity and its goals:

“[Suffering] brings us back to God by removing everything we put in His place.” (Alistair McGrath, *Suffering and God*, 1995)

“Suffering doesn’t automatically or naturally lead to [spiritual] growth or good outcomes. It must be handled properly.” (Timothy Keller, *Walking with God through pain and suffering*, 2015)

When suffering entered my life via chronic illnesses, my natural response as a scientist and fearful patient was to start researching all the things, from diagnoses to medical treatments to lifestyle changes. Yet the answers didn’t bring the help I wanted, much less the hope I needed. I learned quickly that hope was essential then and especially now, over ten years later.

And now, after talking with many living well (and not-so-well) in suffering, I know that hope is more important than cures, compassion, or conviction. Only hope can give the courage to make it through today’s known pain and tomorrow’s unknown challenges.

The overall premise of *Nevertheless: Finding Hope in Suffering* isn’t necessarily a new or novel concept, but a much needed one. This is an idea necessary to any Christian who’s trying to trust God as his Rock while living there in that hard every-day place of suffering. Or in Paul and Peter’s words in Romans 8 and 1 Peter 4, respectively, that’s all of us Christians in some capacity, either now or the future. Whether or not we want to acknowledge the reality of suffering in our lives, we choose to live with, in, or under it, as reflected in our response to it.

This book and video series is meant for those Christians searching for a way to thrive with hope and joy in a life marked by suffering that (most likely) won’t end before heaven or Christ’s return. Thus, neither the book nor the video series are intended to be traditionally academic in style or presentation. Rather, both are targeted for a broader audience of Christians searching for hope and help in living well with suffering. *Nevertheless* hopes to bring a new

perspective that will take them deeper into a faith necessary for the demands of today and the not-yet days and all that can entail in potentially more pain, loss, or grief.

Examples from nature and real-life stories will be used to encourage growth in faith as measurable and achievable. In other words, a life rich in a faith not just reserved for pastors, leaders, missionaries or any perceived as stronger or “better” Christians (seemingly) able to overcome anything. This book and video series could be used for individual or group faith-based topic studies, alongside serving as potential resources for college-level faith-based nursing or social science courses for counseling and compassion awareness and training.

With that in mind, each chapter will be framed on a cornerstone concept that points to Christ as our Rock that is higher than we are and as Faithful (see Psalm 61:2 and Deuteronomy 32:4). This concept will be fortified using memorial stones of stories from Scripture and individuals living in suffering in various ways including death of a spouse or child, depression, loss of finances or reputation, disability and illness, etc. (see Joshua 4:3-9). Soil, geological, and environmental science processes and principles will be sown throughout the book as natural markers reminding of God’s permanent presence and care for all of creation, including us as Christians called to be *living stones* (1 Peter 2:5). This combination of cornerstone concepts reinforced by stories and science is a new and novel approach to teaching truths necessary for a John 15 day to day thriving in a life marked by suffering. An abiding life set in and on these truths can flourish in suffering along with providing help and hope to those trying to survive suffering. Another new and novel approach in teaching these truths is use of practical and thought-provoking questions and exercises at the end of each chapter to reinforce the cornerstone concepts presented. These questions and exercises will present new and direct ways of

interacting with creation for another means of realigning the reader's perspective from being lost and alone in pain to being renewed through prayer, submission, and worship of our Creator.

III. Theoretical framework discussion

Psalm 73:26. NABRE *Though my flesh and my heart fail, God is the rock of my heart, my portion forever.*

Hebrews 6:8 MSG *Though He was God's Son, He learned trusting obedience by what He suffered, just as we do.*

Suffering does not respect gender, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, location, faith, or profession. Suffering can take as many forms as the number of people it affects, be it in their responses or lifestyle changes to or from it or the impacts from it on others in their worlds. From personal experience, suffering permeates far more of life than one ever expected it could from its' onset or in observing it from the outside. Even the "smallest" of sufferings can have the biggest of effects. For example, here's a few statistics for just one type of suffering – chronic illness. Almost 50% of Americans suffer from at least one chronic illness; 40% have 2 or more chronic illnesses; nearly 75% of annual aggregate healthcare costs are for treatment of chronic illnesses; and 70% of deaths in the U.S. annually are from chronic illness (Ragupathi and Ragupathi, 2019). Goodwin and Morgan (2012) indicate at least 20% of Americans with chronic illness report a major negative and/or debilitating influence from the illness on their daily life functions.

A key point in and with suffering: no matter where we are or what we believe (or not), we can have pain, loss, or grief in common. The pain from one sufferer speaks to the pain in another sufferer's life, even if the source of the pain differs in circumstance, cost, condition, or chronology. Anecdotal data to support this idea: the most popular blog posts I have, the most common topic I'm asked to speak or write on (in faith-based and secular environments), and the most frequent organic connections I make with people directly involve the topic of suffering*. Even the writing of this proposal was partially prompted by a faculty member introducing me to another faculty member while referencing a talk she'd heard me give three years ago on living well in suffering. (And I quote, "I don't go to chapel but I did for this one and won't ever forget it. You need to listen to the video of it – it's on Union's website."). Suffering and finding hope for the strength of standing up under it speaks loudly, memorably, and to many. Likewise, vulnerability in suffering, which manifests itself in my life with my cane, walker, or electric scooter, seems to be a safe place for others to be seen and receive love there in their pain.

