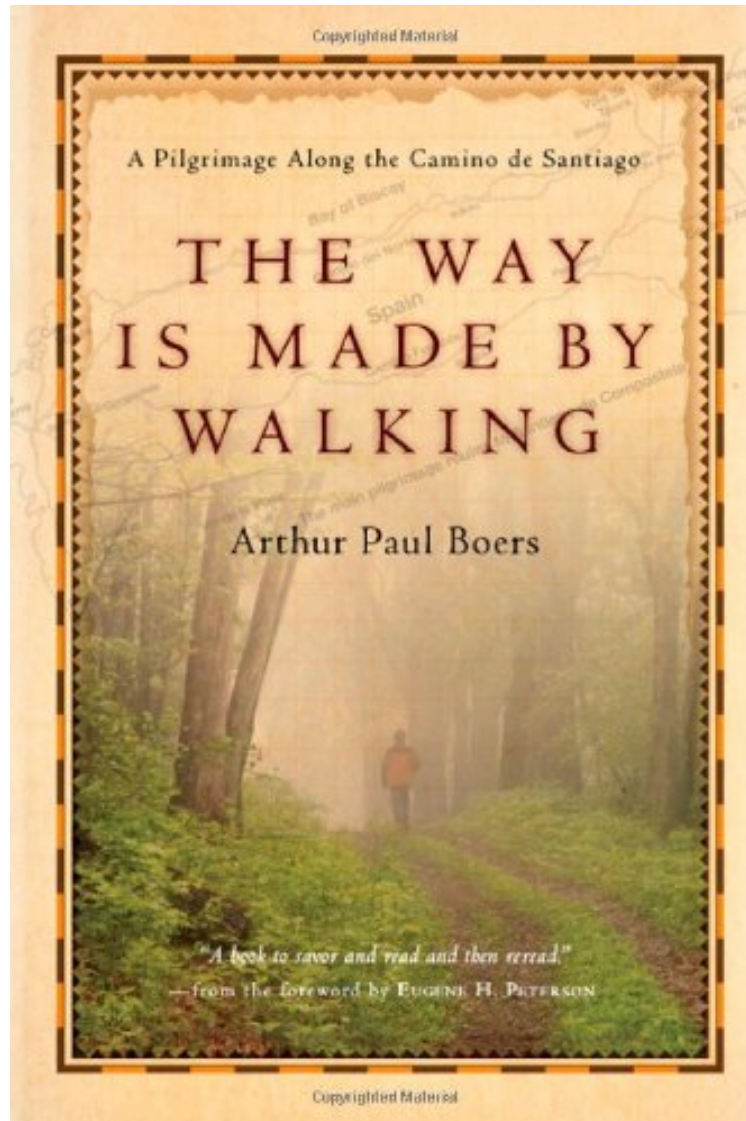


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# The Way Is Made by Walking: A Pilgrimage Along the Camino de Santiago

Arthur Paul Boers

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#800079 in Books Arthur Boers 2007-09-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .70 x 5.50l, .65 #File Name: 0830835075219 pagesWay Is Made by Walking | File size: 23.Mb

**Arthur Paul Boers : The Way Is Made by Walking: A Pilgrimage Along the Camino de Santiago** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Way Is Made by Walking: A Pilgrimage Along the Camino de Santiago:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. So-soBy Ryan HoweI purchased this book as someone who would like to walk the Camino de Santiago some day. The author is very spiritual, and shares my Religious beliefs. He was

clearly transformed by the experience. It had some interesting anecdotes and flashes of insight. On the whole, I would have preferred a travelogue, not a how-to about pilgrimages. I'm sure that Mr. Boers had some interesting stories and experiences, but largely these were not communicated in the actual book. It would be as if Bill Bryson wrote *A Walk in the Woods* but only talked about the history of the trail and not the adventures with his friend. I wanted more from this book. That being said, it wasn't unreadable, and it kept my attention. I just wish that the author had been more interested in the temporal nature of the Way as well as the spiritual.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.  
Refelctions on pilgrimage  
By R. Sperling  
Author Arthur Paul Boers states, "Pilgrimages are connected to events, stories and narratives of places or people where God has been active or encountered...Christian pilgrimage then, has to do with going to particular locations to situate oneself within God's story among us, so that we too might be touched - even transformed or converted - by salvation history, God's metanarrative. Seeing and directly engaging such sites is a way of appropriating the story for oneself." This book is not a manual for walking the Camino de Santiago. It is instead an exploration of how pilgrimage can lead oneself back home, into a deeper knowing of self, of God and how to relate to the wider world. In this book the author takes us on a journey along the Camino de Santiago and invites us to travel with him by engaging us in reflection on the lessons that he learned along the way. The pace of the book is thoughtful and reflective. Like the ambling that Boers expounds upon, the spiritual lessons are slow to unfold within the text. Whether or not you have ever considered the spiritual discipline of pilgrimage this book has much to teach, not just when it comes to considering whether to embark on your own pilgrimage, but in considering how you walk with God and others day by day. I learned much through the author's thoughtful reflection and I also, surprisingly, resisted much. Though I could relate both to Boers' Mennonite roots and his Benedictine values, although I've lived cross culturally in Europe for years and place a high value on spiritual disciplines, and though I myself find that I often meet God in deeply personal ways through "ambling", I nevertheless resisted some of the applications that Boers made. This resistance also teaches me and it leads me to conclude that as Rilke said, "everything must be lived." If "the way is made by walking" then perhaps a pilgrimage is in order.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Valuable Vicarious Pilgrimage  
By David W. Gill  
Arthur Boers is an outstanding writer as well as pastor and theologian, This journal of his one month, 500 mile walk along the famous Camino Santiago in northern Spain is not just a report of a fascinating journey and physical accomplishment but a wonderful reflection on biblical themes like "walking" and "pilgrimage," on the power of the table, eating together, on the importance of the stranger and of contact with nature and experience of quiet. I wish I could do this same pilgrimage and learn these same lessons but this vicarious experience through Boers is still worth a lot.

