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VISIT US ON THE WEB!!!  
[www.acadia-association.org](http://www.acadia-association.org)  
[www.mtolive-association.org](http://www.mtolive-association.org)  
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# Joint Associational News

Acadia, Louisiana & Mt. Olive Baptist Associations

Vol. 5, Issue 2

May 2015

## FROM THE JOINT ASSOCIATION OFFICE,

### Associational Musings...



#### Exciting Days in Our Associations

These are exciting days for our three associations. It was great to drive into a church parking lot this past Sunday and see so many cars that there was almost no place for us to park. Hearing about thriving churches has become more prevalent as I move around our area. It's all about getting outside the walls of our churches and touching the lives of people in your communities. Staying within the four walls is a sure way for a church to die. How is your church doing in this area? What are you doing? Are you getting out in ministry, getting involved in the lives of the people around your church field. One speaker recently said "they are not coming to your church". I have to agree. Just sitting and waiting, doing the same basic thing we have done in the last 20 years or so will not work. People of all ages are looking for authentic Christian communities. Churches where Christian people really do show that they care about each other and the communities around them. When we show we care they will respond. It is important for our churches to ask ourselves some hard questions. It's easy to say "Yes, we care". It's another thing to demonstrate that you care. How is your church demonstrating that your care about the people in your community? If you are interested, I have a list of 40 ministry ideas that are currently working in churches across Louisiana. I will gladly come and share that list with you and your leadership. Let's open a dialogue about getting outside the four walls of your church. Let's all be a part of thriving churches with an authentic Christian example effectively ministering to the communities.


#### Associations Are Embracing Change

Yes, it's time!! Time for our associations to STOP, and take a look at what and how they are doing for the kingdom. We are asking hard questions like: Are the things we are doing effective in advancing the kingdom? What will it take to energize the church leadership to lead? I am convinced that, yes, we need to stop and take a look. I am asking that this year in our calendar planning meetings, all three associations look at every calendar event and ask: Is this going to make a difference? People are tired of just gathering, maybe eating a meal, or just having some preaching. They are voting with their feet. They need substance. They need training. If they are going to give you their time, you had better have something to make a difference for them and their churches. Otherwise, they are just not going to come. **I am very encouraged that all three Associations are moving in this direction! Each in their own way. Not only do calendars need to change but constitutions need to be changed.** Our constitutions, though effective and relevant in days past, have become cumbersome in this fast paced world. They literally have become restrictive. Make no mistake, constitutions are important and it's important that we use them effectively. But, we have to keep them relevant. Old committee structures have failed to function. Just filling nominating committee reports with names is not productive unless those groups function. The facts of the matter are, the current committee structures have failed to be effective. New structures need to be developed that can function effectively. I see a new day coming in the Joint Association Area. I am every encouraged!



#### Vacation Bible Schools are just around the Corner.


Yes, it's that time. VBS is still one of the most effective ways to reach out and touch people in your community. Unchurched people will often send their kids to VBS before they will come. It's a great way to build relationships. It's also a great way to reclaim folks who have quit coming. It's not too late to plan your VBS. We would be glad to help you. Some of the best VBS's I have had were held in late summer, a few weeks before school starts, so you have time. If you need some help pulling this off, give my office a call. (337-468-4375)



**Mamou 5:16**  
**Volunteers needed**

May 16, May 30, June 13, June 27.

Call Wayne Meyer at 337-336-2770 if you can help.



# Party Trailers

## Don't Forget the Party Trailers

### WE NOW HAVE TWO!

Our party trailers (Evangelism Trailers) are a great tools, especially in the summer. It's a great way to get your community kids out and build relationships with their families. Remember, we now have two trailers. One fully equipped with concessions (\$150), and the other just has two inflatables (\$50), ONE A WATER SLIDE. Let's keep them on the road.

By the way, remember, let's keep our equipment clean. It's your responsibility to wash the concession equipment after each use!!!! If you have a spill in the trailer, clean it up before it gets sticky!!!! Let us know if any of the equipment is broken.

