

“His Way Mine”

God has a place for every planned creation,
A path for every star to go.
He drew the course of every river's journey;
Now I know he has a way for me.

I place my life in the hands of God.
Those hands so scarred now outstretched for me.
Wherever it may be, over land, over sea,
May thy will sublime, O Thou God divine, be mine.

(Dick Baker)

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A FAITH JOURNEY

No Boundaries, No Conclusions

ROBERT L. MADDOX, JR

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Published in the United States by Nurturing Faith Inc., Macon GA,

www.nurturingfaith.net.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

ISBN 978-1-63528-045-6

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*To Linda Maddox, children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews,
and that great cloud of witnesses.*

Special thanks to Ferew M. Haile for his invaluable technical assistance.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Atlanta, 1937, Robert L. Maddox, Jr. is eldest of four sons born to Robert and Virginia Maddox of Atlanta. He is a graduate of Clarkston High School, Clarkston, GA, Baylor University, Waco; Southwestern Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Doctor of Sacred Theology, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta. He was ordained as a Southern Baptist minister in 1963, and became a United Church of Christ minister in 2006. In addition to church staff positions, he served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Vienna, GA; First Baptist Church, Calhoun, GA; Mayfield Road Baptist Church, Arlington, TX; Briggs Memorial Baptist Church, Bethesda, MD; and Minister of Discipleship and Interim Senior Pastor, Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, Bethesda.

Currently, he is the Executive Director, Briggs Center for Faith and Action, Bethesda, an organization founded by Robert Maddox that grew out of the former Briggs Church. He is adjunct professor at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC, for student pastors.

Maddox was a speechwriter and religious liaison with President Jimmy Carter at the White House, and has an ongoing relationship with President and Mrs. Carter.

He served as Assistant to the president, Pitt Community College, Greenville, SC; Executive Director, Americans United for Separation of Church and State.; and Editor, *Capital Baptist*, District of Columbia Baptist Convention, Washington, DC.

He is author of *Preacher at the White House*; *Acts*, *Layman's Bible Book Commentary*; *Separation of Church and State: Guarantor of Religious Freedom*; *Prostate Cancer: What I Found Out & What You Should Know*. In addition he wrote eight Bible studies for the Southern Baptist Sunday School, numerous articles, and editorials.

Maddox was Chairman of the board, Interfaith Conference, Metropolitan Washington, DC.

He has been married to Linda Cook of Thomaston, GA, since 1959. Together, they have three children and five grandchildren.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Reflecting and re-imagining the religious story at the center of his life, Robert Maddox embodies a probing, restless seeker. (I have witnessed his journey for more than sixty years.) Rather than clinging to one view, he asks the readers to open ourselves to other views and entertain multiple possibilities.

—Dr. William B. Rogers,
Distinguished Professor of Religious Education (Retired),
philosopher, author, blogger and poet,
Charlotte, North Carolina

This wide-ranging book, tracing Bob Maddox's spiritual journey — what he calls 'faithing' — over the course of eight decades spoke to me. I resonated with his descriptions of growing up in the Southern Baptist tradition with its marvelous hymns, its invitations to come to Jesus, its profound certainty and its racism. Reading this felt like a crash course in Biblical history, in theology as poetry, in the historical Jesus seminar, and in the many people in Bob's life who shaped his faith journey as a 'Jesus person.' Most of all, I was inspired by his continued searching, his voracious curiosity, and his openness to change as he was shaped by the 'ever-unfolding cumulative Christian tradition.' I hope that when I'm 80 years old, I'll be half as insightful and curious as Bob reveals himself to be in this book.

—Dr. Elizabeth Ferris,
Georgetown University, Washington, DC;
scholar, author, and world acclaimed advocate for
displaced persons, especially women

In *A Faith Journey: No Boundaries; No Conclusions* Bob Maddox has written a graceful personal memoir that is also a powerful communal story. It is a telling of his faithing journey; it is a larger narrative of the nation. His book is both an individual confession and a collective call to action.

—Rev. Timothy B. Tutt,
Senior Minister, Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ,
Bethesda, Maryland

Rev. Bob Maddox's memoir is a reflective piece of his own personal faith journey and its connection with larger trends in the Christian movement. Persuasive, intellectual, and easy to keep reading, is a book I would absolutely recommend especially for young people, like me, starting out on their own faith journey. This book helps me understand why Rev. Maddox takes the positions he does and had me doing some serious introspection as it addressed larger questions about our relationship with God and Jesus.

—Andrew Hallward-Driemeier,
honors student, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts