

# BAYLOR

U N I V E R S I T Y

John M. Lilley  
President

April 29, 2008

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Austin, Texas [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

Thanks for writing and sharing your views.

Baylor University is proud of its standing as the largest Protestant research university in the world. Baylor's Christian foundation is rooted in the historic Baptist tradition with an emphasis on science, including the creation of a medical school and undergraduate and graduate programs in science.

At Baylor we are committed to upholding and strengthening our Christian faith and our scientific endeavors, both of which are fundamental to our mission. These two areas of inquiry often have different methodologies and different practices, and we do not see them in conflict with each other.

Francis Collins, a Christian who was Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute and author of the book, *The Language of God*, puts it this way:

"Will we turn our backs on science because it is perceived as a threat to God, abandoning all of the promise of advancing our understanding of nature and applying that to the alleviation of suffering and the betterment of humankind? Alternatively, will we turn our backs on faith, concluding that science has rendered the spiritual life no longer necessary, and that traditional religious symbols can now be replaced by engravings on the double helix on our altars?"

"Both of these choices are profoundly dangerous. Both deny truth. Both will diminish the nobility of humankind. Both will be devastating to our future. And both are unnecessary. The God of the Bible is also the God of the genome. He can be worshiped in the cathedral or in the laboratory. His creation is majestic, awesome, intricate, and beautiful - and it cannot be at war with itself. Only we imperfect humans can start such battles. And only we can end them." (p. 211, *The Language of God*)

We regret that this movie has been a source of concern for you and assure you that Baylor continues to maintain its Christian commitment in the historic Baptist tradition."

Sincerely,



John M. Lilley