

I have always found the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 25:31–46, most helpful as a guide to setting public policy. But even more important is Matthew 16:26 which says, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” This verse is especially relevant to today’s national leaders who are increasingly faced with votes of conscience.

I commend the National Bible Association for setting aside this week to encourage others to read and study the Bible. The Bible has influenced Western art, literature, music, and even our laws. I encourage you to read and study it this week.

RECOGNITION FOR ADOPTIONS
TOGETHER

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, as National Adoption Month 2000 approaches, I take great pride in recognizing the exceptional work being done by Adoptions Together, a nonprofit organization in my Congressional district, on behalf of children in need of a permanent, loving adoptive home. Since its founding ten years ago by Janice Goldwater of Silver Spring, Maryland, Adoptions Together has worked to help all children in need of a home regardless of the child’s age, health, race, physical or mental handicap. Adoptions Together welcomes every child who seeks its help.

Many things about adoptions needed to be changed for the better than Janice Goldwater began Adoptions Together in 1990. At the time, there was little hope that medically fragile infants whose birth families could not care for them would quickly find their way to loving adoptive homes. African American infants waited for years in temporary placements because there were so few resources available to them. Families who had already adopted had no place to turn when their children asked difficult questions and struggled with adoption issues. Ms. Goldwater, a licensed clinical social worker, set out to make Adoptions Together a place where these difficulties could and would be overcome.

The organization that Ms. Goldwater founded and continues to lead as executive director has helped change the picture of adoptions in Maryland and the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Through Adoptions Together, more than 1,400 children have been welcomed into loving, healthy adoptive homes. One homes in particular deserves recognition. Darren and Laurie Morgan of Burtonsville, Maryland have fostered 93 children, adopted one, and raised three. Their willingness to open their hearts and their homes to so many children is an amazing kindness that all of us can learn from. The Morgan’s have touched so many lives through Adoptions Together and I am honored to have them in our community.

In addition, older children who have languished for years in foster care are now finding adoptive homes through Adoptions To-

gether. It is the first private-sector organization in Maryland authorized to provide adoption services for the thousands of older Maryland children who are growing up in public foster care. Adoptions Together has helped more than 300 children with special medical needs such as HIV, birth defects, or serious prenatal drug exposure to become part of loving, permanent families. The organization has provided over 10,000 days of care to more than 300 newborns while their futures were being settled. More than 600 children left orphanages and institutions in Eastern Europe, Asia and Central America to happily join their new adoptive families in Maryland and beyond in other states.

Adoptions Together serves the needs of both adoptive families and birth parents, offering programs that can be a model for adoption organizations nationwide. Every birth parent who has sought the organization’s help has received free adoption counseling for as long as they wished. Over the past ten years, more than 5,000 women facing unplanned pregnancies have received counseling and other help, whether or not they chose adoption for their child. At Adoptions Together, birth parents who are unable to raise their child themselves consider adoption as a pro-active plan for assuring that their child’s needs will be met.

Adoptions Together believes that placing a child is only the first step in building a strong adoptive family. Once a child is placed, the goal becomes helping the family through life-long education, counseling and support. More than 1,000 families—clients of Adoptions Together and many other adoption organizations—have found support and guidance in Adoptions Together’s Center for Adoptive Families program. More than 500 teachers, educators, social workers, ministers and therapists throughout the country have received professional training by Adoptions Together on adoption topics.

Today, the need for this organization’s good work is greater than ever before. More than 3,000 children in Maryland and the District of Columbia are now waiting for a permanent home. Increased drug abuse, institutional poverty, and the lack of community resources make Adoptions Together a safety net for these children. Fortunately, members of our community are rallying behind Adoptions Together’s efforts. Corporate and private benefactors teamed up September 22 at the Adoptions Together Tenth Anniversary Gala to raise funds that will support Adoptions Together’s second decade of care giving. Among those instrumental in this effort were: gala co-chairs Judy Polk of Rockville, Pam Cole Finlay of Bethesda, Jane Philips of Howard; television’s Rosie O’Donnell; and corporate sponsors Credit Management Solutions, Inc. (CMSI), Hecht’s, OTG Software, SFX Entertainment, and Sun Trust. In November, washingtonpost.com will sponsor an innovative, two-month on-line fundraising effort for Adoptions Together. With help from these and other benefactors, a great Maryland nonprofit organization will begin a new year—its second grade—of loving care giving, welcoming all children who turn to Adoptions Together for a permanent adoptive home. I applaud the past efforts of Adoptions Together and wish them

all the best on behalf of the children of Maryland and their families.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
BILL ARCHER

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, BILL ARCHER. Few legislators have the opportunity in their careers to effect such far-reaching reforms as the gentleman from Texas has during his time in this body, particularly his years as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

As we all know, the Committee on Ways and Means carries a very heavy legislative load, dealing each and every year with 100 percent of our nation’s revenues. BILL ARCHER has taken this responsibility very seriously since becoming Chairman in 1994, and his accomplishments reflect this.

First and foremost, BILL ARCHER left his mark on legislative history with his work on the Balanced Budget Act of 1977. Among it’s many provisions, the Balanced Budget Act gave Americans the first tax cut in 16 years. It also helped taxpayers by shifting the burden of proof on tax issues from the taxpayer to the Internal Revenue Service. Taxpayers received new rights and protections in their dealings with the Internal Revenue Service, and the Internal Revenue Service in turn became subject to the oversight of an independent agency.

However, reforming the Internal Revenue Service is not BILL ARCHER’s only legacy. He also fought hard and successfully for welfare reform which has resulted in millions of former welfare beneficiaries leaving the welfare roles and moving back into the workforce. In addition, he has worked toward meaningful Social Security reform, and we know that the groundwork he laid will help us realize that goal effectively.

BILL ARCHER’s legislative accomplishments speak volumes about his integrity, dedication, and commitment. These are the characteristics that have led his constituents to send him back to Washington 15 times. These same characteristics are the ones we, his colleagues, will miss most when BILL ARCHER retires. I join all BILL ARCHER’s friends and colleagues in thanking him for his many years of service and wishing him the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

SALUTING EARL LLOYD

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 31, 2000, the New York Knicks of the National Basketball Association