## CHURCHES

### WITHOUT PASTORS

#### Acadia Association

Miller French Baptist Church

#### Louisiana Association

First Baptist Church, Melville

#### Mt. Olive Association

Calcasieu Baptist Church

Glenmora Baptist Church

New Sunrise Baptist Church

Westport Friendship Baptist Church

## EVENTS TO REMEMBER

### MT. OLIVE ASSOCIATION

#### May 2015

2	Mamou 5:16	3:00-8:00 p.m.	Mamou Civic Center
3	<b>Disaster Relief Emphasis</b>		
7	<b>National Day of Prayer</b>		noon
11	Men & Boys Meeting	6:30 p.m.	TBA
14	Calendar & Budget Meeting	6:00 p.m.	St. Matthew
16	Mamou 5:16	3:00-8:00 p.m.	Mamou Civic Center
28	Community Luncheon		Dry Creek
30	Mamou 5:16	3:00-8:00 p.m.	Mamou Civic Center

### ACADIA ASSOCIATION

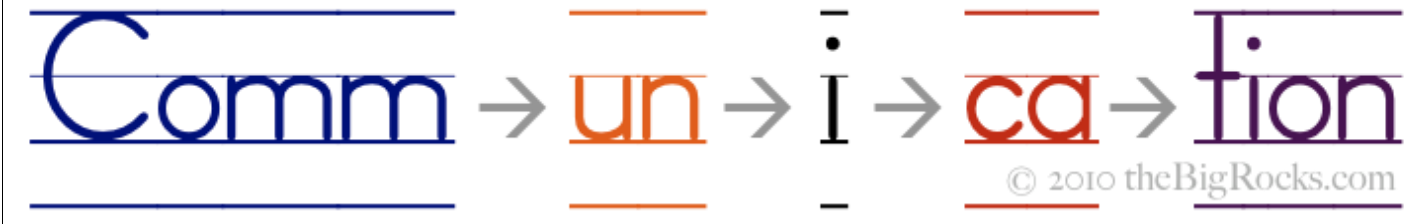
#### May 2015

2	Mamou 5:16	3:00-8:00 p.m.	Mamou Civic Center
5	Calendar & Budget Meeting	6:00 p.m.	ABC
7	<b>National Day of Prayer</b>		noon
10	<b>Mother's Day</b>		
16	Mamou 5:16	3:00-8:00 p.m.	Mamou Civic Center
17	<b>L.C. Smith Offering Emphasis</b>		
28	Pastor's, Staff & Wives Conf.	7:00 p.m.	Miller French BC
30	Mamou 5:16	3:00-8:00 p.m.	Mamou Civic Center

### LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION

#### May 2015

2	Mamou 5:16	3:00-8:00 p.m.	Mamou Civic Center
7	<b>National Day of Prayer</b>		noon
9	Cuchon de Lait	9:00 a.m.	Mansura
10	<b>Mother's Day</b>		
16	Mamou 5:16	3:00-8:00 p.m.	Mamou Civic Center
17	<b>L.C. Smith Emphasis Sunday</b>		
30	Mamou 5:16	3:00-8:00 p.m.	Mamou Civic Center



### Communication Issues are a Priority

The Joint Association Office, Jan and Myself, are diligently trying to get the valuable information to those that need to have it in our three associations. In this digital/snail mail world that we live in, communication is a difficult task. We desperately want you to get the information you and your friends need. We need your help. We send information out using the combination of three methods; email, postal mail, and texting. We will do what you request. Email is the most efficient, quickest, cheapest, easiest way to contact most of the people in our associations. Texting works best for the younger folks. Some of our folks don't use email or texting. We have several problems that hinder communications. Many don't read their email regularly! Some don't have email addresses. Some addresses change and we are not notified. Many don't read their postal mail. Information sent to the pastors and the church offices, **often**, is not passed down to the people in the church. (All church offices and pastors get monthly and even bimonthly information from our office) Some people that need to get information are not on our contact list. If we know you want postal mail, you need to let us know. Most of our contact information comes from the Annual Church Profile (ACP), sent in to the Louisiana Baptist Convention Office in each September by your church. We receive the updated information which includes, church officers, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. We take this information to build our current contact lists. Consequently, if your church sends the incorrect information on the ACP, we get wrong information. For instance, if your email address has changed and your church does not update that information, then we get incorrect information. The same goes for cell numbers, officers, etc. We really struggle to get the information out. **Here is how you can help us!** 1) If you or someone you know does not get information from our office please give us a call and tell us. If you hear someone complain about this issue give us a call and let us know.(337-468-4375) 2) If you don't want to receive information by email, give us a call 3) Pray for us!!! This isn't easy.