More safe places where people are graciously and wisely told the truth in love are what I hope will be created through using this book and video series. Despite culture's changing climate to try and be more inclusive, a large swath of separation remains for the sufferer from where she is to where she feels accepted. Rejection from lack of understanding, judgement for not being better at dealing with all of this, and fear of pain's weight on a life is thick "in the water" trying to drown the sufferer in guilt or shame from not simply overcoming what she can't control. For example, I'm commonly asked by strangers and students alike, "why do you use a cane/walker/electric scooter?". After I reply (with a little laugh), "to keep me out of the floor from weak joints from rheumatoid arthritis", the most common response is "no, you're too young for that" usually followed by "have you tried ____?", "well, you sure look good", or immediately

changing the subject. All of these answers are well-intentioned toward me; none are helpful to me. And that's ok, because my Good God gives the grace that fills the gaps in my need and transforms the lecture I want to give them into a genuine "thank you".

Nevertheless intends to bring grace to the forefront in conversations, communities, and classes instead of the common (and expected) ideas of being an overcomer or a victim in the suffering. Grace allows for "thank-you's" instead of reactionary anger from the hurt. Grace nurtures growth in the suffering in new ways previously unknown (or expected) by the sufferer. Grace fills up the empty spaces from what pain is constantly draining away. Joni Eareckson Tada beautifully calls suffering "a gift wrapped in black" (Tada,1997). She affirms that grace is what gives a sufferer strength to receive the gift and to use it for growth in her life and others. Trust me, even the strongest of wills fades alongside the body as evidenced in Psalm 73:26 and my medical bills. But grace-seeds can bring that 30-,60-, 100-fold harvest of Matthew 13:23 in the soil of a soul surrendered to God, no matter how long or hard the pain. For grace's strength is found only in the Rock, our Redeemer Who has always been and always will be (see Revelation 4:8).

This project will highlight grace's often overlooked presence in daily life through examples from nature. Emphasizing the strength of grace through nature-based metaphors will remind the reader/watcher that he is seen, known, loved, and provided for by Creator God in the world around him, including that under his feet. One major theme in the project will trace the concept of memorial stones of Scripture and personal stories. Geologic and environmental science processes, including that of rock genesis to development into soil, will be used as to highlight grace's strength in our everyday lives. The ultimate purpose of using soil, rock, and

things we can see in nature every day is to represent God's permanence and presence and guidance and goodness in all life circumstances, especially and including suffering.

A few examples of such ideas include:

1. Rock formation involves processes like high heat and pressure (igneous), water (sedimentary), and upheaval (metamorphic) which can link with various Scripture passages, including Isaiah 43:2 ESV *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you* and Psalm 46:2 *So we are not afraid when the earth quakes and the mountains fall into the sea.*
2. David's use of *five smooth stones* in 1 Samuel 17 when facing Goliath. His bravery came from his trust in God's provision which had been honed over time in previous encounters with lions, bears, and (probably) lots of long dark nights alone in the fields. Learning bravery can be most valuable to a sufferer which, in turn, can also strengthen others not directly living in suffering.
3. Revelation 21:7's depiction of the *white stone* to be given *to the one who endures to the end*. In suffering, endurance is essential. Since faith is essential to endurance and *faith comes by hearing the Word*, Scripture's vital and every-day role to thriving in suffering will be continually emphasized.
4. The overarching principle of trusting God as Good and as what He does as good as seen in the word itself of *nevertheless*, also worded *even if*, referenced in Habakkuk 3:17, Daniel 3:17, and other verses. This word alone can be a memorial stone evoking dependence on God's provision in all circumstances. Digging out this principle from Scripture and everyday life situations will be foundational to trusting God in the

painful now and the unknown not-yet. Such truths are essential for growth in the soil of the soul of the sufferer.

5. An expanded thought on Scripture, suffering, and soil science: Scripture tells us God formed Adam from soil (see Genesis 2:7). Scripture also tells us soil received the curse of Adam's sin (see Genesis 3:17). Because of Adam's choice(s), that which was his source became his suffering. Yet because of God's great love, Christ chose sin's suffering as His own that we might be joined back to God via salvation (see 2 Corinthians 5:21). As Adam's child in both sin and suffering, I have constant opportunities to choose to reject the sin of fear and to trust God in suffering. As Christ's co-heir in suffering, I have constant opportunities to believe how He has already overcome both sin and suffering *once for all*, that I might live in freedom and joy with Him forever, starting now (see Romans 8:17, 2 Corinthians 1:5, and Hebrews 10:10, respectively). For when I choose to trust Christ there in suffering, Christ returns me to Him as the Source of hope that will not disappoint or disappear (see Isaiah 49:23). And then, my Source renews the soil of my soul in ways that might even be sweeter than the joy Adam knew in Eden before the advent of sin and suffering. Better yet, one day all of us will know an even fuller joy when Christ returns to banish sin and suffering forever (see Revelation 21:4)!

