R-2 RESOLUTION CELEBRATING COMPLETION OF THE DINKA CAM BIBLE AND URGING SIMILAR EFFORTS IN OTHER LANGUAGES

Resolved, by the 232nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, that Convention heartily congratulate and salute the Episcopal Church of South Sudan for persevering through great hardship over more than three decades to complete the Dinka Cam Bible Translation in partnership with Wycliffe Bible Translators, thereby bringing the entire Bible in their native language to over one million people in South Sudan and to more in the Sudanese diaspora around the world, including several Dinka congregations here in Virginia; and be it further

Resolved, that Convention urge our parishes, missions, and people to follow the example of several Virginia parishes by engaging in a systematic program of prayer, study, and work to support additional Bible translation projects as an essential step to evangelize over half a billion people who speak one of the hundreds of languages which still lack the Bible in their native language (including some languages in Sudan and South Sudan); and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of the Diocese transmit copies of this Resolution to the Archbishop of South Sudan and to the President of Wycliffe Bible Translators, thanking them and Almighty God for their people's deep faith and devotion to spreading the Gospel that their outstanding achievement demonstrates.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell V. Randle
Lay Delegate, St. Mary's, Arlington

Required Statements:

This resolution has no financial impact on the Diocesan Budget. It does not conflict with the Constitution and Canons of either The Episcopal Church or the Diocese of Virginia.

Rationale:

In the mid-1990s, the Episcopal Church of South Sudan's (ECSS) predecessor, the Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS), began working with Wycliffe Bible Translators to translate the full Bible into the Dinka Cam language, spoken by over a million people in Sudan and in the Sudanese diaspora. The ECS did so through times of great tribulation in South Sudan, involving civil war that killed an estimated two million people, including hundreds of thousands from the Dinka tribe. That war began in 1983 and lasted until a

peace agreement, brokered in part by ECS, was reached. The translators worked faithfully through great hardship and persecution by the Government of Sudan, resulting in the translators moving successively to Kenya, where they were further harassed by the government and occasionally arrested for refusing to pay bribes, and on to Uganda. With the CPA, they returned to work in Juba, South Sudan in 2005 until completion. Conditions in Juba for the translators were often quite challenging, including the outbreak of another civil war there in late 2013 until 2018.

The translators and the church persevered so that in October 2025, 30,000 copies of the fully translated Dinka Cam Bibles were delivered to Juba for distribution, and another 2,500 delivered in the United States for distribution to Dinka speaking congregations, including some in The Episcopal Church (TEC).

The ECS, its successor, the ECSS, and the Virginia congregations that supported this effort worked in the finest tradition of the Anglican Communion, putting the Scriptures and the liturgy into the native language of the people. This form of evangelism will pay dividends for generations of believers and equip evangelists for generations to come.

Bible translation and support for it through prayer, study, and donations are an effective and highly democratic means of evangelism, open to all of us, regardless of our income or ability to travel to distant lands. There are over 500 language where no Scripture translation work has yet begun, leaving hundreds of millions of people unable to hear or read God's word in their native tongue. There are several thousand more languages where translation work is underway, but needing much work to complete.

This resolution, in addition to congratulating the ECSS for its splendid perseverance in this work, encourages all our congregations to consider engaging with Bible translation projects as an effective way for more of our people to become evangelists, and as a fine way to engage our own congregations into the detailed study of the Scriptures.