
Waco Tribune-Herald OPINION

Trib critiques Oct. 14, 2011

Dr. Howard L. Smith of Waco wrote recently that he was surprised by the Tribune-Herald's selection of John Pisciotta on its board of contributors. But actually it was only a matter of time.

The Tribune-Herald leans so far to the right that I'm surprised it hasn't fallen over yet.

Mario Villarreal, Oglesby

OCTOBER 14, 2011

Planned Parenthood supported

Great idea from Barbara Wilson in her Aug. 17 letter: "adoption." Gee, why didn't someone else think of that before?

I suppose one could go to Planned Parenthood and stop an abortion with the promise to support the mom during the months of gestation, pay the medical bills and then adopt the baby when the time came. I wonder if *she's* willing to do that? And do so without regard to race, creed or religion?

No one wants an abortion, but it is a woman's right to choose. I support Planned Parenthood of Central Texas in its efforts to prevent unwanted pregnancies, which is what they mainly do.

And when did Baylor University professor John Pisciotta become spokesman for the people of Waco by declaring that Planned Parenthood "lacks community acceptance and respect?" He is not even listed in the Waco phone directory. But check for the list of Planned Parenthood directors and sponsors and you'll find a lot of well-known and respected Waco leaders.

Howard L. Smith, Marlin

Bible: protect the orphan and the "super-orphan"

Oct. 15, 2011

Orphans.

The thought of children living without parents tugs at our heartstrings.

With control of many diseases and safer workplaces today, we encounter far fewer orphans than in past decades.

A significant part of my family life in Colorado was relationships with orphaned cousins —three brothers and two sisters. After the death of their widowed mother, all except the youngest were placed in an orphanage. The youngest, a daughter, remained with her aunt.

The siblings were able to leave the orphanage for my mother (their aunt) and father's wedding in 1933. After the festive marriage celebration, the children did not return. Their aunt assumed responsibility for all. Additionally, my mother and father nurtured and guided the children through the years. As adults, my cousins experienced many of life's travails but led productive and significant lives.

My orphan cousins are now deceased. They and their children have been a big part of my life. And I have been inspired by how my mother, father and aunt responded to the biblical call to support and love the orphan.



**JOHN
PISCIOTTA**

Board of
Contributors

While orphans are not common today, there is a related experience that is all too common. This is what I call the "super-orphan." The super-orphan does not outlive his or her parents. Super-orphans die because of parental rejection. One or both parents reject the child to procure an abortion.

As with the orphan of old, the reality of the super-orphan arouses sadness and sympathy. The Bible does not explicitly command us to defend super-orphans. In biblical times there was no nation that aborted tens of thousands of innocent unborn. Still, we can read the Bible, put two and two together, and know we should step out in their defense. Just as we are called to reach out to orphans in their years of life, we must rise to defend these super-orphans at the hours and minutes of their imminent death.

Dedicated pro-lifers around the country and in Waco do speak and act for the super-orphan. I'm proud of those in Waco who stand and pray for the unborn at risk.

I have joined public witness to appeal the death sentences declared for the innocent unborn. On this day, I implore the managers, employees, board members and supporters of Planned Parenthood of Central Texas to step back, reconsider what you are doing — and then *stop*.

John Pisciotta is director of Pro-Life Waco, a nonprofit committed to ending abortion and promoting abstinence and adoption services.