Finally, poignant emphases on grace in *Nevertheless* will come from personal testimonies from those living well in and under pain from various life circumstances including chronic illness, death of family members, mental illness, financial ruin, prior drug and alcohol addiction, and others. Each person chosen for telling his story will bring wisdom and personally lived-out truths from Scripture. These stories will give practical examples of how to hold fast to God and

rest in knowing He's holding fast to them. Each personal story will include at least one Bible verse to which the one telling the story has held fast to in her search for trusting God in suffering. These stories will serve as both memorial stones and sources of memorable and safe place ways for the reader/watcher to learn about the necessary (and often hard) lessons of finding hope for living well in suffering.

Since I hope to involve at least one UU student* in this project by working alongside the professional video crew doing the filming work, UU student(s) will also be exposed (and hopefully be encouraged by and learn from) these stories of strong grace in everyday lives. The video work itself could provide opportunities for relationship development between the students and those telling the stories which might not otherwise have occurred. And ideally, this development might lead into organic mentoring opportunities impacting not only the students but their current friends and future families and coworkers through practical encouragement to grow in grace, and thus intimacy with God.

*Through conversations outside of class, two students have already expressed interest in working with this project in whatever way he or she can be involved because of her desire to make such a project happen and to be a part of it.

References cited in theoretical framework discussion:

1. Goodwin, S. and S. Morgan. 2012. Chronic illness and the academic career: The hidden epidemic in higher education. American Association of University Professors, May/June 2012. <https://www.aaup.org/article/chronic-illness-and-academic-career#.XRSDHlxKjIU>
2. Ragupathi, W. and V. Ragupathi. 2018. An empirical study of chronic diseases in the United States: A visual analytics approach to public health. Int J Environ Health Res Public Health, 2018, Mar 15(3): 431. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5876976/>

3. Tada, Joni Eareckson and Steven Estes. 1997. *When God Weeps: why our sufferings matter to the Almighty*. Zondervan.

IV. Brief examination of scholarly literature:

All books listed below are similar in main topic and range in popularity from being New York Times bestsellers to niche books. *Nevertheless* will differ from all of these in having the following: inclusion of geology or soil and environmental science principles; focus on awareness and appreciation of the natural world around us; broader audience appeal to men and women, college-aged and up seeking practical help for thriving with pain/loss that doesn't have a time-limit; new stories which include impacts from the pandemic and cultural changes occurring since; thought-provoking questions and exercises to complete at the end of each chapter; and a corresponding video series*. Differences from *Nevertheless* specific to each book are discussed below.

*Terkeurst's book is the one exception in having study questions and a video series.

1. Bowler, Kate. 2018. *Everything happens for a reason and other lies I've loved*. Random House Publishers. Bowler's approach is more gritty than gracious in bringing truth to living well with chronic illness. There are solid truths to be found here but could be a bit controversial for traditional Christian arenas because of other topics and language included in the book.
2. Keller, Timothy. 2015. *Walking with God through pain and suffering*. Riverhead Books. This book is targeted for pastors and Christian leaders looking for a resource to care for

their flock in its academic presentation style suitable for seminary training. Keller himself says at the beginning of the book that if you're not a pastor/Christian leader to skip to after the middle of the book to start reading.

3. Tada, Joni Eareckson and Steven Estes. 1997. *When God Weeps: why our sufferings matter to the Almighty*. Zondervan. Primary differences include writing style(s)*, stories told, and applicable statistics. *one chapter is written by one author and the next written by the other author – can have loss of flow/continuity with this approach.
4. Terkeurst, Lysa. 2018. *It's not supposed to be this way: finding unexpected strength when disappointments leave you shattered*. Nelson Books. Main difference is that it's targeted for middle-aged women, both in writing and presentation style in book and videos series.
5. Tripp, Paul David. 2018. *Suffering: Gospel hope for when life doesn't make sense*. Crossway. Also targeted for pastors and Christian leaders in caring for their flock but less traditionally academic than Keller book.
6. Wetherall, Kristen and Sarah Walton. 2017. *Hope When it Hurts: Biblical reflections to help you grasp God's purpose in your suffering*. The Good Book Company. Quick read devotional style targeted for busy young moms (especially stay-at-home moms) trying to adjust to the pressures of living with babies and newly diagnosed chronic illnesses.

