

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Death Notices

Workman

Gwendolyn Workman passed away on June 3, 2020. Services will be held at a later date in Tennessee. Arrangements are

by Shaffer Funeral Home. Survivors are her husband, Michael Sherrill; her father, James William Turner, Sr.; son, Troy Workman; brothers, James William Turner, Jr., William Turner and Jimmy Turner; and her sisters, Diane Hill, Rosie Dunn, Mary Turner and Julie VanZile.

Vision with a Purpose holds June meeting

Vision with a Purpose held their first meeting since the quarantine at their office on Austin Street in Robert Lee, Thursday, June 4 at 6 pm. Because of Covid-19, previous meetings had been held via Zoom.

The meeting was opened by Sheri Millican, reading the minutes of the last meeting held in May via Zoom.

It was decided to go ahead and have the Father's Day Bake Sale, Friday, June 19, at Robert Lee State Bank. VP will have curbside service this year for those who do not wish to come inside and pictures of the goods will appear on Facebook that

morning.

VP appreciates the senior class of Robert Lee High School for allowing them to help run the concession stand for last fall's home football games. The class also used VP's building and sound system for Project Graduation.

Because of the uncertainty of the virus, VP has put the Hunters BBQ on hold and hasn't decided yet if the group will sponsor Trade Days this fall. Further information will be forthcoming.

The next VP meeting will be held Thursday, July 2 at 6 pm at the Event Center on Austin Street.

other hand, prior generations witnessed a number of episodes reminding us that the American Experiment is messy, flawed, and a work in progress. They saw the country struggle with Vietnam. They saw Americans of all stripes fight for civil rights in the 1960s and saw segregationists fight back in horrifying ways. They saw a Cuban Missile Crisis that brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. They saw World War II, when the world united to defeat the march of fascism and genocide. They saw the Great Depression.

And those are just the generations who are living today. The reality is that these episodes punctuate the entirety of American history, dating back to the earliest stages of the American Revolution, when Crispus Attacks was gunned down by British soldiers at the Boston Massacre. America has faced innumerable challenges from bad men combining (to borrow from Burke's accurate quote). Each time, the good men associated together to turn back the tide of those men who were on the wrong side of history.

There's another, similar quote that comes to my mind. Yvon Chouinard is the founder of Patagonia, the American outdoors company known for its apparel, its environmental activism, and its dedication to promoting quality of life for its employees. Environmentalism is a whole other topic for a different day, but there are plenty of corporations and personalities who give lip service to the idea and live by the old "do as I say, not as I do" rule. Chouinard and Patagonia are known for putting their money where their mouth is. This dates to Chouinard's earliest days in business, when he forged and sold steel rock-climbing pitons to support his own rock-climbing adventures. Chouinard made an estimated 70% of his income off steel pitons, which were integral to rock climbing everywhere. When he realized that the pitons were damaging

the rocks of his beloved Yosemite National Park, he devised new equipment that was much more environmentally sound and advocated "clean climbing," which destroyed his piton business in favor of his new products and which revolutionized the worldwide sport of rock climbing in a much more environmentally-conscious manner.

Chouinard has a powerful statement about doing good: "I have a little different definition of evil than most people. When you have the opportunity and the ability to do good and you do nothing, that's evil. Evil doesn't always have to be an overt act, it can be merely the absence of good."

I think all of us, me included, occasionally want to pat ourselves on the back for simply not doing the wrong thing. But Chouinard's quote puts into perspective the folly of that thinking. If a parent asks a child

to help out around the house, then the child does nothing, does the parent give the child credit for simply not wrecking the house in lieu of doing what was requested? I never was that fortunate!

The same thing holds true here in the adult world. We can all look around and see the things of the world that need fixing. We see the evil that comes from Satan to tear apart our world (as stated eloquently by Tony Dungy in last week's essay). So what are we actually doing about it? I would hope we aren't overtly contributing to the bad, but are we contributing by merely being absent? Or are we using our ability and our opportunity to contribute to the good?

