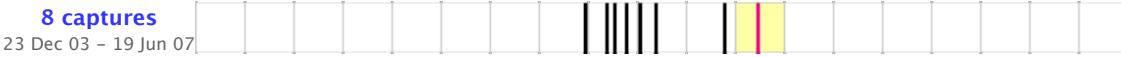


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## Journal of the Bahá'í Community of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland June 2001 / 158BE

Letters to the Editor

### Letters to the Editor

During Holy Year, we brought our family to this peaceful kingdom where everyone smiles and sings harmony. We were to pioneer for one year. That was nine years ago! We now live in a rural area, with easy access via a tar road to the main towns. It is the spiritual heart of Swaziland with colourful weddings and royal ceremonies in traditional dress.

Swaziland has a population of one million. Between South Africa and Mozambique, it is the size of Wales, and English is the language most widely spoken. The Swazi climate is pleasant, Spring and Autumn are a delight. Winter June to August is dry and sunny, but cold at night. Summer can be both hot and rainy.

We wish to start bringing tourists to this beautiful area giving them a chance, not only to visit Kruger Park and other game reserves to photograph the stunning scenery and the glorious sunsets, but also to learn from Swazis, their traditional arts and crafts, such as singing, dancing, sculpture, carving, basketry, pottery, making and playing musical instruments, thatching and cooking. We want to show visitors the creative and spiritually deepening side of the real Africa. Several British Bahá'ís visitors have already helped our efforts here and we welcome more of you. At the time of writing, 38 Swazi have become Bahá'ís in our home in the past 12 months. Most are young unemployed adults who have never left the country. You will bring part of the Bahá'í world to the Swazi Bahá'ís, and, by learning African arts of your choice you will also empower intelligent but poorly educated Swazis and validate the skills they offer.

We invite you to stay as a paying guest in our busy Bahá'í home (with water, electricity and a telephone), but for those who prefer it, we can arrange for you to stay in a rural homesteads or other accommodation, from hostels to 5 star hotels. It is worth ringing round the agents for cheap flights from Britain. Swaziland is 3.5 hrs drive or 45 min flight, from Johannesburg airport in South Africa. For more information please phone or fax us at the numbers below or email: <mailto:mortimore@waterford.sz>

Clare and Simon Mortimore

BJUK welcomes letters on any topic of general interest. Personal attacks or denigratory comments will not be printed. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the National Assembly nor the Editor.

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