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*William Taylor, Editor*

## OUT OF MY HEART AND MIND

On this special double-issue of our journal This unique issue of Connections is a glorious, global cornucopia of the arts in the context of worldwide mission. There is nothing like it in the world; and thankfully, its lavish contents are not only in print but free at <http://www.weaconnections.com/>. Even more, this gift is the foretaste of a much more extensive banquet. We are currently talking about producing a major book on arts in mission, with an expanded, in-depth coverage of this vital topic. There's more to come! The vision for an MC Arts in Mission (AiM) team came from our MC leader, Bertil Ekström. He first mentioned it to me back in 2007, which led to the convening of a small, creative team in Pattaya, Thailand, November 2008. And what can I say about our guest editors – our “newer” mission colleagues – the wonderfully creative Robin Harris (with great experience in Alaska, northern Siberia, and more recently with OM and the ICE network, <http://www.worldofworship.org/>), and philosophy prof-artist-wizard John Franklin (<http://www.imago-arts.on.ca/?> Had it not been their terribly unpaid yet enthusiastic collaboration, we would not have been able to produce this unique issue.

Thank you, Robin and John!!! And thank you, the scores of artists and writers from around the world for this extravagant gift.

### Personal reflections

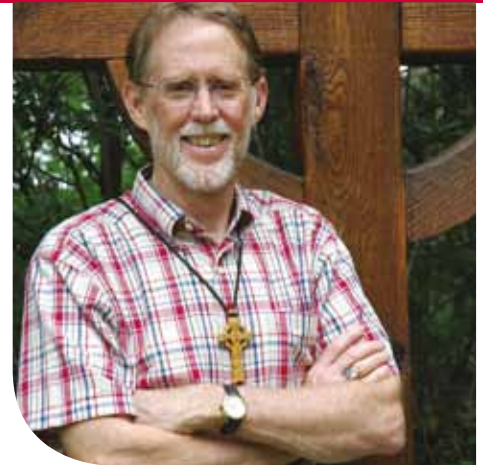
As the Spirit has directed the MC into a commitment to arts in mission, mission and arts, arts for mission, mission for the arts world, I found myself probing into my personal history to locate those first, permanent art memories. They

would converge later in my marriage, and much later in my family and world mission calling.

My first memories of “music”, other than my mother playing a pump organ in my childhood church in Turrialba, Costa Rica, are of my father playing a 33 “long play vinyl” record on a small, electric turntable box. The music was Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata”. It was captivating, but did not last long because my mother (Georgia farm girl) had little truck for frivolities of life and there was a task before us—the evangelization of Costa Rica. Yet my parents did pay for a few years of piano lessons in childhood for me and my older sister, Grace.

I actually studied accordion in college, good missionary-portable-loud-volume-music-making machine, with a rich Italian, Greek and German heritage. I failed the final exam (but I recently acquired another accordion!). Then I fell in love with a beautiful, red-head, classical pianist, Yvonne Christine DeAcutis. I will never forget her senior recital, Schumann’s Piano Concerto in A Minor. What musical beauty from such a remarkable 17 year old. Then I married her.

We served 17 years in Latin America, where over time she became known as la Señora Yvonne Christine DeAcutis de Taylor, “La Pianista Clásica”, with pre-evangelistic concerts in our home and Studio A of the Guatemala Christian Radio Station, TGNA. Our son, David, reports that his first artistic memories come from lying on the carpet underneath Yvonne’s grand piano while she practiced, allowing the music to pour over him. After moving to the USA, our eldest daughter, Christine, became president of her drama club, and David



took his first steps into drama, and later play-writing and production. Little did we imagine that he would serve for 8 years as arts pastor of Hope Chapel, Austin, TX.

### Back to Connections

All of these experiences converge in my own heart and mind to declare (to trumpet!) with all my strength the marvelous and unique role that the arts play in global mission. We need to grow our missional theology of arts and artists. We must affirm the special gifting and training that produce artists for the glory of God. We must open space in our churches, our mission structures, our ministries, our agencies, our training programs for a richer expression of our Triune God of arts and artists, and arts in mission-mission in arts.

In this double issue, we first set the stage and build the Biblical and theological foundations as we engage mission arts and culture. We then discuss thematic facets: music, drama, visual art and film, and we engage the church in our vision. We then pour out the cornucopia of global voices of arts in mission. What next? We consider the challenges of starting an arts ministry, and discover training centers and guidelines for programs. We conclude with resources, networks and the challenges and possibilities ahead of us. It’s a banquet. Get ready, rejoice, be nourished, go arts-missional ●