

**MICHAEL G. TENNESON, Ph.D.**

Professor of Biology  
Chair, Department of Natural and Applied Sciences  
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**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:**

Michael Tenneson (PhD science education, University of Missouri; MS biology/statistics, University of North Dakota; MA missiology/biblical literature, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary; and BA biology, UCLA) is a professor of biology and chair of the Department of Natural and Applied Sciences at Evangel University, where he has taught for more than 30 years. Initially trained as a field behavioral ecologist, he has done field research on birds, frogs, porcupines, lizards, and snails. His current research examines attitudes and beliefs of people related to science and theology. Tenneson has authored or co-authored numerous papers and presentations, along with several essays in edited volumes. He has led conference planning teams for several well-attended Faith and Science Conferences.

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

**Diplomas and Degrees**

**High School Diploma** (1975)-Vintage H.S., Napa, CA

**B.A. Biology** (1980)-Napa Community College; U.C.L.A.

**M.S. Biology**, minor in Statistics (1983)-Univ. North Dakota

**Ordained Minister of the Assemblies of God, Southern Missouri District** (since 1991)

**MA Missiology** minor in Biblical Literature (July 1991)-Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

**Missouri Secondary Teacher's Certificate** (#0016651: Lifetime)-General Science, Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics

**Ph.D. Science Education** (2002) - University of Missouri-Columbia

**Awards and Scholarships**

Dean's Honor Roll 1975-1977, Napa Community College

Neil C. MacDonald Scholarship for Academic Excellence 1983

E.M. & Estella Clark Award for Excellence in Teaching, Scholarship, and Service, Evangel University, May 2005

**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:**

**Organizational Memberships**

American Scientific Affiliation, Association of Christian Biologists, National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions, Society for Pentecostal Studies.

**Doctoral Advisor Content Specialist**

Mark Langer, Southeastern University D. Minn. (3/202-present). Thesis project: Creation Repercussions: Hermeneutical & Scientific Perspectives & Costs Through the Lens of Two Prevalent Views.

**Publications/Presentations**

Tenneson, M. (2021). Christian Perspectives on Origins, 4th Edition. Springfield, MO: Evangel University.

Tenneson, M. (February 12, 19, 2020). Biological Basis of Gender. Series of lectures at Central Assembly of God Church, Springfield, MO.

Tenneson, M. (January 12 & 19, February 2 & 9, 2020). The Bible and Evolution. Series of lectures at Evangel Temple Assembly of God Church, Springfield, MO.

Lindsay, John & Arok, Adhieu & Bybee, Seth & Cho, Walter & Cordero, April & Ferguson, Daniel & Galante, Leontine & Gill, Richard & Mann, Mark & Peck, Steven & Shively, Cassidy & Stark, Michael & Stowers, Joshua & Tenneson, Michael & Tolman, Ethan & Wayment, Thomas & Jensen, Jamie. (2019). Using a Reconciliation Module Leads to Large Gains in Evolution Acceptance. CBE life sciences education. 18. ar58. 10.1187/cbe.19-04-0080.

Tenneson, M. (July 27-28, 2019). Biology of Sin and Grace for the Afflicted. Training sessions for Teen Challenge personnel, Kimberling City, MO.

