

Jehovah's Witnesses to release blood doctrine

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contents. By coincidence, next week's directive follows some heavy criticism of the blood transfusion policy from attorney Kerry Louderback-Wood of Fort Myers, Florida, writing in the Journal of Church and State, published by Baylor University.

Louderback-Wood, who was raised a Witness but now has no religious affiliation, accuses her former faith of giving "inaccurate and possibly dishonest arguments" to believers facing crucial medical decisions.

Louderback-Wood complains that many Witnesses and physicians aren't given clear instruction about their faith's blood transfusion policy, particularly on the subject of fractions.

She's no disinterested bystander. The lawyer says her mother died from severe anemia in 2004 because local elders didn't realize hemoglobin is permitted.

Louderback-Wood learned that hemoglobin was allowed from the Web site of Associated Jehovah's Witnesses for Reform on Blood, which was founded in 1997 by dissenting local elders, eight of whom served on Hospital Liaison Committees that advise Witnesses and physi-

cians. The founder of Associated Jehovah's Witnesses, speaking on condition of anonymity to protect his standing in a faith that does not tolerate dissent, says liaison committee members know about the revised teachings, but most Witnesses automatically refuse all forms of blood without consulting the committees. Physicians are often ill-informed about Witness beliefs, he says.

Louderback-Wood thinks the faith is subject to legal liability for misinforming adherents, which to her knowledge is an untested theory in U.S. courts. Related issues arise in a pending lawsuit in Calgary, Alberta, however, over the alleged "wrongful death" of teenage leukemia patient Bethany Hughes.

Witnesses headquarters refused an Associated Press request to interview an expert on blood beliefs. Instead, General Counsel Philip Brumley issued a prepared statement rejecting Louderback-Wood's "analysis and conclusions" in general.

"Any argument challenging the validity of this religious belief inappropriately trespasses into profoundly theological and doctrinal matters," Brumley stated. The Watchtower's 1945 ban

said "all worshippers of Jehovah who seek eternal life in his new world" must obey. Such edicts are regarded as divine law, since the Governing Body uniquely directs true believers. Violators risk ostracism by family and friends.

A subsequent Watchtower pronouncement forbade storage of a patient's own blood for later transfusion. In all, Associated Jehovah's Witnesses lists 20 shifts and refinements in blood-related rules over the years.

At the core of their blood beliefs, Witnesses cite Acts 15:29, where Jesus' apostles agreed that Gentile converts should 'keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols and from blood.' The Witnesses also cite passages in Genesis and Leviticus.

Judaism and Christianity have always understood these scriptures to ban blood-eating for nourishment. This underlies Judaism's kosher procedures to extract blood from meat, which Witnesses do not follow. Christianity eventually decided the rule was temporary.

Experts assume that Raymond Franz's late uncle, Frederick Franz, who served anonymously as the Witnesses' chief theologian, decided

those passages cover blood transfusions. But Raymond Franz raises questions about the blood policy in his book "In Search of Christian Freedom." Among them:

- Why forbid a patient's own stored blood yet permit components derived from large amounts of donated and stored blood?
- Why allow organ transplants, which introduce far

more foreign white blood cells than transfusions?

• The Witnesses forbid plasma, which is mostly water, but allow the components in it that provide therapy. So what's the point of banning plasma?

Advances in bloodless surgery have reduced medical dangers for Witnesses in the United States, but Associated Jehovah's Witnesses main-

tains the blood policy is a life-threatening problem elsewhere.

Louderback-Wood says she'll be contented if her protest saves one child's life.

On the Net:
Witnesses' official brochure: <http://www.watchtower.org/libr ary/hb>
Dissenters' data: <http://www.ajwr.org>
<http://www.jwtruth.com>

Witnesses' notable belief system

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael.

Some of Jehovah's Witnesses' notable beliefs

Jehovah's Witnesses, famous for door-to-door evangelism, believe their faith's authorities, headquartered in Brooklyn, New York, teach the only true interpretations of the Bible, including these tenets:

- Orthodox Christianity wrongly believes in the Trinity, one God in three persons. Jesus isn't God and the Holy Spirit is merely God's impersonal power.

- Before his earthly birth, Jesus was the Archangel

- The last days began in 1914 and the War of Armageddon will occur while people conscious of 1914 events remain alive. (Prior to 1975, Witnesses literature strongly suggested that the final war would occur while people who living during World War I were still alive.)

- After the current world system ends, true believers will enjoy paradise on earth while 144,000 of the anointed rule with Jesus in heaven. Others will be annihilated, not punished eternally, since hell is the grave.

- God's proper name is

Jehovah.

- "Pagan" observances such as Christmas, birthdays and national holidays shouldn't be celebrated.

- Since Satan rules this world, true believers must not vote, hold public office, serve in the military or salute national flags.

- Jesus died on a single "torture stake," not a cross.

- Believers should consider "theocratic" careers without worldly higher education.

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January, 2006 Newsletter - Part V (Last Part)
J.M. Little, Teacher

A pastor from Virginia was by years ago and he made a statement to me: "You keep talking about the breaking of the sinner's will, but it is the new birth." That pastor did not know Holy Spirit Conviction. The sinner's will has to be broken before he can be saved. How few of you pastors know that great truth. Every sinner will be completely broken at the Feet of Christ before God reveals Christ to his heart. Not knowing that, you break off from me, accusing me of teaching something strange. Well, I'm teaching how God saves hell-deserving sinners. You never tell the members of your church they deserve to go to hell. It is because you have never seen that truth in your own heart. You can't warn sinners of the danger they are in because you have never seen the danger you are in, preacher! Brother, cousins, deacons and teachers: you will not talk to me about Christ as a Living Reality to your hearts because you do not know Him! You can go on in your church, but if you remain where you are, you will lift up your eyes in hell. And you make excuses for your members living in sin. You are leading souls to Hell and don't even know it. One day I was there, blinded by the god of this world just like you. And if you preachers don't want me teaching at your church, it is because you are not saved. You accuse me of disturbing your folks and making them feel like they are lost. You have not misjudged me. I told some folks in their church recently: "My teaching will confirm you in the fact you are saved, if you are saved. If you are not saved, my teaching will make you feel like you are lost. You are lost." The eternal question you must face is this: "Do I know Christ as my Lord and my Saviour?" Will you face that question fair and square? You are going to spend eternity in Heaven or Hell. Your life on this earth is but a vapor. But you'll be in eternity forever and forever. Written on the sides of Hell must be the word "Forever". Where will you spend eternity? Most of you I deal with don't want to talk about the eternal destiny of your souls. And every church member is just as worldly as can be. You go on as if you don't have a soul. Much of the blame can be laid at the feet of you preachers and teachers because you are preaching another gospel. You are not preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. And by preaching another gospel, you are preparing your folks to worship the Antichrist. I plead with every awakened sinner: cry unto the Lord day and night, every awakened moment. Every day the Lord spares you to live, you should be crying unto Him for deliverance. This is what I told that awakened sinner who called me last night. Christ is your only Hope. Christ is my only Hope. God does not tease sinners. Look to Christ. Your Gospel Editor and Teacher, J.M. Little

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