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Associated

Jehovah's Witnesses

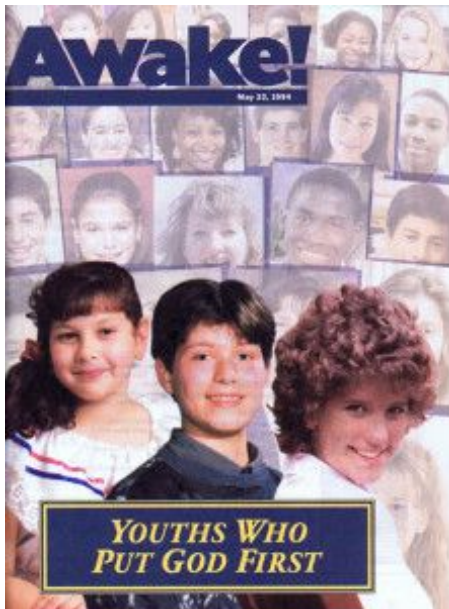
for

Reform on **Blood**

**Press Release – September 15, 2014**

The Associated Jehovah's Witnesses for Reform on Blood (AJWRB) welcome the stand taken by, and fully support Brett and Naghmeh King's decision to allow blood transfusions for their son Ashya, should they be needed.

We acknowledge that these are dissident views not supported by the Watchtower Society, or Jehovah's Witnesses as an organization. Taking such a position could lead to a judicial committee investigation on the charge of apostasy and result in their being disfellowshipped with the subsequent extreme shunning Jehovah's Witnesses are well known for practicing. Nonetheless, these parents clearly are prepared to put the needs of their child first despite the theological ramifications.



Other Jehovah's Witness children have not been as fortunate. The cover of the May 22, 1994 Awake! Magazine features photos of 26 children with the caption, "Youths Who Put God First." Inside the Watchtower publication proclaims: "In former times thousands of youths died for putting God first. They are still doing it, only today the drama is played out in hospitals and courtrooms, with blood transfusions the issue."

Adherence to the blood doctrine has likely cost thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses their lives in medical situations where non-blood alternatives are either insufficient or simply do not exist.

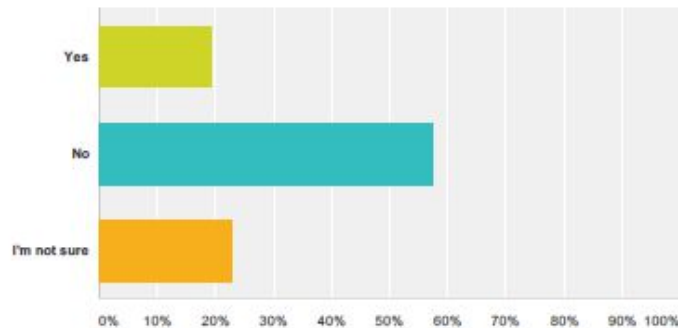
Thankfully, as this case illustrates, the tide has turned among those called upon to support the policy with the lives of their children.

The 2014 Global Survey of Jehovah's Witnesses shows shrinking support for this policy with only 19.42% of parents prepared to allow their child to die rather than have a blood transfusions as shown below.<sup>1</sup>

## The 2014 Global Survey of Jehovah's Witnesses

### Q35 Would you allow your child to die for want of a blood transfusion?

Answered: 582 Skipped: 76



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	19.42% 113
No	57.56% 335
I'm not sure	23.02% 134
Total	582

AJWRB has been informing and educating Jehovah's Witnesses concerning the irrational aspects of the Watchtower Society's blood policy since 1997. Though once a voice for a dissident minority, it seems there is now a growing number of Jehovah's Witness parents who oppose this complex and controversial policy.

While details of this story are difficult to verify from press reports alone, it is noteworthy that the parents have publicly said that they will allow their child blood transfusions if medically necessary. This is despite the information disseminated by the Jehovah's Witness leadership, who systematically demonize any use of blood that does not conform to their strange and evolving policy. The parents actions are also remarkable from the standpoint that Jehovah's Witnesses have made it abundantly clear they will not tolerate dissent on this issue as shown in the links below.

<http://ajwrb.org/experiences/silenced-the-rado-vleugel-story>

<http://ajwrb.org/experiences/gestapo-tactics-the-wayne-rogers-story>

<http://ajwrb.org/experiences/control-and-repression-the-ray-hemming-story>

#### **Primer/overview of the issues:**

<http://ajwrb.org/do-jehovahs-witnesses-really-abstain-from-blood>

**For further information please visit our website at: [www.ajwrb.org](http://www.ajwrb.org)**

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