- Tennessee, M. (July 20, 2019). Using a Reconciliation Model Leads to Large Gains in Evolution Acceptance. Paper presented at the 2019 Annual meeting of the American Scientific Affiliation, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL.
- Tennessee, M. (June 2, 9, 23, 30, 2019). God's Word and God's World: Science and Faith Together. Series of lectures at Central Assembly of God Church Youth Group, Springfield, MO.
- Tennessee, M. (May 8, 2019). Science and Faith Together! Mental Illness and Sin: Hope for the Afflicted. A sermon presented at the Alpha Community Church, Pandytown, Roatan, Honduras.
- Tennessee, M. (May 5, 2019). Science and Faith Together! Mental Illness and Sin: Hope for the Afflicted. A sermon presented at the Outreach Ministries Evangelical Church, Coxen Hole, Roatan, Honduras. Televised nationally.
- Tennessee, M. (May 4, 2019). Can Science and Faith Work Together? A sermon presented at the Outreach Ministries Evangelical Church, Coxen Hole, Roatan, Honduras. Televised nationally.
- Miller, J. (moderator), Howell, N., Tennessee, M., & Ryan, P. (April 28, 2019). Public panel discussion of "The Evolution of Religious Belief: Seeking Deep Evolutionary Roots," presentation by Barbara J. King. Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.
- Tennessee, M., & Mayne, J. (April 17, 2019). "How Christian College Students Determine the Veracity of Propositions." A talk given at the third annual Evangel University Research Symposium, Evangel University, Springfield, MO.
- Tennessee, M. (April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2019). Our Marching Orders! Applications of Faith/Science Integration to Real Life. Series of lectures at Life 360: Westgate Campus, Springfield, MO.
- Tennessee, Michael, Julie Mayne, & Amylee Brown. (March 1, 2019). "How Christian College Students Determine the Veracity of Propositions Related to Science and Theology, Part II." A talk given at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, College Park Marriott Hotel, Hyattsville, MD.
- Perry, Catherine. (July 29, 2018). "Partnership of Science and Faith, An Interview with Michael Tennessee," Power 99 Radio Station, Saipan.
- Tennessee, Michael. (July 24-28, 2018). "Creation Declares Your Glory (Psalm 19:1): 3rd Tri-annual Northern Marianas & Palau General Council of the Assemblies of God" at Grace Christian Academy, Saipan.
- Tennessee, Michael and Antonio De La Torre. (July 7, 2018). "Faith & Science Conference" sponsored by Strong Tower Community Church and God With Us Ministries at Strong Tower Community Church, San Jose, CA.
- Tennessee, M. (May 6, 2018). Can Science and Faith Work Together? A sermon presented at the Outreach Ministries Evangelical Church, Coxen Hole, Roatan, Honduras. Televised nationally.
- Tennessee, M. (July 30, 2017). Veracity Claims Assessment by Christian College Students. Paper presented at the 2017 Annual meeting of the American Scientific Affiliation, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO.
- Tennessee, Michael. (May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 2017). "#FaithvsScienceNotReally." Series of talks given at Life360Westport Church, Springfield, MO.
- Tennessee, Michael and Antonio De La Torre. (June 3, 2017). "Faith & Science Conference" sponsored by Strong Tower Community Church and God With Us Ministries at Strong Tower Community Church, San Jose, CA.
- Tennessee, Michael. (March 10, 2017). "The Interpretive Approach Scale: How Christian college students interpret the Bible." A talk given at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, St. Louis Airport Marriott Hotel, St. Louis, MO.
- Tennessee, Michael and Amylee Brown. (March 10, 2017). "The Deciding Truth Scale: How Christian college students determine the veracity of propositions." A talk given at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, St. Louis Airport Marriott Hotel, St. Louis, MO.

