

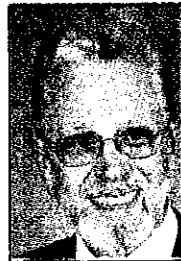
He's 'Documenting Hope'

The former dean of Roberts Wesleyan College's Northeastern Seminary and his wife are "Documenting Hope" in the lives of African people.

By MIKE MURPHY
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Hope Africa University is a sister college to Roberts Wesleyan College.

And so Wayne McCown — past provost at the North Chili college and professor emeritus and founding dean at the college's Northeastern Seminary — and his wife, Darlene, are in trying to provide hope to the impoverished people there — as well as academic and medical assistance.



McCOWN

Back home, people interested in Africa and what the McCowns are doing can live vicariously through his camera lens. An exhibit of his work, "Documenting Hope," runs through March at Roberts Hall, and visitors can purchase photographs to help fund the university in Burundi, Africa.

McCown serves as a member of the stateside Friends of Hope Africa University board. He is academic coordinator for visiting faculty and staff traveling to the university.

Mrs. McCown is director of the school of nursing at Hope Africa. The Gates-Chili Post asked McCown about their work.



WAYNE MCCOWN/SUBMITTED

Wayne McCown's work is featured in the "Documenting Hope" photography exhibit at Roberts Wesleyan College's Northeastern Seminary.

Q: How did you become interested in the people of Africa and/or the continent itself?

A: We became interested through our involvement with the development of Hope Africa University, a project of the Free Methodist Church in Central Africa. The FMC is the largest Protestant church in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi. Hope Africa University now numbers 3,000-plus students.

Q: What do you believe led to some of the problems in the places you've visited?

A: Colonialism set the stage. Since independence, many African nations have been ruled by those more concerned with amassing personal

wealth than developing the nation and helping the people they govern. Greed and corruption are rife among the ruling classes, and the masses of people are prey.

Q: What has most surprised you about what you've seen and/or documented in your photographs?

A: We have been impressed by the spiritual earnestness of the people. They are beautiful people, from the inside out. Without exception, they are gracious, thoughtful and kind. Most are needy, but hopeful.

Q: What is your favorite photograph and why?

A: Our favorite photos are of the children. They represent the hope of Africa.

NEWS, 3A

Schools look to improve

Gates Chili signs on to federal program.

CRIME, 5A

Early morning robbery

Gates police investigate drugstore theft.

NEWS TIPS

Homework helpers needed

The Gates Chili Community Connections Corp. seeks volunteers to provide homework help at local housing complexes. Volunteers are needed two evenings a week, from approximately 4 to 6 p.m. Professional teaching experience is not required. Contact Paula LaManna at 247-5050, ext. 3113.

Chili official appointed

Jordon Brown last week was reappointed deputy supervisor to Chili Supervisor David Dunning. The Town Board approved a \$2,219 salary for Brown, who would serve as supervisor in Dunning's absence.

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