

Christ in Media Institute Announces Winners of First "Lucas" Awards

Seven winners in the first annual Christian Screenstory Competition received word of their awards in May of 2010. The contest, sponsored by the Christ in Media Institute at Bethany Lutheran College, challenged writers to create story ideas that clearly reflect or promote Christian teachings (especially the Gospel), and that could be developed into a feature film, short film, or TV program for public audiences.

The "CMI Lucas Cranach Awards" were named after the 16th century artist, a close friend of Martin Luther, who created visual representations of theological concepts, a central focus of the Christ in Media Institute.

Writers were recognized in several categories. Among college student entries, the grand prize went to Katie Rath, a student at Martin Luther College, for her story, "Legend of Redcrosse," a fantasy allegory inspired by Edmund Spenser's *Faerie Queene* tracing one Christian's struggle in an imperfect universe.

Top prize in the Romance Category was awarded to Amber Senecal for "The Journey of Samantha Whitmore," a young woman who struggles to find Christ in her life as she faces personal loss and poverty. Loni Gromacki wrote the best entry in the History Category for "The Lion's Den," set in a town near Salem in which an herbal healer is accused of being a witch. Aaron Evans' "DNA" won in the Science (Fiction) Category, in which a reporter exposed an oppressive government pursuing power through genetic manipulation. All three category winners attend Bethany Lutheran College.

Among non-students, the first prize went to Debbie Blumer, from Lakewood, Colorado. Her entry, "Called According to His Purpose," dramatized the true story of Lutheran missionary George Lillegard and his family as they dealt with political dangers and the death of a child in 1920's China.

The Institute announced two elementary school awards. Ryan Lorette, grade 5, of Olalla, Washington, won second place with "It's in God's Hands." The first place elementary prize went to 6th-grader Lena Pittenger for "A Heavenly Visit on Mt. Elinore, Washington," in which a young lady dreams a visit with the spirits of St. Peter and Martin Luther. Both students attend Bethany Lutheran Elementary School in Port Orchard, Washington.

All winners received cash awards along with comments and suggestions from judges.

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