- Tenneson, M., Bundrick, D., and D. Johns. (2016). *Surprising Bedfellows: Theology and Science Interpretation and Integration*, In Kenneth J. Archer & L. William Oliverio, eds., *Constructive Pneumatological Hermeneutics in Pentecostal Christianity*. Palgrave Macmillan US. (AVAILABLE AMAZON.COM)
- Showalter, Brandon. (Aug. 26, 2016). *People Can Believe in Both Science and Miracles, Scholars Say in Response to Pew Survey* (interview). *Christian Post Online* (Aug. 26, 2016) available: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/people-can-believe-both-science-and-miracles-scholars-say-response-pew-survey-168589/>
- Tenneson, Michael. March 16, 2016. "Surprising Bedfellows: Theology and Science Interpretation and Integration," a talk given at a panel discussion sponsored by the Evangel University Apologia Club and the Missouri State University Philosophy Club, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO.
- Tenneson, Michael and Don Johns. (March 12, 2016). "Surprising Bedfellows: Theology and Science Interpretation and Integration." A talk given at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, Life Pacific College, San Dimas, California.
- Tenneson, Michael. (October 22, 2015). "A New Survey Instrument and Its Findings for Relating Science and Theology," A post-graduate research talk given to the Alpha Chi Honor Society, Evangel University.
- Tenneson, Michael. (September 24, 2015). "My Humanist Science Teacher and Friends Think I'm a Kook." A talk given at the Pensmore Dialogue on Science and Faith, College of the Ozarks, Branson, MO.
- Tenneson, Michael. (September 25, 2015). "The Current Landscape: Christian Perspectives on Origins." A talk given at the Pensmore Dialogue on Science and Faith, College of the Ozarks, Branson, MO.
- Tenneson, Michael, David Bundrick and Matthew Stanford. (September 2015). *A New Survey Instrument and Its Findings for Relating Science and Theology*. *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*, Volume 67 Number 3, pp. 200-222.
- Badger, S., Tenneson, M. (2014). *Christian Perspectives on Origins*, 3rd Edition Revised. Springfield, MO: Evangel University. (AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM)
- Tenneson, Michael and Steve Badger, (June 24, 2014), "Christian Perspectives on Origins," a plenary talk given at the 2014 Faith & Science Conference: Genesis and Genetics, Evangel University, Springfield, MO.
- Tenneson, Mike, Bundrick, David, and Matthew Stanford, (June 24, 2014), "Faith And Science Integration: Surveys and Findings," a talk given at the 2014 Faith & Science Conference: Genesis and Genetics, Evangel University, Springfield, MO.
- Tenneson, Mike, Bundrick, David, and Matthew Stanford, "Faith And Science Integration: Surveys and Findings," in *Genesis and Genetics: Proceedings of the 2014 Faith and Science Conference*, ed. David Bundrick and Steve Badger (Springfield, MO: Logion Press, 2014). AVAILABLE AT MYHEALTHYCHURCH.COM)
- Tenneson, Michael. (April 4, 2014). "My Humanist Science Teacher and Friends Think I'm a Kook" and "Pastoring a Scientifically Literate Congregation." Panel Discussion, Pensmore Dialogue on Science and Faith, Patrick Henry College, Purcellville, VA.
- Bundrick, D. and M. Tenneson. (March 7, 2014). *Surprising Bedfellows: Hermeneutics of Faith and Science Integration*. Paper presented at the Society for Pentecostal Studies Annual Meeting, Evangel University, Springfield, MO
- Tenneson, Michael. (October 1, 2013). *Christian Perspectives on Origins*. A talk given at the Greater Springfield Professors of Bible, Evangel University, Springfield, MO.
- Tenneson, M. (2013), Book Review of *The Biology of Sin: Grace, Hope and Healing for Those Who Feel Trapped*. By Matthew S. Stanford. Colorado Springs: Biblica Publishing, 2010. Pp. 166. \$18.00. *Religious Studies Review*, 39: 76. doi: 10.1111/rsr.12027\_6
- Badger, Stephen and Michael Tenneson, (2012). *Origins: Christian Faith and Natural Science*, Graduate Study Guide, Springfield, MO: Global University.
- Badger, Stephen and Michael Tenneson, (2012). *Origins: Christian Faith and Natural Science*, Readings and Resource Materials, Springfield, MO: Global University.

