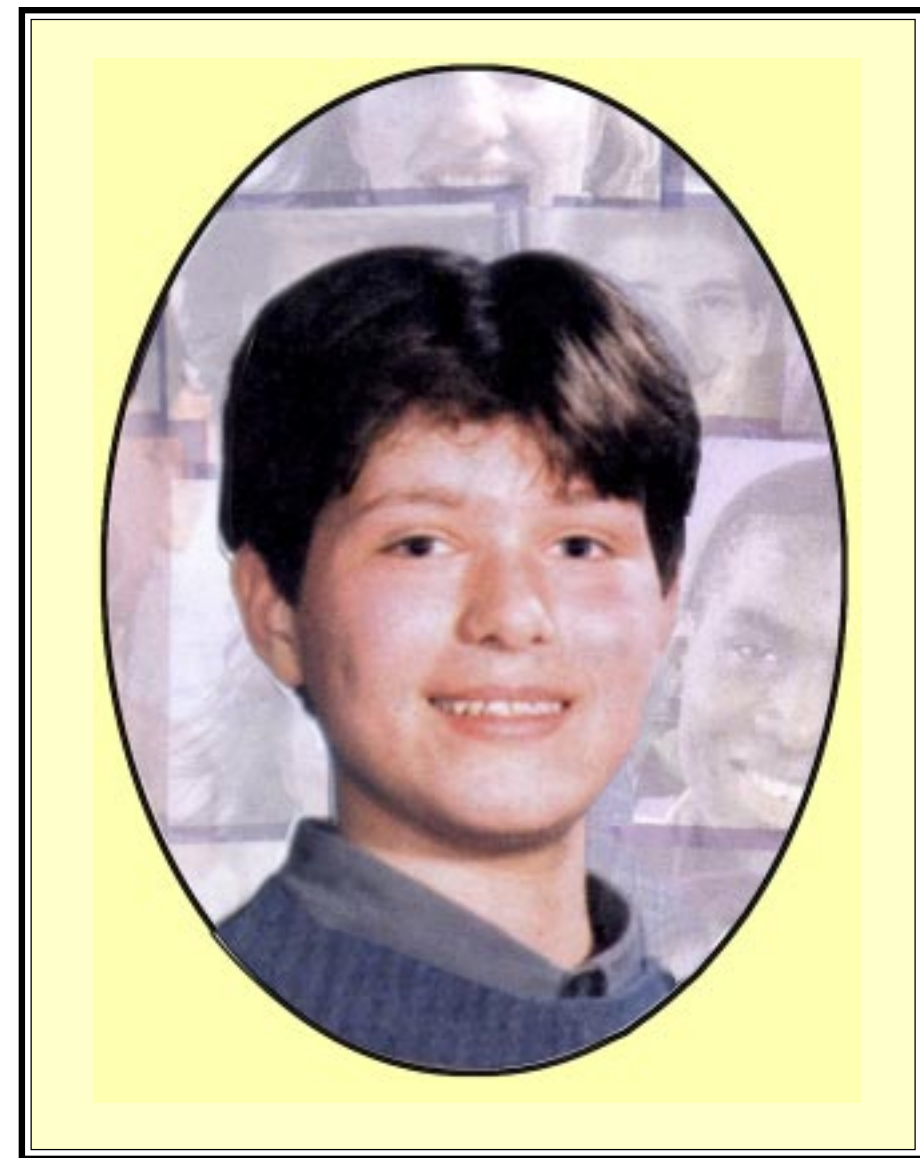


HOW MANY JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES ARE DYING FROM THE **BLOOD** REFUSAL POLICY?



**HOW MANY MORE
CHILDREN MUST DIE
WHEN ALTERNATIVE
NON-BLOOD THERAPIES
HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED ?**

The cover of the May 22, 1994 *Awake!* magazine shows the photos of *26 children*, with the caption: “**Youths Who Put God First.**” Inside the magazine states: “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.”

Actual statistics have never been published, but the following estimate based on published data suggests about 900 Jehovah's Witnesses die each year because of the blood refusal policy.

Kitchens reported in the February 1993 issue of 'The American Journal of Medicine' (Kitchens CS: “Are transfusions overrated? Surgical outcome of Jehovah's Witnesses.” *Am J Med* 1993;94:117-119) that studies based on 1,404 operations mostly cardiovascular surgery and hip replacement performed on Jehovah's Witnesses without blood transfusions reveal that 1.4 percent of the patients died due to lack of blood as a primary or contributing cause of death. This means that every time a JW has “bloodless surgery” his chance of dying is 1% greater.

Expressed another way, for every one hundred “bloodless” operations on Jehovah's Witnesses, one death can be attributed to blood refusal.

According to the American Association of Blood Banks, approximately 4 million patients receive blood transfusions from 12.6 million units of donated blood each year. That means 4 million or 15 out of every 1000 Americans have conditions requiring blood transfusions each year.

Since there are about 1 million Jehovah's Witnesses in the United States, about 15,000 Jehovah's Witnesses have conditions, which normally require blood transfusions. If we estimate the rate of additional death attributable to blood loss about 1%, about 150 Jehovah's Witnesses are dying each year in the United States due to blood refusal.

Furthermore, there are 6 million baptized Jehovah's Witnesses and about the same number of sympathizers and inactive members worldwide. So we can conservatively multiply this figure by a factor of six. The resulting estimate shows that approximately 900 Jehovah's Witnesses die annually throughout the world as a result of the blood prohibition.