



WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.

25 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201-2483, U.S.A. PHONE (718) 560-5000

April 10, 2001

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Brothers:

Since the AIDS and hepatitis scares of the 1980's, the public has become increasingly aware of the very real risks associated with blood transfusions. When facing surgery, growing numbers of patients are demanding: "No blood!" Foremost among these are Jehovah's Witnesses, who for many years have refused blood transfusions for religious reasons.

In recent years, medical science has developed safe, effective medical alternatives to blood transfusions in virtually every field of medicine. An improved standard of care for all patients has thus been made possible. To highlight the reasonable stand of Jehovah's Witnesses on this issue, a half-hour video documentary entitled *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge* has been prepared. This video presents case histories along with fascinating interviews of health-care workers, legal experts, and leading medical authorities. The comments of these non-Witness medical authorities are supportive of our position. However, it is good to note that they are presenting their own opinions, and we may not agree with everything they say. Actual medical footage and computer animations help viewers understand what some of the transfusion alternatives and procedures are and how they work. Whether to accept or reject such alternatives is left up to each individual to decide.—See *The Watchtower*, issues of June 15, 2000, pages 29-31, and October 15, 2000, pages 30-1.

This program has been specially prepared for the non-Witness viewing public. How can we use this video? It is not intended for the congregation to engage in a general public distribution. However, it will no doubt be quite helpful to view the program along with any Bible students, unbelieving mates or relatives, teachers, workmates, and schoolmates who might raise questions about our stand on blood. Every effort has been made to keep the medical scenes as brief as possible, although some parents may want to use discretion in viewing the program with small children present. Direction will be provided to brothers who will be assigned to care for any distribution to hospitals, doctors, and any other professionals.

We are happy to announce the availability of the English edition of this program. Congregations may submit their requests for the English edition at the time of their next literature request. Other language editions will be announced as they become available.

This new video should prove to be beneficial to all who view it. We very much appreciate the help and assistance of all the brothers in promoting Kingdom interests worldwide.

Your brothers and fellow servants,

Watchtower B. & T. Society
OF NEW YORK, INC.

Attachment

PS: Please note that only the English edition is available at this time. As other foreign-language editions become available, you will be notified in the usual manner.

Please have this letter read to the congregation at the first Service Meeting after its receipt. Then post it and the printed sample on the information board.