James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and mayor in Stamford, and the creator of the forthcoming "West of 98" podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at facebook.com/james.decker.

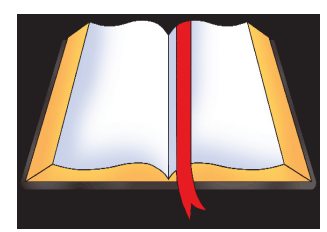
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Area Churches Invite You to Worship

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Bronte Church of Christ
 PO Box 346
 118 S. Jefferson • Bronte
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm
Central Baptist Church
 324 S. Franklin • Bronte
 (325) 473-4811
 Dale Patterson, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School
 11 am & 5 pm Worship
First Baptist Church
 424 S. Washington • Bronte
 (325) 473-2331 • Pastor George Cooper
 Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,
 10:55 am Worship, 6 pm Bible
 Study & Worship
 Wednesday 6 pm RA's & GA's,
 6:30 pm Youth & Adults
First United Methodist Church
 Corner of Washington & Holmes
 Bronte
 (325) 473-3281
 Rev. Stacy Sprinkle, Pastor
 Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
Forgiven Ministries
 117 W. Main, Bronte
 Russ Frasier, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am
 Tuesday 6 pm Table Time
St. James Catholic Church
 215 N. Washington, Bronte
 (325) 365-2687
 Rev. Yesu Mulakaleti, Jr., Pastor
 Sunday Bilingual Mass 8 am
4C Cowboy Church
 Texas Theater, Downtown Bronte
 Interim Pastor Robert Lemmond
 Sunday, 10:30 am

- Coke County**
Pecan Baptist
 PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of
 Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy
 (325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Pastor
 www.pecanbaptistchurchrl.com
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship



- Robert Lee**
Bible Baptist Church
 PO Box 938 • 9th & Austin
 Sunday 10 am Sunday School, 11 am and
 5 pm Worship, Wed 5 pm Bible Study
Emmanuel Pentecostal
 PO Box 794 • 1004 Hillcrest
 Pastor Brantly Robertson
 (972) 841-2009
 Sundays 10 am, Wednesdays 7 pm
First United Methodist Church
 PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne
 Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417
 Cyndi Weidner, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School
 11 am Worship, 5 pm Choir Practice
Iglesia Bautista Betel
 101 Houston • Robert Lee
 Sun. 9:45 am • Sunday School
 11 am Service • Bible Study Wed. 6 pm
Southside Church of Christ
 PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston
 Robert Lee (325) 453-2176
 Recardo Reyes, Preacher
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 6 pm, Worship
Northside Church of Christ
 PO Box 508
 9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee
 (325) 453-2685, (325) 763-2118 or
 (325) 473-1053
 Services: Sun. 10 am
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
 601 W. 10th, Robert Lee
 (325) 365-2687
 Rev. Yesu Mulakaleti, Pastor
 Saturday Vigil Mass 5 pm
Robert Lee Baptist Church
 PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th
 (325) 453-2724
 Chris Walls, Pastor
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship
 Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting
Victory Assembly of God
 (325) 453-2208, PO Box 638
 6th & Houston, Robert Lee
 Rev. Irving Smith, Pastor
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study
Tennyson
Tennyson Baptist Church
 Hwy 277 • Tennyson
 (325) 473-2040
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting



The Absence of Good

by James M. Decker
 "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." - Edmund Burke

You have probably seen that quote before, maybe many times. It is an excellent statement. Burke was a brilliant statesman and philosopher in 18th century Great Britain. Unfortunately, he never said this exact quote that is misattributed to him. He did say something similar, albeit less succinct. In his 1770 pamphlet "Thoughts on the Cause of the Present Discontents," Burke wrote: "when bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will all fall, one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle."

Even if the accurate quote is less snappy than the inaccurate one, the underlying principle is sound and something we should all think about in these trying times. We've had many trying times in our nation's history. My generation grew up in an era that was relatively unprecedented in terms of strife, both foreign and domestic, until the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. On the

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