

their home. They come even when I'm not here. [laughs] There's nothing that makes me prouder than this group of friends I've managed to stay very close to for a long, long time.

Do you find yourself thinking about what your legacy will be?

I'm the first person to say that it's all luck that I'm in a position where I get to pick what I want to do. But if you're in that position, it's your responsibility to pick projects that will last longer than an opening weekend, that you can look at in a couple of years and go, "Oh, that's interesting."

I'm also spending time working on the issues in South Sudan. Maybe there's some of this fame spotlight I've got that I can use elsewhere. My days are filled doing a lot of emailing and coaxing. I find it's liberating to do those kinds of things and not have to worry about my career anymore.

You've traveled a number of times to Africa, especially to Sudan, drawing attention to conditions there after decades of civil war. You also put a spotlight on the successful referendum earlier this year for South Sudan to become a state independent from Sudan. What prompted you to make this your cause?

Two million people were killed in the north-south war in Sudan before 2005. I wasn't going to stand on the sidelines and not participate. We [Clooney has traveled with organizations including the International Rescue Committee and the Enough Project] went there four times, got the *Newsweek* cover [Feb. 28, 2011]. I set up this satellite system on the border of Abyei, and we've had incredible success in photographing mass atrocities. The idea is, we're just going to keep the pressure on. Turning the lights on

doesn't mean anything stops. But it makes it harder, and that's our job.

Going there has been dangerous for you, hasn't it?

There were times when it was hairy.

Didn't a 12-year-old kid put a gun to your head?

It was up against my throat. David Pressman [a human rights lawyer, now the director for War Crimes and Atrocities on the National Security Council] just grabbed the gun barrel and pushed it away, saying, "Don't do that." He treated him like a 12-year-old, and that was that.

You also picked up malaria.

Yeah, that was on the first trip [which Clooney took with his father in April 2006]. That was a fun flight home. I think they had to hazmat the whole plane.

You've talked about how lucky you are. What have you learned from your failures?

It's hard when you get thumped. I've been proficient at failure. But the only thing you can do is say, "Here's what I won't do next time."

I was a baseball player in school. I had a good arm, I could catch anything, but I was having trouble hitting. I would be like, "I wonder if I'll hit it; just let me hit the ball." And then I went away for the fall, learned how to hit, and by my sophomore year I'd come to the plate and think, "I wonder *where* I want to hit the ball, to the left or right?" Just that little bit of skill and confidence changed everything. Well, I had to treat acting like that. I had to stop going to auditions thinking, "Oh, I hope they like me." I had to go in thinking I was the answer to their problem. You could feel the difference in the room immediately.

The greatest lesson I learned was that sometimes you have to fake it. And you have to be willing to fail. ■

KENMORE.COM



Kenmore.

LET'S CELEBRATE
OUR ANNIVERSARY
AT HOME TOGETHER.



ANNIVERSARY
EVENT
Sept. 18—Oct. 1

SAVE UP TO
30% OFF
KENMORE
APPLIANCES

EXTRA
5% OFF
WITH YOUR
SEARS CARD

EXCLUSIONS APPLY. SEE STORES FOR DETAILS. UP TO 30% OFF KENMORE® APPLIANCES. SAVINGS RANGE FROM 5% TO 30%.

EXCLUSIVELY at SEARS