500-1000 word essay describing how the Christian faith relates to your understanding of your discipline and how it relates to this scholarly endeavor:

Psalm 103:14. AMPC *For He knows our frame, He [earnestly] remembers and imprints [on His heart] that we are dust.*

To this soil scientist living with chronic illnesses, that verse speaks deep to the soil of my soul every single day. The truth that Creator God intimately knows all of creation, including me, helps me to trust Him to keep giving the strength for teaching about the soil under my feet while seeing my body return to the same (see Genesis 3:19). And if not for God's grace, my faith

would easily follow my body in going to dust amidst constant pain and loss of abilities trying their best to erode my belief in God's plan for good (see Romans 8:28). But thanks be to God, my faith continues to complement my profession and the rhythm of my days in the good gift of a niche where Scripture, science, and suffering are symbiotic.

To me, soil (or *dust*) is not just a resource from which to feed, clothe, heal, or remediate the world. It's not just something I walk on or educate others about the need to care for it. Soil is where I come from and to where I'll return – the home now of my family farm and a picture of the new earth to come. I identify in position and placement to and with soil, both physically and spiritually like Adam could've done. I don't worship soil, much less the study of it, but working with it leads me to a closer, deeper adoration of the One Who created it and me. Psalm 111:2 captures my thoughts with *The Lord's works are great, studied by all who delight in them.*

There are many signposts in geology, soil and environmental sciences pointing straight to our Creator and our Christ, if we stop to look at them. Signposts ranging from the atomic level of the water molecule being adsorbed by a plant root hair to the huge green canopy of a maple tree actively participating in photosynthesis high overhead. I could say the same for suffering and its signposts in how they can point to God, if one chooses to see them as a path to Him. From personal experience, I think this is especially true for those thinking they are doing just fine on their own until they encounter that which swamps them and leaves them lost. And lost until they find hope that doesn't erode, even if their bodies or life circumstances do.

Signposts can shine bright to those of us who know the Savior in suffering or environmental sciences. And if we see them, we have opportunity (and responsibility) to show them to others. Since I've been given the privilege of teaching science intersecting with faith along with living with chronic illnesses, drawing a map to God in faith highlighting these

signposts is a gift I can share with my students in and out of the classroom. Students are hungry for the joy found in unearthing treasures in soil science, Scripture, and the once-before-perceived specter of suffering. They yearn for a yet unknown passion for intimacy with Creator God through knowing more of His creation and His presence in their lives in all ways, including that amazing world underneath our feet. They are searching for hope that doesn't fade with circumstances or over time. Hence, the reason for my application for this grant – the opportunity to share some of these signposts in the map of a book and corresponding video series with potentially far more people than I might encounter here at Union in my classes and conversations. And in the doing, I am praying for good soil in the souls of those who might read this book or watch the videos. A prayer that their souls might become just like the soil we read about in Matthew 13: 23 *As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.*

Time frame for project completion and dissemination:

1. Book writing – expected completion by Fall 2023
2. Video series – expected to begin Spring 2023 with projected completion by Spring 2024
3. Project dissemination – already in preliminary talks with Northeastern Baptist Press (NEBP) on this* – will submit full project proposal to them for contracture review when project funding is in place – hopeful for project publication in 2024 or 2025

*When tossing future project ideas to the NEBP director, *Nevertheless* was the one about which he was sitting up straight in his chair, vigorously nodding his head, and asking “yes, yes! This is needed – when do you think it might be ready?”.

Brief project budget with explanation of need for monies for each budget item:

1. \$400 for books for research – These are: books not currently in Union’s library system; references needed for working with longer than the allowed interlibrary loan borrowing times; or longer books not conducive to online access for personal health issues resulting from extended computer usage in reading
2. \$1,500 for travel expenses to present an excerpt from *Nevertheless* at the American Scientific’s Affiliation (ASA) Annual Meetings in summer 2023 – These are expenses above and beyond that covered by annual monies available from the Provost for faculty development. ASA has previously published an article I wrote on a related topic. It was well-received, thus, I am very hopeful that a presentation will also be accepted for this. Also, attending this meeting will allow for good conversations with peers which could provide more data and stories for the project along with contacts for greater marketing of the project for use in other universities and institutions. Another important conversation at this meeting would be with one of the new ASA directors who used to work with

InterVarsity which published a good number of articles I wrote in related areas. She has already expressed much interest in *Nevertheless*.

3. \$200 for additional supplies for my home office because of the need from my health concerns to primarily work from home on this project.
4. \$2,400 for costs of making the videos – These costs include: paying a local company (UU alums) for their work in filming, editing, and producing the videos; printing costs for handouts, food, drinks, and other supplies necessary for the audience attending and participating in the filming of the teaching portions of the videos; and gift cards to thank those individuals being filmed for their testimony stories for the videos.
5. Budget total - \$4,500

Brief synopsis of 2021 UU Pew Grant Project and evidence of completion of project:

Brief synopsis of *Well-Grounded: Unearthing Joy in Eden's Rhythms* – 20,000 to 30,000-word book on questions I see as a soil scientist about the Garden of Eden, intimacy with God, my role as caretaker and classifier, and daily habits and spiritual disciplines. These questions focused on Genesis chapters 1-3 alongside other passages from Scripture.

