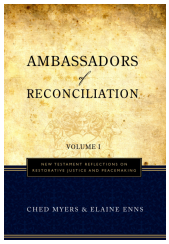
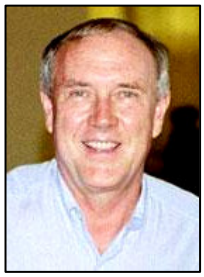
A Brief Report on the January 2009 Bartimaeus Institute:

Jesus as a Practitioner of Nonviolent Action (Mark 1-3)

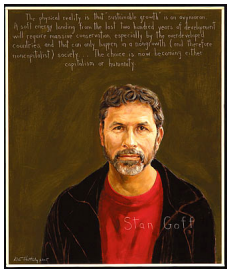


Though small, the 11 participants from five states formed a cohesive community of study. We examined the ministry of Jesus as narrated in Mark 1-3, in conversation with the work of M.L. King, using material from *Ambassadors of Reconciliation Vol. I.* (To get a taste, listen online to Ched's talk on Jesus as a "King-style" nonviolent activist given at the January 2009 Peace Churches "Gathering in Philadelphia, found at: www.peacegathering2009.org/files/audio/Tuesday_Evening_Session_20070113.mp3. *Note: talk begins at 16 minute mark, is about 50 minutes long.)*



Elaine's restorative justice colleague Jack Dison (*left*) wrote about his significant experience at the January Bartimaeus Institute: "Thank you, Ched, for the years of work you have done on Mark (and other NT texts) and all of what has come from that work… The Institute took me on a quantum leap in my sense of this in the NT… You are a remarkable scholar and teacher. I am so very glad that you have devoted so much of your life to this task. I believe that what you have done is ground-breaking and will at some point be embraced far beyond what it is at present. It is an enormous gift to those of us who want to have a good grounding in a structural understanding of the texts and of our faith tradition and how they provide support for the work that some of us seek to do in becoming both peacemakers and disturbers of the peace."

We had several friends from the south, including Dick Rustay and Nelia and Calvin Kimbrough from the Open Door Community in Atlanta (*right with Elaine & Ched*), and Steve Taylor and Micheline Malson from North Carolina. The latter also brought their colleague Stan Goff, a Vietnam vet and Army Ranger who participated in military operations throughout Central and South America, Somalia and Haiti. Since retiring in 1996, Stan has been deeply involved in anti-war activism, economic democracy work and Haiti solidarity; his publications include the Soft Skull Press books *Hideous Dream – A Soldier's Memoir of the US Invasion of Haiti* (2000) and *Full Spectrum Disorder – The Military in the New American Century* (2004). He wrote a moving reflection about his journey for our February 2000 *Partners' Circle E-News*. (*Right: Painting of Stan Goff by Robert Shetterly, "Americans Who Tell the Truth" series, www.americanswhotellthetruth.org/pgs/portrait_thumbs.html.)*



Breaks during the week included watching Obama's inauguration Tuesday morning and our traditional midweek BBQ at Elaine and Ched's home (*left*).