- Tenneson, M. (2012). Preparing Young People for a Life of Faith. *Enrichment Journal*, Fall 2012, available: [http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/201204/201204\\_086\\_Preparing\\_young\\_people.cfm](http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/201204/201204_086_Preparing_young_people.cfm)
- Tenneson, M. (July 22, 2012). Faith and Science Integrative Paradigms of Assemblies of God Pastors, Educators, and Students. Paper presented at the American Scientific Affiliation Annual Meeting, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA.
- Tenneson, Mike and Steve Badger, "Perspectives on Origins: How Diverse are Pentecostals?" in *Proceedings of the Inaugural Faith & Science Conference*, ed. David Bundrick and Steve Badger (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2011). (AVAILABLE MYHEALTHYCHURCH.COM)
- Badger, Steve and Mike Tenneson, "A Historical Overview of Pentecostal Responses to Biological Evolution," in *Proceedings of the Inaugural Faith & Science Conference*, ed. David Bundrick and Steve Badger (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2011). (AVAILABLE MYHEALTHYCHURCH.COM)
- Badger, Steve and Mike Tenneson, "The Relationship Between Christian Faith and Natural Science," in *Proceedings of the Inaugural Faith & Science Conference*, ed. David Bundrick and Steve Badger (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2011). (AVAILABLE MYHEALTHYCHURCH.COM)
- Harrup, Scott. (Sept. 25, 2011). Faith and Science Q&A (interview). *Pentecostal Evangel* (Sept. 25, 2011): 9-10.
- Tenneson, M. and Jeremy Harris. (August 17, 2011). Cheaters never prosper: Strategies for faculty. Talk presented at the Evangel University Faculty Seminar, August 17, 2011, Evangel University, Springfield, MO.
- Tenneson, M. and Badger, S. (August 18, 2011). Classroom controversy: How to defuse potentially explosive topics, case study. Talk presented at the Evangel University Faculty Seminar, August 17, 2011, Evangel University, Springfield, MO.
- Tenneson, M. (June 27, 2011). Five Perspectives on Origins: How Diverse are Pentecostals? Paper presented at the inaugural Faith and Science Conference, Evangel University, Springfield, MO.
- Badger, S., Tenneson, M. (2011). *Christian Perspectives on Origins*, 3rd Edition. Springfield, MO: Evangel University.
- Tenneson, Michael. 2011 (Summer). Book Review of Lisa Graham McMinn and Megan Anna Neff, *Walking Gently on the Earth: Making Faithful Choices about Food, Energy, Shelter and More* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2010). *Encounter*, Summer 2011 (vol. 8), available: <http://www.agts.edu/encounter/current.html>
- Leicht, Linda. Apr. 15, 2011. Stewards of the Earth: Christians and Jews are called to action to help the planet (Interview). *Springfield News Leader*, Apr. 15, 2011.
- Tenneson, M. and S. Badger. 2011 (April). As Iron Sharpens Iron...: A Narrative Response. *Cyberjournal for Pentecostal-Charismatic Research* #20. Available: [http://pctii.org/cyberj/cyberj20/tenneson\\_badger.html](http://pctii.org/cyberj/cyberj20/tenneson_badger.html)
- Green, Jocelyn. (2010). On Teaching Origins: Take a Stand or Stand Aside? (Interview) *Advance* (Fall 2010): 22-25. available: [http://issuu.com/cccu/docs/cccu\\_advance\\_fall\\_2010?mode=embed&layout=http%3A%2F%2Fskin.issuu.com%2Fv%2Fcolor%2Flayout.xml&backgroundColor=dedbde&showFlipBtn=true](http://issuu.com/cccu/docs/cccu_advance_fall_2010?mode=embed&layout=http%3A%2F%2Fskin.issuu.com%2Fv%2Fcolor%2Flayout.xml&backgroundColor=dedbde&showFlipBtn=true)
- Tenneson, M. and S. Badger. (2010). A Brief Overview of Pentecostal Views on Origins. *Enrichment Journal* (online edition) Spring 2010, available: [http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/201002/ejonline\\_201002\\_origins.cfm](http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/201002/ejonline_201002_origins.cfm)
- Tenneson, M. (2010). Five Origins Perspectives. *Chi Alpha Connection* (2)3:5-6, Winter 2010.
- Badger, S. and Tenneson, M. (2010). Does the Spirit Create through Evolutionary Processes? Pentecostals and Biological Evolution. In James K. A. Smith & Amos Yong, eds., *Science and the Spirit: Pentecostal Engagements*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press. (AVAILABLE AMAZON.COM)
- Tenneson, M. (August 1, 2009). Measuring Pentecostal Attitudes and Beliefs about Origins. Paper presented at the American Scientific Affiliation Annual Meeting, Baylor University, Waco, TX
- Tenneson, Mike and Steve Badger. (June 25, 2009). "Pentecostals and Origins." Presented at The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Faculty Seminar, Evangel University.

