Report from faculty emeritus Paul Eberts:

“I am now puttzing around again (with my two drafts of books on “Between Theory and Data” and “Communities”), having finally finished our six-year project and a trilogy of books on the “Early Jesus Movement and Its Parties” with my brother. Lots of new reading, writing, negotiating summaries, etc. – in retrospect quite fun, actually – went into the trilogy. We attempted to combine his 55 years of ministry and Biblical teaching with my 50 years of sociology of community in understanding the four major parties and their work in the Jesus movement. We know about this movement thanks largely to being described in the book of Acts and the letters of Paul (there were more than four parties, but we think these four parties were the major ones). We think our latest (third, 2013) book, especially, The Early Jesus Movement and Its Gospels: Four Major Parties, Four Major Gospels (on Amazon.com), shows this combination quite well. We think we broke several levels of new ground as we put these parties in the Jewish context of the time, showing the differences (and similarities) among the parties and the major Hebrew parties contemporaneous with them. In his lifetime, Jesus displayed a complex character as he dealt with the complex job of differentiating his work and ideas from those among the major Hebrew parties and among certain secular and religious Hellenists.”

http://earlyjesus.com/