

July 14, 2003

Paul Lauer, President
Motive Entertainment
1303 Oakgrove Place, Suite 100
Westlake Village, CA 91362

Dear Paul,

Thank you, again, for giving us a unique opportunity to view the uncut version of the Icon Productions film, *The Passion*. We also appreciate the fact that Mel Gibson, you and your colleagues were here for post-screening discussion and comments about this important creative project.

Those of us who had the opportunity to view it are still talking about it, still reflecting on its impact. You heard many of our reactions to the film that day so I'll not repeat those now. What you showed to us was not simply another movie, to be compared with remembrances of previous cinematic portrayals of Christ, but rather something that breaks old boundaries and enters dramatic new territory. For what I believe to be the right reasons, *The Passion* was profoundly compelling and affecting. The quality and realism of the acting, the setting, adherence to the historical record, its intensity and pacing all amount to an outstanding and moving film. It is unusually provocative concerning vital spiritual issues. For both Christian believers and for non-believers *The Passion* will penetrate the mind, heart and soul in ways that can only be memorable and positive.

Any attempt to create a film rendering of a crucial portion of the life of Jesus Christ is a bold endeavor, and one bound to generate some amount of controversy. Let me further encourage you to withstand this premature and unjust criticism of your film and complete this important work of art. While some of its depictions of violence are adult-level material, this stunning film must be seen by as many people as possible.

For our part, Focus on the Family applauds *The Passion*. It is a film we will heartily recommend to our 10 million listeners and constituents in North America, and 220 million worldwide.

Sincerely,

Donald Paul Hodel
President and CEO