Evidence of having met project goals for grant received:

1. First draft of entire book, *Well-Grounded*, completed August 2022

2. Sample *Well-Grounded* book chapters are currently with NEBP for contracture review and possible publication in 2023
3. “Cultivating Contentment” - book excerpt published by ASA’s God and Nature magazine, Summer 2022
4. Presentation titled ““Who Named Adam?” and Other Questions Relating to Our Role as Christ’s Caretakers of Creation” (which included an excerpt from *Well-Grounded*), Christianity in the Academy Conference, Inklings Conference, Oxford, England, July 2022.
5. “Cultivating Creation Care” – book excerpt accepted for publication in 2022 Journal of the Union University Faculty Forum, August 2022.

Dear Pew Grant Review Committee:

Thank you for your time and effort into reviewing this application (and all the others also). I hope that the reading of these applications have been encouraging to you. Please know that I have been praying for you and your families while preparing these materials. May God grant you the desires of your heart in ways and timing that are unmistakably stamped as good gifts coming from Him. May He fortify you today with strength deep in the soil of your soul and may He do the same again for you tomorrow.

Gratefully,

Beth

Curriculum vitae (as of September, 2022)

Beth Madison
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I. Education

1997. Ph.D. Kansas State University (KSU)
Major: Soil Microbiology (GPA 3.8/4.0)
1992. M.S. University of Kentucky (UKL)
Major: Soil Science (GPA 3.7/4.0)
1990. B.S. University of Tennessee (UTK)
Major: Plant and Soil Science (GPA 3.7/4.0)

II. Professional experience

- 2022-present Union University
Full-time associate professor, tenured
- 2018-2021 Union University
Full-time associate professor
- 2010–2018 Union University
Full-time assistant professor
- 2007-2010 Union University
Part-time assistant professor
- 2003-2007 Union University
Adjunct faculty
- 1998-2002 Waycross College (part of the University of Georgia system)
Adjunct faculty
- 1997-1998 Western Kentucky University
Assistant professor
- 1993-1997 Graduate teaching and research assistant (KSU)
- 1992-1993 Graduate teaching assistant (UKL)
- 1990-1992 Graduate research assistant (UKL)
- 1988-1990 Undergraduate teaching assistant (UTK)
- 1981-1990 Undergraduate research assistant (UTK)

III. Honors and awards

UU Faculty of the Year Nomination

KSU Dept. of Agronomy Atkins Scholarship for Agronomy

KSU Dept. of Agronomy Weber Scholarship for Soil Microbiology*

KSU Graduate School Fellowship for Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistants*

UTK Chancellor's Citation for Professional Promise

UTK American Society of Agronomy (ASA) Outstanding Senior

UTK Agricultural Alumni Scholarship for Outstanding Students

UTK College of Agriculture Outstanding Junior

UTK Wright Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding Students*

(* = awarded at least twice)

IV. Honor societies

Sigma Xi

Phi Kappa Phi

Gamma Sigma Delta

Alpha Zeta

Golden Key National Honor Society

V. Professional societies

American Society of Agronomy (ASA)

Soil Science Society of Agronomy (SSSA)

Kentucky Academy of Science (KAS)

Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS)

American Scientific Affiliation (ASA)

Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG)

VI. Courses taught:

Union University – nearly 1500 non-duplicating UU students taught as of Fall 2022

HON 235 Creation – Models of Scientific Inquiry

BSOL 438 Environmental Science

PHY 111 and 111L Principles of Physical Science Lecture and Laboratory

BIO 100 and 100L Survey of Biological Concepts Lecture and Laboratory

UNI 297 Creation Sings: Where Science and Faith Meet

UNI 196 Environmental Issues

UNI 196 Urban Ecology

UNI 195 Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship

Guest lecturer* for BIO 110 Global Biology, BIO 200 Wildlife Biology,
and PEWS 327 Environmental Health
(* = a minimum of three times)

Waycross College (now named South Georgia State College, UGA system)

Environmental Science

Western Kentucky University

Introductory Soil Science Lecture and Laboratory

Introduction to Plant Science Lecture and Laboratory

Soil Fertility Lecture and Laboratory

Introduction to Environmental Science Lecture and Laboratory

General Agriculture Lecture and Laboratory

Kansas State University

Introductory Soil Science Laboratory

Substitute lecturer for Introductory Soil Science, Soil and Water

Conservation, Soil Fertility, Soil Microbiology, and Soil Genesis and
Classification

