



Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

Hse. No. J348/4 - Tema Beach Road - Nungua, Accra
P. O. Box GP 760, Accra, Ghana Tel. No.: (0302) 712456-8; 7010110 Fax: (0302) 712454

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 easy process and not to appreciate the risks and complications that can occur with delivery. Furthermore, a lack of professional care before childbirth can lead to serious problems during the birth, 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 all parents who may be expecting a baby 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 in their search to find a doctor who can provide quality care to patients who are Jehovah's Witnesses. Furthermore, the HLC can provide doctors with a helpful document entitled *Clinical Strategies for Avoiding and Controlling Hemorrhage and Anemia Without Blood Transfusion in Obstetrics and Gynecology*. Also as a reminder, please help all pregnant sisters in your congregation to obtain the document *Care Plan for Women in Labour Refusing a Blood Transfusion* from the local HLC and follow through with the guidelines contained in our letter HID:HIC October 8, 2008. Doing this will be of great help in ensuring a smooth delivery.

Because this matter is so important, we have outlined a 14-minute part in the March 2010 *Our Kingdom Ministry* featuring this material. Please select an elder who can highlight the key points in an audience discussion within the allotted time. Encourage all, especially parents to review the material again.

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*

PS to secretary:

This letter should be retained in the congregation file along with DPA cards and other medical-related items. 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.