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**Date:** September 12, 2010 at 7:59:24 PM PDT  
**To:** Archbishop DAVID COOPER <[davidcooper7@prodigy.net](mailto:davidcooper7@prodigy.net)>  
**Subject: Re: The Metropolitan Archdiocese Bulletin 9/12/10 SOC EACS**  
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Your Eminence,

Greetings from South Africa.

Things here are going great, for a change. Things at the hospital are going exceedingly well. The deacon that I have met there (I have mentioned him in a previous email) is really getting interested, and is thinking of "coming over" to the SOCC as opposed to the Latin Church, so to speak. However, one will have to see what is happening there - it is obviously quite a conundrum for him, seeing that he is coming up for ordination soon. Suffice to say that he is rather disillusioned with all the stuff that is happening in that denomination, and the local bishop in Johannesburg is not the "nicest" of persons - there are quite a bit of complaints about his administration of the See here, from what I hear. He seems to be a really nasty bit of work - nepotism plays a big role in his administration, as well as the "bakshish" of favours done and owed, to and by him. Lately, it seems that only negative things are coming out (maybe, it is South Africa's turn at hanging out the dirty laundry - we had Ireland, then Germany, the USA, Scotland, etc...) already... South Africa is usually a bit behind the times, to say the least... :-)

As they say, in other news...

I am thinking of branching out into another field with the local ministry that I have here. The hospital is quite nice, however, as I mentioned to you before, I don't really enjoy hospitals that much. I have learnt a lot from others, though, for which I am quite grateful. Being confronted like that, with all the pain, suffering and loss, is a good thing - it makes one value life so much more, on many levels. I am not sure exactly where and what I will be going into - I will be having a look around over the next couple of weeks, but I would love to get back in touch with a group that deals with the "youth" - 18 - 25 years or so. At present, I really feel that this is the area in which I have the most passion - but let us see where the future takes me. Your prayers and advice would be most appreciated in this regard.

The chances of me going up to Congo-Brazzaville seem rather "non-existent" at present. It appears that my partner and I have been (almost) part of a scam of gigantic proportions - however, we still need to investigate some more. There is a lot of money-laundering happening up there, and the whole bio-diesel and bio-oil industries are the basis on which this is based. This might be a good thing on the one hand - it is better (in the long run at least) to stay in a more developed country, than to venture out into the unknown like that. On the other hand, I have been asked to maybe take over the management of a farm in New Zealand - we still need to see what is happening there. That would be ideal - it is mostly subsistence farming, with produce for the local area, and some export of produce as well. At present, things are not too good at the farm, and the owner (who is living in Johannesburg due to his business obligations) and I have had some dealings (I designed a couple of databases for his business).

At present, the world is literally lying open before me, and I am able to travel anywhere - which I find an exciting prospect. I have a feeling that there is something quite profound coming - and that I am in the right time and place to take part of it. One just needs to see what it is, so to speak. However, I do find that I am experiencing an urgent need to not just find a "place of employ" - but that I would rather go and do something full-time where my efforts and experience can mean something to someone somewhere. If that is in another country, then so be it - after all, we are basically living in the global village. However, to work "mindlessly" in order to financially enrich someone else; for no other reason other than to have a job, is no longer an option that I seriously consider. Over the last couple of months, I find myself experiencing what one could only call a "tremendum" - I find myself more and more drawn towards a contemplative approach to life - a change that even some of my friends are commenting on. I should be exploring this facet a bit more. As you know, I was attending a monastery when I first contacted you, so it might be that this is a "re-surfacing" of things, although I do not (at present) see myself being cloistered, in the 'traditional' sense. This could be why the opportunity in New Zealand is appealing to me - I have long felt the need to return to a simpler, less complicated life, where one has the time and opportunity to live life in closer connection to nature, and by implication, God. Is there not a verse in Psalms that refers directly to this? I do feel that in our modern lives, the Bible is becoming so much more than just a "book", as it is in so many people's opinion - we need to return to the simple truth.

Are there still other members of the SOCC in South Africa? The last I heard, I was the "only" member - with the two brothers/priests that left, I am not sure who is left where, and it is getting rather lonely down here. I would love to get in touch with some of the people that are in the area - but Africa is a large place. Please also forward me the email address for Br. Emmanuel - I would love to get in touch with him directly - he seems to be the closest to me, geographically speaking.

Our Internet connection to the rest of the world is on the blink again - I am not sure for how long - so things might get a bit sporadic at times. This is really frustrating, seeing that most of my revenue is generated from the USA - and if there is no connection, my work load is standing still.

My thoughts and prayers are with You and Yours, always,

God Bless,

Karel

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