University of Kentucky

Introductory Soil Science Laboratory

Soil and Water Conservation Laboratory

Substitute lecturer for Introductory Soil Science and Soil Fertility

VII. Publications

1. Published books, May 2022 and October 2022, *Good Ground: Volumes 1 and 2*, respectively. Northeastern Baptist Press (NEBP) (books on intersection of soil science and faith)
2. Book completed and awaiting contracture with NEBP, *Well-Grounded: Unearthing Joy in Eden's Rhythms*. (book on intersection of agronomy, questions from Genesis, and the spiritual disciplines – recipient of 2021 UU Pew Grant for the writing of this book and presentation of materials from it)
3. Article accepted for publication in 2022 Journal of Union University Faculty Forum, “Cultivating Creation Care”, (book excerpt from *Well-Grounded: Unearthing Joy in Eden's Rhythms*)
4. Article for God and Nature Magazine, American Scientific Affiliation, Summer 2022, “Cultivating Contentment” (book excerpt from *Well-Grounded: Unearthing Joy in Eden's Rhythms*)
5. Two articles for Christian Scholar's Review, “What's That Smell?” and “What's in a Name?”, Spring and Summer 2022, respectively. (article 1 – book excerpt from *Good Ground, Volume 2* and article 2 – book excerpt from *Good Ground, Volume 1*)

6. Three articles for Emerging Scholar's Network (ESN) book targeted for graduate students and graduate faculty in process for publishing by InterVarsity Fellowship.
7. Article for God and Nature Magazine, American Scientific Affiliation, Spring 2021, "Humus and Humility".
8. Weekly blog posts at soulscientistblog.com since 2021.
9. Article for American Scientific Affiliation Proceedings for December, 2019, "*Semper Fidelis*: The Power of Friendship in Suffering".
10. Requested series of articles for 2018 InterVarsity Fellowship's ESN called "What I Wish my University Colleagues Knew About Chronic Illness".
11. Journal of Union University Faculty Forum: 2021-2022 "Five Smooth Stones" and "My Favorite Necklace"; 2020-2021 "Soul Science: Three Biblical Illustrations from a Soil Scientist"; 2019-2020 "A New Favorite Phrase"; 2017-2018, "Weedy Love" and "Humility"; 2016-2017, "Reflections on God's Grace" and "Reflections on God's Faithfulness".
12. Five articles for 2016-2017 ESN: "Teaching Tips: Growing in Respect, Learning to Fly"; "Teaching Tips: Humility, Caring, and Cheerleading"; "If I had to do it Again: The Graduate and Early Professor Years Edition"; "Not What I'd Planned"; and "Story-telling for Life".
13. Two chapters for UU BIO 110 Global Biology textbook currently used by UU students (in-house publication distributed via Canvas) entitled "Growing for Going: Biofuels" and "Agriculture = Soil + Water + Climate + Hard Work + Prayer" (2014, 2015).
14. Teaching manual for UU School of Adult and Professional Studies (SOAPS) adjunct faculty (2014): "Mission-Focused Teaching".
15. Twelve articles for Christian to Christian Connection Magazine (2007-2011): "Gone"; "Why Have a Quiet Time?"; "Freedom"; "Stuck"; "Enough"; "The Sure Foundation"; "Test Everything, Hold on to the Good"; "I Want That!"; "Buying Back Our Lives"; "Ordinary Prayers"; "At Home"; and "One God, One Church, One People".
16. Bible study workbook on Ephesians for church-wide emphasis on Ephesians, in-house publication and distribution by West Jackson Baptist Church (2007).
17. One article for Sweet Monday newsletter: The Sweet Wrapper (2006): "Friendships are Golden".
18. Five articles for The Navigators/NavPress's Discipleship Journal: Helping You Grow in Christ (2005, 2006, 2007): "Missions: Perfect Timing"; "Small Groups: Wise Advice";

“Missions: Take it and Leave it”; “Serving: Showered in Prayer”; and “Missions: One for me, One for You”.

19. Two Bible study series for LifeWay’s Church Resources Life Answers Family Bible Study Series: “Serving on Purpose” lessons – Leader Guides and Learner Guides for February 5, 12, 19, 26 (Winter 2005) and “Christ Followers” lessons – Leader Guides and Learner Guides for March 5, 12, 19, 26 (Spring 2005).
20. One article for LifeWay’s Church Resources Collegiate Family Bible Study Series Learner Guide (Spring 2005): “My Wedding Dress.”
21. Two Bible study series for LifeWay’s Church Resources Collegiate Family Bible Study Series: Bible study commentary for November (Fall 2004) and Personal Bible study lessons for May (Spring 2005).
22. “Standing Firm...Pressing On: Daily Devotions for Students Preparing for Missions”, published by the International Mission Board as an e-book distributed to all students participating in the Journeyman program (2004 and subsequent years).
23. One article for Encouraging U! A 31 Day Devotional for Parents of Union Students (2004): “Why Pray?” (formerly printed and distributed yearly to parents of UU incoming freshmen, now available online on UU homepage).
24. “Essentials: The Women’s Retreat Workbook”, in-house publication and distribution by West Jackson Baptist Church (2004).
25. “Forty Days for the Family Devotional Guide” co-authored with Gene and Lisa Fant, in-house publication and distribution by West Jackson Baptist Church (2003).
26. Madison, C.E., C.W. Rice, and M.K. Banks. 1997. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon biodegradation in subsurface soil materials. KAS Abstracts. Kentucky Academy of Science, Morehead, KY.
27. Barfield, B.J., R.L. Blevins, A.W. Fogle, C.E. Madison, S.P. Inamdar, D.I. Carey, and V.P. Evangelou. 1997. Water quality impacts of natural riparian grasses: Empirical studies. American Society of Agricultural Engineering paper No. 922100.
28. Thien, S.J., C.W. Rice, and C.E. Madison. 1997. Course information on the World Wide Web, Agronomy Abstracts, American Society of Agronomy, Madison, WI.
29. Madison, C.E., C.W. Rice, and M.K. Banks. 1996. Subsurface denitrification in PAH contaminated soils: Time, temperature, and aeration effects. Agronomy Abstracts, American Society of Agronomy, Madison, WI.
30. Madison, C.E., C.W. Rice, J.G. Harris, and R.E. Lamond. 1994. Nitrogen source and tillage effects on corn grain yield, soil nitrogen, and denitrification. In Kansas Fertilizer

