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*William Taylor, Editor*

## OUT OF HIS HEART AND MIND

Good homes, highways, trains are always built on solid foundations. Otherwise they will crumble under pressure and time. Mission structures are the same. We can't live without them, but their structural integrity must be examined. Musing over these issues, it seems that just as the Sabbath was made for man and not the opposite, we must insure that our mission structures serve us, and not we them.

Over my 43 years in mission I have served in some 8 different mission structures, and they have shaped (mis-shaped?) my life and work.

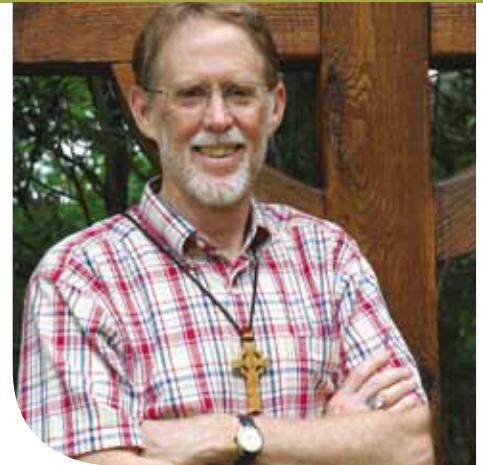
Some of my colleagues feel that mission "structures" sound too inflexible, too static; they don't flex and adapt when challenged by time and cultures. But just as that leadership is a

God-gift—from the creation mandates through the Exodus and Kingdom, into the life of Jesus and his church—leadership and servant structures are God-gifts. The keys to the best ones are rooted in giftedness, integrity and servanthood—even structures.

This singular issue of Connections presents a panoply of worldwide mission structures for your perusal: missional churches, agencies, training centers, national and regional mission movements, networks and alliances.

Again, the voices you will "read and hear" are global, from South and North, from East and West, rooted in tested experience.

Review the table of contents for an overview: from conceptual seminal



articles, we move to case studies of mission agencies in transition, of national mission movements, of networks and alliances.

We had so much material that we were unable to put it all in this issue. Visit [www.weaconnections.com](http://www.weaconnections.com) for the full report.

Read, reflect, consider, apply, learn, grow and change. We serve a dynamic, creative missional God who has graciously invited us (and mission structures) into his Epic Story, including ●

