



Bartimaeus Institute Report February 2012

BCM book table at the launch of *Our God is Undocumented* in Oak View, Feb 2012.



Twenty-three participants from four countries and 12 states/ provinces gathered for BCM's 10th Institute from Feb 20-24, 2012 on the theme of "Learning to Read Mark's Gospel Politically." Participants were affiliated with the United Church of Canada, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Nazarene, Mennonite, United Church of Australia and ecumenical-alternative church folk. It was a balanced distribution of men and women in their 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s. Inspired by Bartimaeus to "look again," we worked intensively in small groups on texts from Mark and from our own culture. Some of the highlights are below in photos and participant feedback.



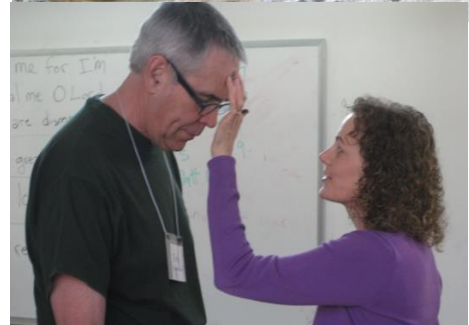


"I appreciated Ched's passion, insight and relentless attention to the text."

"We enjoyed the walk to Grandma Oak with Elaine (left), and the permaculture tour of the garden—seeing your projects and special places."



"The ceremony on Ash Wednesday was simple and beautiful" (right).



"The time we spent practicing was good, small groups worked (left)—and I often don't like small groups!"



"I felt nourished by the space and by the food!" (All Institute food was home-made, and mostly vegan, with the exception of the traditional Thursday night fish fry—left--compliments of Eric Hodge.)

"Ched and Elaine's hospitality in their home for meals was generous, warm and relaxing, and this facilitated social interaction and content integration."





“The community time was very special— such an important part of what I will take away from this is the collection of stories and people that showed and shared themselves.”

“Overall content and subject matter was great and what I came for.”



“The exercise where we acted out the story (*right*) was very good (and uncomfortable).”

“This may look small and we may wonder where everybody else is, but this movement is like that small, insidious little mustard seed, and *that* is what the kingdom of God is like. Bless you.”

We at BCM are grateful for the opportunities provided by living and learning together for refreshment and encouragement; it is good sustenance “on the Way.” Thanks to all our participants for coming all the way to Oak View and making this Institute such a rewarding time.