The Word Guild 2008 Canadian Christian Writing Awards finalist! Pilgrimage is a spiritual discipline not many consider. Aren't the destinations far? Don't they involve a lot of time and walking? Just a few years ago, Arthur Paul Boers wasn't thinking about pilgrimage either. But he began to sense a deep call from God to walk the five-hundred-mile pilgrimage route known as Camino de Santiago, ending in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, at a cathedral that is said to hold the relics of the apostle James. In these pages he opens to us his incredible story of renewed spirituality springing from an old, old path walked by millions before him. It's a story of learning to pray in new ways, embracing simplicity, forming community, living each day centered and focused, depending on God to provide. Joined by hundreds of others from all over the world, Boers points the way to deeper intimacy with God--a way made by walking in faith.

"Boer's account is a testimony to the importance of physicality to the spiritual life. The Way Is Made by Walking is an invitation to embody pilgrimage." (The Christian Century, January 27, 2009) "This book is neither a travelogue nor a guide to walking the Camino, but rather a spiritual reflection, which may be enriching even for those who will never walk the Camino." (Jeremy M. Bergen, The Mennonite Quarterly, January 2009) "After a lifetime of theology and lectures Boers applies his mind to going deeper and taking us along with him. He challenges us who are part of the Church to engage the spiritual longings in our culture by naming the shallowness of the life many of us live, and the need to model more grace-filled lives." (Warwick Cooper, Christian Week, November 15, 2008) "On his 31-day trek along the 500-mile pilgrimage route of Camino de Santiago in Spain, Arthur Paul Boers became more aware of God at work in every detail, more sensitive to the spiritual needs of fellow pilgrims, and more convinced of the need to simplify his life." (Sonya VanderVeen Feddema, The Banner (thebanner.org), June 2008) "His faith comes through clearly, and I think that active Christians would particularly enjoy this search for spiritual renewal." (Ralph Alcorn, Backpack45 (backpack45.com), February 2008) "The reader will find here a rich mix of hermeneutics, social commentary and practical advice. . . . Boers vindicates pilgrimage as spiritual exercise. . . . I am grateful for this . . . book that reaffirms my disposition to embark soon on the camino de Santiago." (Segundo Pantoja, Catholic Books, January 2008) "I highly recommend this book for those who have thought of doing a similar pilgrimage and those who have never thought of doing a pilgrimage. This is both a wonderful account of the physical hardships of a 500-mile journey and the even tougher, more life-changing aspects of the spiritual journey resulting from such a trip." (Mary G., Love2Learn (love2learnblog.blogspot.com), December 7, 2007) "It offers a new (old) way to explore and deepen

faith." (CBA Retailers + Resources, September 2007)"Everything seems up for grabs, and nothing seems fulfilling any longer. But in this unassuming and engaging chronicle Arthur Boers shows that gravity and grace can be recovered step by step. And for those of us who can't go on a pilgrimage, there are wonderful lessons to be learned from one who did." (Albert Borgmann, author of *Real American Ethics*)"Pack your fantasy knapsack; walk with Arthur Boers on the adventure of a lifetime, the five-hundred-mile pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. What a lively, sensitive, down-to-earth and deeply spiritual guide Boers is! His tales as a pilgrim will so captivate your imagination that you could find yourself in real time, walking stick in hand, making your way along that sacred path made holy by the faith of countless pilgrims." (Keith J. Egan, Saint Mary's College/Notre Dame University)"In a postmodern world in which time and space seem compressed and lives of leisure are driven by frenetic consumption, we should not be surprised that many have turned to the medieval practice of pilgrimage as a vital spiritual antidote. Arthur Boers's reflections from his pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago stand out for their honesty and gentle wisdom. As a Mennonite participating in a medieval Catholic spiritual discipline, Boers fills *The Way Is Made by Walking* with startling insights and fresh perspectives into the spiritual journey that all must make." (Richard R. Gaillardetz, Murray/Bacik Professor of Catholic Studies, University of Toledo and author of *By What Authority*)"I was already recommending this book before I finished reading it, for Arthur Paul Boers is an outstanding (yet humble) mentor, guiding our steps into the Way and ways of Jesus. He recounts his pilgrimage warmheartedly and at a trekker's pace so that we are gently invited to enter into it and engage in its lessons. If you walk with him on the ancient path he treads, you will find yourself inspired, questioned, disturbed and transformed." (Marva Dawn, author of *The Sense of the Call and Keeping the Sabbath Wholly*)"[Arthur] Boers doesn't so much tell us about pilgrimage as invite us, in his lively and colorful prose, to join him. . . . This is a book to savor and read and then reread as we learn to live pilgrimage so that we will never again reduce walking to just getting across the street." (From the foreword by Eugene H. Peterson, translator of *The Message*)

About the Author Arthur Paul Boers (D.Min., Northern Baptist Theological Seminary) is associate professor of pastoral theology at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto. He is an ordained minister in the Mennonite Church USA and a Benedictine oblate at St. Gregory's Abbey in Three Rivers, Michigan. His books include *The Rhythm of God's Grace: Uncovering Morning and Evening Hours of Prayer* and *Never Call Them Jerks: Healthy Responses to Difficult Behavior*. He is an editor of *Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book*. Peterson, now retired, was for many years James M. Houston Professor of Spiritual Theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia. He also served as founding pastor of Christ Our King Presbyterian Church in Bel Air, Maryland. In addition to his widely acclaimed paraphrase of the Bible, *The Message* (NavPress), he has written many other books.