Research, 1994 Report of Progress No. 719, Kansas State Agricultural Experiment Station, Manhattan, KS.

31. Fogle, A.W., D.I. Carey, B.J. Barfield, R.L. Blevins, V.P. Evangelou, C.E. Madison, and S.P. Inamdar. 1994. Impacts of riparian grass filter strips on surface water quality. Information Circular 46, Series XL, University of Kentucky, Kentucky Geological Survey, Lexington, KY.
32. Madison, C.E., R.L. Blevins, and W.W. Frye. 1992. Tillage and grass filter strip effects on sediment and chemical losses. Agronomy Abstracts, American Society of Agronomy,
33. Madison, W.I. (Also published in Agronomy Research Report, University of Kentucky, Department of Agronomy, Lexington, KY).
34. Madison, C.E., R.L. Blevins, and W.W. Frye. 1992. Effects of tillage and grass filter strips on surface runoff of water, nitrate, sediment, and atrazine. Soil Science News and Views. Volume 13, No. 5, University of Kentucky, Department of Agronomy, Lexington, KY.

VIII. Grants received

1. UU Pew Research Grant, 2021 for writing *Well-Grounded: Unearthing Joy in Eden's Rhythms*.
2. Full scholarship for attending Greater Philadelphia Christian Writer's Conference, 2021

IX. Presentations:

1. Guest lecturer for Northeastern Baptist College (Burlington, VT) on "Cultivating the soil of our souls" in reference to using *Good Ground, Volume 1* as one of their textbooks for Introduction to Psychology, 2022.
2. Inklings Conference, "Who Named Adam? and Other Questions Relating to Our Role as Christ's Caretakers of Creation", (Oxford, England) 2022.
3. Christianity in the Academy, "What's in a Name?", 2022.
4. The Bemis Book Club and Women of the Word, Sycamore View Church of Christ on *Good Ground, Volume 1* (for both presentations), 2022.
5. Patient advocacy presentations to TN State Senate and House of Representatives for the Coalition for Affordable Access to Medicine about step therapy reform legislation

- (Nashville, TN), 2022 (Bill presented passed both the Senate and House of Representative votes and approved by TN governor afterwards.)
6. Delta Kappa Gamma Society's (DKG) TN State Workshop presentation, "Living Well as a Teacher with Chronic Illness", 2022 (online and recorded to be used on international DKG website)
 7. UU Union Beginnings for New Faculty, "Finding Balance", 2022
 8. UU Collegium for New Faculty, "Soil Science and Faith Interactions", 2022
 9. DKG Society, Beta Eta Chapter meeting, "Living well with Chronic Illness", 2021.
 10. UU College of Nursing, "Living Well with Chronic Illness and Patient Advocacy", 2021
 11. UU School of Theology and Missions Retreat, "Dealing with Suffering and Discouragement", 2021.
 12. Calvary Baptist Church, "Soil Science and Faith Interactions", (Knoxville, TN), 2021.
 13. UU Chapel panel discussion participant on the importance of the local church, 2021.
 14. UU Life139 and Bull Moose student societies combined special event, "Creation Care and Personal Identity", 2021.
 15. UU Fall Faculty Workshop "Reading That has Renewed Me", 2021.
 16. UU Honors panel discussion participant on marriage, singleness, and loneliness, 2021.
 17. Session leader for UU Fall Faculty Workshop "Reading That has Renewed Me", 2021.
 18. Speaker for video on "Successful Living with Rheumatoid Arthritis" for the Global Healthy Living Foundation, Yale University, and Carnegie Mellon School of Medicine, 2021.
 19. Speaker for similar video for Global Healthy Living Foundation and Horizons Therapeutics, 2021.
 20. Multiple virtual patient advocacy meetings for the Arthritis Foundation and the Lupus Foundation with Tennessee State Senate and House of Representative officials as a patient expert, 2021.
 21. Published interviews with Everyday Health, Millie Magazine, and the Invisible/Visible Worth Foundations (podcasts, online, and print outlets) as a patient expert, 2021.
 22. Panel discussion member for UU BIOME and SMACS student organizations on "Women in Science", 2020 and 2021
 23. Speaker at 2020 Tennessee House of Representatives (Nashville, TN) representing the Arthritis Foundation as a patient expert.
 24. Speaker at 2020 U.S. Senate staff meeting (Washington, D.C.) as a patient expert on the need for access to affordable medicines for chronic illnesses.
 25. Speaker at National Patient Advocacy Foundation 2020 Forum as a patient expert on living well with chronic illness.
 26. Speaker at 2019 Amgen National Health Equity Summit (Washington, D.C.) representing the Global Healthy Living Foundation as a patient expert.
 27. Christianity in the Academy (Oxford, England) 2019 "*Semper Fidelis: The Power of Friendship in Suffering*".
 28. UU New Faculty Collegium on Wisdom and Learning 2020, 2019, 2018
 29. UU Fall Faculty Workshop - "Effective Teaching and Learning in Online Courses" (2017)
 30. UU Honors community colloquium – "Life in Unexpected Places" (2015)
 31. UU SOAPS Adjunct Faculty Annual Workshop – "Mission Focused Teaching" (2014)

