



# WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.

CABLE WATCHTOWER

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EF July 29, 1985

Mrs. Michelle L. Leeds  
5117 S.W. 28th Av.  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312

Dear Sister Leeds:

Your follow-up letter of July 3, 1985, has been received. We regret very much that there has been a delay in getting a reply back to you in response to your letter of May 1. Our records indicate that a reply was prepared for you on May 31, but for some reason we are unable to locate a copy of this reply. Therefore we hasten to send the following information which we hope will be helpful to your husband in making a decision on the employment situation with which he is faced.

We suggest first a review of the published information that appears on pages 29-31 of the June 15, 1978, issue of The Watchtower. The matter of withdrawing blood and having this reintroduced back into the body after being stored is first discussed. Then consideration is given to the use of a heart-lung machine or a kidney-dialysis machine. The point is made that some Christians have conscientiously reasoned that the blood in such procedures is flowing continuously and that the external circuit might be viewed as an extension of the circulatory system. They have considered it comparable to a piece of tubing that might be implanted in the body to shunt blood around a blockage in a vessel. Then the following is stated: "Of course, each Christian should weigh what is involved in the use of these and similar devices. He could consider whether he views the blood involved to be blood that clearly has left his body and so should be disposed of or as blood that, basically, is still part of his circulatory system. (Deuteronomy 12:16) Then he can make a decision that will leave him with a clear conscience before God.--1 Peter 3:16." (See in this regard also the article that appears on pages 25-27 of the June 22, 1985, issue of Awake!) The same basic principles would need to be given consideration when the Christian doctor or medical person is called upon to decide whether or not he or she can assist with a procedure that involved removing and reintroducing blood into the body of a patient. Of course, who was responsible for the decision to utilize a certain procedure would have a bearing, and this is given consideration on pages 215 and 216 of the April 1, 1975, issue of The Watchtower.

In the light of what is stated above, some have felt that they could submit their young child to some procedures such as you described in your letter, since the purpose in directing