

SOULS: MY AFRICA

The photos have been taken in sub-Saharan Africa over the course of 12 years. The subjects are close to my heart and there is no other topic or subjects with whom I relate so deeply and fully, none about whom I care more. They live 8,000 miles from me. Some speak a language I do not know. Many are now dead. Some are in prison. Some are now thriving. All belong to a category I call *impoverished nobility*.

They are my own sisters and brothers, my own children, my own mother.

They show a larger story. Through sheer accident of birth we were born into a land of plenty and opportunity. Just as easily we might have been born into want, war, illness, loss. The adults display a grace and triumph of spirit that brings me to my knees in humility. The children show joy and promise that can be fulfilled only when the world becomes more compassionate and fairer.

I never expected to go to this continent, yet 20 years ago found myself in the heart of eastern Africa accompanying American students. I came home, founded a nonprofit, and have returned more than 2 dozen times to build community projects in Kenya, Zambia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Ethiopia.

I didn't choose Africa, Africa chose me. It seized me as I hope these photographs will seize you. They are meant to yank you to the center of our shared humanity. I hope they will enchant you with the joy and tranquility of people fully present in their lives—no defenses, no pretense, just acceptance and fullness of being. I hope they will touch you and make you weep at the portrayal of needless injustice in the world. I hope they inspire questions and spur you to action.

"I am you and you are me, and what have we done to each other?"

Manchurian Candidate, Richard Condon (Keener's Manual)

PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW FOR THE VIDEO. YOU MAY NEED TO CUT & PAST INTO YOUR BROWSER.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZcNI33oi3E&t=203s>