32. UTech presentation recorded as an academic resource for UU faculty – “Meshing Academic Rigor with Spiritual Formation: Using Moodle and Tegrity in Blended Non-major Science Courses” (2013)
33. UU Family Weekend Workshop – “Praying for Your College Student” (2004)
34. KSU and UKL Agronomy Field Day(s) speaker
35. Multiple research presentations at annual ASA and SSSA conventions

X. Other roles in service:

Professional societies and committee work:

1. UU Committee on Committees
2. UU Curriculum Committee
3. UU SOAPS Curriculum Committee
4. UU Chapel Advisory Committee
5. UU Honors Community Leadership Committee
6. UU School of Adult and Professional Studies task team to expand and improve degree program offerings
7. Provost’s task team for discussion of admission policies query from UU Faculty Forum
8. UU Faculty Forum leadership team - Secretary
9. UU Information Technology task teams for evaluating and implementing multiple programs (including Blackboard, Moodle, Tegrity, Panopto, and Canvas) for use in UU online courses
10. UU mental health crisis team
11. WKU Dept. of Agriculture Department Head search committee
12. Manuscript reviewer for The Journal of Environmental Quality
13. Manuscript reviewer for The Journal of Natural Resources and Life Science Education
14. ASA *ad hoc* National Membership Action Coordinating Committee
15. Advisor for WKU Agronomy Club and for Women in Agriculture organization
16. WKU Dept. of Agriculture Library representative
17. Proposal reviewer for United States-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund
18. ASA Agronomy News column writer
19. Manuscript reviewer for the SSSA Journal
20. KSU Dept. of Agronomy Course and Curriculum Committee
21. KSU Gamma Sigma Delta committee
22. UKL Dept. of Agronomy Departmental Review committee
23. UKL Dept. of Agronomy Seminar committee
24. UTK Plant and Soil Science club president
25. UTK Soil and Water Conservation Society chapter president

Other opportunities:

1. UU Scholar's Weekend Judge and Table Host every year since 2017
2. Helped Provost's office in revision of UU Faculty Development webpage
3. Creation and implementation of a manual and a corresponding workshop targeted to emphasize the importance of faith in teaching for UU SOAPS adjunct faculty from all 3 of Union's campuses
4. Faculty co-leader of mentoring program for UU women students
5. UU Be Our Guest host home (every fall and spring except 2020)
6. UU GO trip prayer partner and encouragement support
7. Mentored UU new faculty members in Pharmacy and Computer Science
8. UU Honors colloquium leader
9. Faculty co-sponsor of UU student group for disability awareness
10. Patient council member for Global Healthy Living Foundation
11. Patient advocate for Arthritis Foundation and the Lupus Foundation
12. Advisory council member for development of new health monitoring app for patients by the Arthritis Foundation
13. Special consultant on environmental science to Madison Academic High School Academic Decathlon team
14. Judge for West TN Regional Science and Engineering Fair
15. Professional consultant for Carolina Biological Supply, Brooks/Cole (Pearson), and Cengage learning for development and use of online tools and at-home lab kits for teaching non-majors biology and environmental science courses
16. Regular hosting of UU students and faculty in our home for various events including Be Our Guest, extensions of class activities, and the UU Department of Biology Christmas parties and faculty workshops
17. Sunday School teacher at West Jackson Baptist Church (WJBC)) and as needed, substitute teacher for other adult classes, including a special series on faith and science in the college class comprised of primarily UU students
18. WJBC trustee
19. Librarian at WJBC
20. West TN community women's Bible study teacher and writer of study materials
21. Co-leader of UU Women in STEM organization for women faculty and staff
22. Consultant for design of lab facilities and equipment used for the UU biology laboratory at Hendersonville campus as to better help meet the needs of classes to be taught there
23. Member and writing consultant for the Jackson Area Psoriasis Society
24. Multiple presentations on women in science/agriculture; soil and water conservation; resource conservation and energy stewardship; and other topics to various elementary, middle and high schools