

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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December 16, 2009

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: November 2009 *Awake!* article “Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies”

Dear Brothers:

We are writing to draw your attention to the above-mentioned *Awake!* article on pages 26-29. It is common for some people to view childbirth as a natural and benign process and not to appreciate the risks and complications that can occur with delivery. Furthermore, a lack of professional prenatal care can lead to childbirth problems, such as excessive bleeding, obstructed labor, infection, and anemia because of prematurity, which often involve blood transfusion.

In order to make sure that our brothers benefit from the information contained in that article, you may want to kindly direct prospective parents to carefully review the material. Do not overlook how easily and effectively you can help them by simply drawing attention to the material contained in the magazine, including the footnote on the value of contacting the local Hospital Liaison Committee (HLC) as needed. At the same time, it would be a kindness to offer assistance if they desire to contact a local HLC member or if they are having difficulty locating a physician who can provide quality obstetrical care to patients who are Jehovah's Witnesses. Furthermore, the HLC can provide doctors with a helpful comprehensive document entitled *Clinical Strategies for Avoiding and Controlling Hemorrhage and Anemia Without Blood Transfusion in Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

Thank you very much for your loving efforts to provide protection and care to those who are close to welcoming a new member to their family.—Isa. 32:2.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Traveling overseers

PS to secretary:

This letter should be retained in the congregation file along with *Advance Medical Directive* cards and other medical-related items. Those with no immediate relatives in the truth should be encouraged to consider preparing a “Power of Attorney for Personal Care” or equivalent provincial “living will” document. If extra copies of the November 2009 *Awake!* are available, they should be retained in the file as well. However, please note that a reprint of the article “Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies” is now available for download from the *Forms* section of the jw.org Web site. Thus, it should not be necessary to submit a special request to the branch office for the November 2009 *Awake!*, since copies of the above-noted article may be printed for the file.

12/16/09-E