- Tenneson, M. (2009), *Storms Over Genesis: Biblical Battleground in America's Wars of Religion* – By William H. Jennings. *Religious Studies Review*, 35: 120. doi: 10.1111/j.1748-0922.2009.01341\_20.x
- Tenneson, M. and Badger, S. (2009). *Teaching Origins to Pentecostal Students*, In Yong, Amos, ed., *The Spirit Renews the Face of the Earth: Pentecostal Forays in Science and Theology of Creation*. Eugene, Ore.: Pickwick Press. (AVAILABLE AMAZON.COM)
- Tenneson, M. and Badger, S. (March 14, 2008). *Teaching Origins to Pentecostal College Students and Measuring the Beliefs of Pentecostal Students about Origins*. Paper presented at the Society of Pentecostal Studies and Wesleyan Theological Society Joint Meeting, Duke University, Durham, NC.
- Badger, S., Tenneson, M. (2007). *Christian Perspectives on Origins: Revised and Expanded*. Springfield, MO: Evangel University, 34 pp.
- Badger, S., Tenneson, M. (2006). *Christian Perspectives on Origins*. Evangel University.
- Tenneson, M., McGlasson, R. (Apr. 20, 2006). *The Classroom Flip*. Faculty development workshop presentation to Fontbonne University faculty, Fontbonne University, St. Louis, MO.
- Tenneson, M., McGlasson, R. (Nov. 5, 2005). *The Classroom Flip: presentation on using technology in blended classrooms to free up more class time for active discussion*. Missouri Teaching and Learning Mentoring Project Best Practices Conference. Springfield, MO.
- Noonan, K. (2004, September 12). *College Professors: Widening Your Worldview: A Call Deferred* (biographical sketch). *Today's Pentecostal Evangel*, pp. 12-13.
- Tenneson, M.G., Badger, S. (2004, July 23). *Origins Survey: Assemblies of God Higher Education*. Paper presented at the Assemblies of God Commission on Christian Higher Education Faculty Seminar, Evangel University, Springfield, MO.
- Tenneson, M.G. (2004, April 3). *Teaching biology online: Natural selection at work*. Paper presented at the Missouri Teaching and Learning Best Practices Conference, Springfield, MO.
- Tenneson, M. (2004, March 20). *Debating life's origins: Teachers struggle to learn and present evolution and creationism* (interview by Linda Leicht). *The Springfield News Leader*, p. 2C.
- Tenneson, M.G. (2003). *Environmental Science Merit*. In *Royal Ranger's Men's Ministries of the Assemblies of God, Adventure Rangers Leaders Guide* (pp. 165-182, 207-212). Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House.
- Tenneson, M.G. (2003). *Forestry Merit*. In *Royal Ranger's Men's Ministries of the Assemblies of God, Adventure Rangers Leaders Guide* (pp. 313-339, 383-388). Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House.
- Tenneson, M.G. (2002, October/November). *From the professor: Evolution*. *On Course*, 11, (2), 6.
- Tenneson, M.G. (2002, October/November). *From the professor: Cloning*. *On Course*, 11, (2), 7.
- Tenneson, M.G. (2002, October/November). *From the professor: Genetic screening*. *On Course*, 11, (2), 8.
- Tenneson, M.G. (2002, October/November). *From the professor: Stem cell research*. *On Course*, 11, (2), 9.
- Tenneson, M. (2002, July 10). *Con: Should the U.S. government fund embryonic stem cell research?* *The Springfield News Leader*, p. 14A.
- Tenneson, M.G. (2001). *The development and validation of a scientific attitudes and attitudes toward evolution and creation instrument for christian college biology students*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Missouri, Columbia.
- Starmühlner, F. (1995). *Pearls of the south seas: Explorations of the islands of the south pacific*. Wien-Klosterneuburg: Vienna. 183 p. Contributed Research.
- Tenneson, M.G. (1993). *Conserving our gift: Earth*. In Raburn, T., Reimenschneider, K, & Hunt, K (Eds.), *The royal rangers leaders manual* (pp.379-384). Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House.

- Starmühlner, F. (1992). The fresh- and brackish-water gastropods of the Tongan and Samoan islands. Proceedings of the Ninth International Malacological Congress, 375-386. Contributed Research.
- Tenneson, C. & Oring, L.W. (1985). Winter food preferences of porcupines. J. Wildl. Manage, 49, (1), 28-33. Contributed Research.
- Tenneson, M.G. (1983). Behavioral ecology of the mink frog, *Rana septentrionalis*. Paper presented at the Prairie Universities Biology Seminar, Grand Forks, ND.
- Tenneson, M.G. (1983). The distribution and abundance of the mink frog, *Rana septentrionalis*, at Itasca State Park, Minnesota. A report to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Research funded by the Minnesota DNR.
- Tenneson, M.G. (1983). Behavioral ecology and population decline of the mink frog, *Rana septentrionalis*. Masters thesis, University of North Dakota. available: <http://hdl.handle.net/11299/172548>
- Lang, J.W. (1983). Distribution and abundance of the five-lined skink (*Eumeces fasciatus*) in Minnesota. A report to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Contributed research.

### **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

**Department Chair, Natural and Applied Sciences, Evangel University** (June 2015-present)

**Professor, Evangel University** (2003 – present)

**Courses Taught:** Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Zoology, Marine Biology, Senior Seminar, Freshman Seminar.

**Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator** (1988 – present)

**Associate Professor, Evangel University** (September 1999-2003)

**Courses Taught:** Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Introduction to Biology Lab, Survey of Biology I & II, Marine Biology, Experimental Biology, Methods of Research in Biology, Senior Seminar, Freshman Seminar.

**Assistant Professor, Evangel University** (Sept. 1988-1998)

**Instructor, Evangel University** (January 1987-August 1988)

**Courses Taught:** Marine Biology, Histology, General Biology, Ecology, Intermediate Algebra, Introductory Statistics, Chemistry Lab, Physics Lab, Physical Science Lab.

**Lecturer/Laboratory Manager/Computer Manager, Univ. South Pacific** (as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer- 1983-1986).

**Courses taught:** Cell Biology, Animal and Plant Anatomy and Physiology, Physics for Agriculture, and Chemistry for Agriculture.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Univ. North Dakota** (1981-1983)

**Courses Taught:** Intro Biology (lab), Animal Behavior (lab), and Vertebrate Anatomy (course).