

ENOUGH TO GO AROUND

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SEARCHING FOR HOPE IN
Afghanistan, Pakistan & Darfur

Text and Photos by Chip Duncan

Foreword by Jennifer Buffett

SelectBooks, Inc.
New York

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This edition published by SelectBooks, Inc.

For information address SelectBooks, Inc., New York, New York.

First Edition

ISBN 978-1-59079-198-1

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Duncan, Chip.

Enough to go around : searching for hope in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Darfur / text and photos by Chip Duncan ; foreword by Jennifer Buffett. -- 1st ed.

p. cm.

Summary: "Through text and photographs a filmmaker/photographer chronicles three humanitarian missions undertaken between 2005 and 2008 by Save the Children in Afghanistan and by Relief International in Pakistan and Sudan"--Provided by publisher.

ISBN 978-1-59079-198-1 (hardbound : alk. paper)

1. Humanitarian assistance--Afghanistan. 2. Humanitarian assistance--Pakistan. 3. Humanitarian assistance--Sudan. I. Title.

HV555.A3E56 2009

361.2'6--dc22

2009018964

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

*This book was made possible,
in part,
by the generous contributions of
Colleen & David Martin,
M·CAM,
Charlottesville, Virginia
and
Cook & Franke S.C.,
Attorneys at Law
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

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Foreword

In *Enough to Go Around*, Chip Duncan invites us on a journey through three of the most desperate and misunderstood places on the planet. Thanks to modern media's tendency to oversimplify the most complex subjects, we tend to view Afghanistan and Pakistan as thorny military problems, and their people as hardened terrorists. The images we are fed are so powerful that many of us do not pause to imagine the everyday lives of the women, men, and children who live there, who work to support themselves, and who dream of better lives. Any effort toward understanding the humanity behind the situation is usually drowned out by stories that make us fearful, and that separate us from any real understanding of our sisters and brothers in these countries.

It is exactly this fear that perpetuates a feeling of scarcity, of us-and-them, a fear which continues a vicious cycle of ignorance and inaction. What we need is insight and the inspiration to believe that something more is possible, that we are more alike than dissimilar, and that life should be less about competing and more about collaborating—that there is, indeed, enough to go around.

The gorgeous pages of this book reveal photos that truly surprise. The photos of wide-eyed, smiling children in Sudanese camps will surely stun you. They certainly surprised me! How can children in refugee camps find anything to smile about? Bearded men in turbans with warm, inviting eyes take us aback—they don't resemble terrorists or look angry. They communicate something that is very different than what we expect. They challenge and inspire us. We see in their eyes that which we recognize in ourselves—curiosity, concern and hope. The difference is that their lives take place where life hangs on a thread and death looms all around. Suddenly, families and children in Afghanistan or Pakistan who are living through disasters of all kinds become less foreign and more familiar.

Chip Duncan is an activist who uses art as his forum for change. A camera around his neck, and a superhuman tolerance for strenuous travel define a lifestyle that is not for the timid. Chip does this not because anyone has hired him to do so, but because his passion for justice for the most vulnerable people compels him. He shares his stories as he has lived them, and he breathes understanding into some of the simplest human

gestures and interactions. Maybe we, too, can be as moved as he is to use whatever gifts we have to nurture compassion throughout the world. Each photograph in this book reveals the imperative that Chip accepts on behalf of each of his subjects: *“Please tell the world I am here and I am not so different from you!”*

Chip and I have shared many conversations about the importance of empowering girls and women in the developing world. We consider ourselves fellow travelers in this regard. He uses art and I use philanthropy, and we feel a special kinship in our parallel life quests, striving to open our hearts and minds ever wider, believing that that is important to do, and encouraging people away from fear and towards understanding. Hopefully, we’re both gaining wisdom in the process.

If this book inspires you to do one thing, may it be to *let go* as much as Abraham has in this book. You will read about what Abraham did with his modest lunchtime sandwich. His is a story of *just doing it* because Abraham thinks with his heart. For him, years of relief work in very challenging settings have built a strong internal reflex. His only option is to share. There is no internal debate. Whatever small act of kindness is possible to ease suffering, regardless of how its ultimate impact might be argued, he just does it.

