

The application 4 Sports – 4 Gospels seduces the Bible Society



The Bible Society of the Canton of Vaud (Switzerland) has today awarded its prize to Medias-pro for 4 Sports – 4 Gospels, a “playful and intelligent” application.



PRIX
de la SOCIÉTÉ de BIBLE
du CANTON de VAUD
www.societe-de-bible.ch

Set up in May 2012 and awarded for the first time in 2013, the Prize of the Bible Society of the Canton of

Vaud amounts to 5,000 Swiss francs and its purpose is to crown excellence and inventiveness for a written or audiovisual project in French that aims to make known to a wider audience all or a part of the message of the Bible. Medias-pro took up the challenge and introduced 4 Sports – 4 Gospels, an application that attempts to promote the diversity of the 4 Gospels. The application is based on a literary approach of the Gospels of the New Testament and will help you discover what kind of reader you are.

A meeting of two worlds: media and theology

The programme was initiated following the meeting between Gabrielle Rivier, previously assistant of studies of the New Testament at the Theological Faculty of the University of Geneva, and Michel Kocher, director of Medias-pro and designer of the application, not forgetting the precious contributions by Yves Bresson, IT specialist, and Oscar Ribes, graphic designer. The application is available online. It can also be downloaded onto an electronic tablet via the App Store and Google Play (under the name ContactGPS). A [demo](#) version with only six questions (that give a good idea of how it works) is available to partners interested in using the programme in their own context.

Are you a reader who likes swimming, skiing, running marathons or cycling? Just as for a sport, reading an ancient text can also be demanding, it requires a lot of training. 4 Sports – 4 Gospels is a test that can help you choose which text to start reading first. The application works on two levels. First, it determines via a series of questions which heroic figure you would tend to look up to, whether in literature, cinema or current affairs. Next, using a literary analysis of the Gospels, it links the results with one of the four texts of the New Testament that tell of the life of Jesus.

Decoding part of the diversity of the 4 Gospels

“We received 20 submissions for excellent projects, especially literary ones, but we wanted to give the prize to Medias-pro to highlight the idea for the conception of an application that has a playful way of providing reliable and intelligent information on how the Gospels were written”, explains theologian Daniel Marguerat, president for the Bible Society of the Canton of Vaud. “As well as inventiveness and creativity, the thing that really stood out for us was the way the application uses very precise elements of Biblical knowledge, but remains accessible to any audience, regardless of their education”.

Michel Kocher, designer of the application, considers himself satisfied with the outcome: “We’re very proud to have received such acknowledgement from the Bible Society. I remember the number of

hours Gabrielle Rivier and I spent meticulously trying to decode some of the genius inherent to each Gospel and then translating it into an application. The prize is great as much from a human point of view, as an intellectual one". On the back of this prize, Medias-pro is searching for partners to use and develop it, as well as exegetes.

The programme is able to have been developed thanks to financial contributions from the Protestant Church of Geneva, the company Bobst, the Bible Society, Medias-pro, and also voluntary work.

The Bible Society is looking to promote a new edition of the prize that will be awarded in 2016, and the call for applicants will be open at the end of this year.

Two strong elements of the programme, according to Professor Daniel Marguerat

"The kind of exegetic output that has been acquired by specialists over the past 150 years, has rarely been exposed to the general public: recognising that each of the Gospel writers has a specific perspective, a particular style and a personal view on the life of Jesus. In this sense, the 4 Gospels are not 4 complementary stories, but each Gospel represents a different point of view, a vision, an interpretation of the Gospels. This application is possibly the first time that this message has been presented in such a light and efficient educational manner".

"One of the elements, that has been much more recently researched, is that each Gospel represents a specific type of reader. Not only has each Gospel writer his own views, but each writer has his own audience, so it is no surprise that one can be more interested in one Gospel in particular. Catholic readers might refer more to the Gospel of Matthew, orthodox readers to the Gospel of John, protestant readers to the Gospel of Mark or Luke. This is what the application is putting forward and it has rarely been seen. It is inventive and well-inspired".

Lausanne, Prize Ceremony, 13th January 2014

Useful links:

[Bible Society of the Canton of Vaud](#) (in French)
[Application 4 Sports – 4 Gospels](#) (demo version)
[All applications designed by Medias-pro](#)

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Utilisateur de Microsoft Off..., 13.9.y 11:00

Commentaire [1]: ...is open until 15th February 2019.

Utilisateur de Microsoft Off..., 13.9.y 10:57

Commentaire [2]: N'est plus d'actualité – remplacer par 2020 ?