We don’t have an adequate word in the English language for this quality that lives in Abraham, but maybe one day we’ll have to create it. Maybe this book invites it. The word would characterize the selfless ability to share and the trust that there is always enough for everyone.

But the first step is *believing that you are enough* and that no matter who or where you are, you have something unique and precious to offer the world to make it better. I ask you to believe that as you read this book, as I also ask this of myself every day. I invite you to peer through the window of this book into eyes and *worlds*. Consider the possibility that the people and places Chip will introduce you to on your journey together are not so different or so impossibly far away. There is much to see, experience and learn.

You, too, are an artist, a philanthropist, a listener, an observer, a heart-thinker, a storyteller, and a lover of people who you will never meet.

I dare you to discover that this is who you truly are.

—JENNIFER BUFFETT

Co-Chair, Novo Foundation | *March*, 2009

Preface

In his book, *The Bottom Billion*, author Paul Collier lays out his case for growth and development in a thoughtful, engaging way. Collier is an expert on the challenges facing many beleaguered nations throughout Africa and central Asia, such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Sudan. The bottom billion he refers to are the roughly one billion people whose lives are constrained by poverty, disease, lack of education, and lack of opportunity in nations with economies and governments that are essentially stagnant. He makes the case, a case I agree with, that ignoring the bottom billion will only compound the complex problems we all face in the 21st century. He also addresses the consequences of ignoring the difficult challenges people face and the resulting hopelessness.

Collier writes:

“...development is about giving hope to ordinary people that their children will live in a society that has caught up with the rest of the world. Take that hope away and the smart people will use their energies not to develop their society but to escape from it...”

While many parts of the world have enjoyed considerable progress during the past few years, hope can be

elusive for people whose lives are defined by corrupt governments, lack of economic and natural resources, widespread disease, and decades of conflict and war. Afghanistan remains challenged by nearly thirty years of warfare, along with the inherent problems facing land-locked nations. Pakistan continues to confront divisions over faith and poverty as well as ongoing political struggles with neighboring countries. Sudan has suffered years of civil war between north and south, ethnic and religious conflict and, despite abundant natural resources that could help lift the population up, there's no end in sight to the genocide that plagues Darfur.

This book is the result of personal visits to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Darfur. Unlike Collier's book and other notable books that deal with specific international policy issues facing developing nations along with the trappings of various forms of government aid, *Enough to Go Around* is experiential. It's told in the first person and uses photographs from each location to help document my personal experiences with humanitarian organizations and the people they serve. I visited each country as a filmmaker with the intention of documenting aid operations in the wake of crisis.

Thanks to my colleague Mike Speaks, I had the extra help I needed to be able to take still photographs of many of the people and places we were documenting. This book would not exist without Mike's contributions on location.

Both the difficult challenges facing people in crisis and the solutions to their problems are complex. While there are similarities among developing nations, there are also unique circumstances facing individuals, families, and communities. War and natural disaster present specific problems. Faith practices and the type of official government in a community may create conflicts. The abundance or the lack of natural resources and water also present difficulties that can be hard to overcome. The impact of disease and the quality of health care vary widely from place to place.

And the way poverty is manifest can vary significantly not just in terms of jobs, wages, and cost of living,

but also based on climate and culture. When asked to define a common thread for those living in poverty my simple answer is this—it's the lack of opportunity or inability of someone to participate meaningfully in the same global society enjoyed by those who are not in the bottom billion.

This book, at its core, is simply about hope, the hope I found among the people living in these places with many hardships, the hope I witnessed among the aid workers for NGOs, and the hope that each inspired in me. With all that both are doing to rise up and to create an even better life for the next generation, this book seems a small thing to give back. But we are in this together—and if you're reading this, then you, too, have become part of my optimism.

“YOU MUST
BE THE CHANGE
YOU WANT
TO SEE
IN THE WORLD.”

—MAHATMA GANDHI

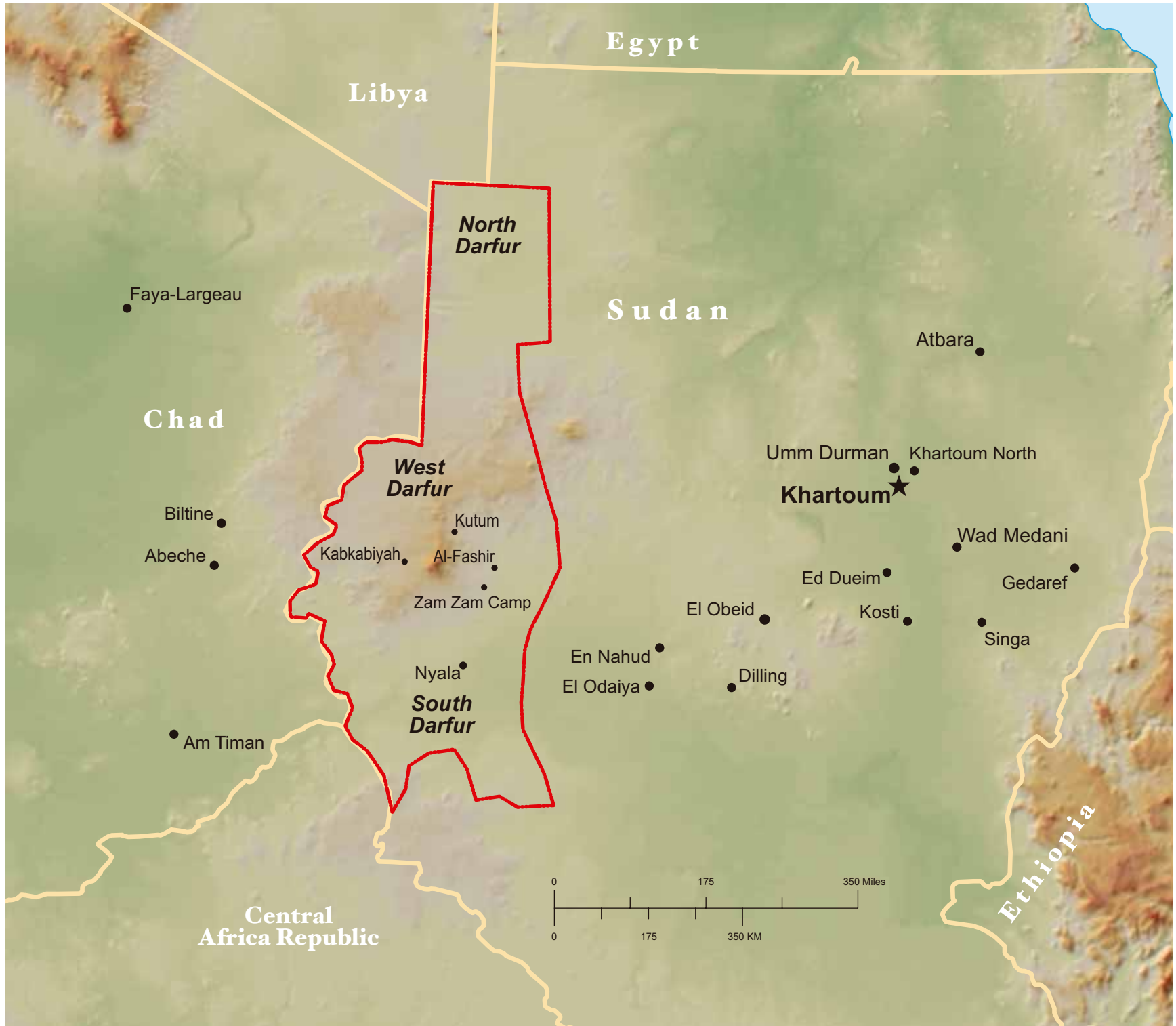




Map 1. Afghanistan and Pakistan



Map 2. Eastern Africa



Map 3. Darfur region of Sudan outlined in red