



Hampshire
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In the summer of 2010 a small group of students, teachers and youth workers will be heading to Southern Africa from the South of England.

Destination: Bulembu; Swaziland (www.bulembu.org)

Aim: To Learn; Engage and Give in partnership with the community of Bulembu.

Partners in the project:

- www.faccts.org.uk - Fleet and Crookham Churches Together in Schools
- www.court-moor.hants.sch.uk - Court Moor Secondary School - (o) 01252 615 065
- www.lightningfast.org - The Lightningfast Foundation
- www.hants.gov.uk - Hampshire Youth Services (HYS)

Why are we going?

To engage relevantly with the community of Bulembu and to pioneer a potential new long-term partnership between Bulembu and all the agencies involved.

Background and brief history of Swaziland and Bulembu:

The Kingdom of Swaziland, a few hundred miles East of Johannesburg, South Africa, is the smallest country in the southern hemisphere. Yet there is a surprisingly diverse landscape with dramatic mountains, spectacular valleys and prolific game reserves that offer the visitor a wide range of adventure activities. However, despite its natural beauty and political stability, AIDS/HIV has devastated the entire country and Swaziland is in prolonged economic decline. By 2010 there will be 120,000 orphans throughout the country. Two thirds of its citizens live on less than a pound a day.

Nearly 25% of the population require food aid and the unemployment rate is at a staggering 30%. If the current AIDS crisis continues at its current rate, the Swazi people will cease to exist by 2050.

Bulembu was a small thriving mining town in Swaziland with a population of 10,000 people. Abandoned in 2001 due to lack of need for the ore being produced, in 2006 a team of social developers and entrepreneurs purchased the town with a view to giving it 'new-birth' as a self-sustaining, multi-faceted community. Now known as Bulembu ministries, the town has continued to grow again.

Bulembu currently supports a self-sustaining community with a population of 1,200 people.

Since the re-birth of the community 1,200 residential homes have been built, an 80 bed hospital, an industrial complex with over 5 large warehouse structures and three schools with a capacity for over 1,800 students.

The vision of Bulembu ministries is to be able to sustain 10,000 people by 2020 in a self-sustaining, vibrant and diverse community.



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What benefits are there to our team going on a trip like this as opposed to simply sending the financial equivalent to the community of Bulembu?

The main aim of the trip is for the young people from Court Moor Secondary School to engage with the people of Bulembu in the opportunity of a lifetime. Many agencies simply send money to places 'in-need' globally. In many cases, there is often very limited personal contact and relationship with the people that agencies or individuals try to help. Our hope is that this specific opportunity will positively empower and impact the lives of both our young people participating as well as the young people of Bulembu and its community. Our initial visit will last a mere 18 days. We hope, however, the experience and potential further involvement on our part, will last many years in an ongoing future partnership. Our vision is that this pioneer trip will therefore potentially inspire, empower and enable many more young people and interested individuals than simply our trip team, to partner with the community of Bulembu.

How will we spend our time in Bulembu?

There are many different sub-projects that need ongoing support within Bulembu. Our time will be spent engaging with many of these projects on a daily basis with a very busy schedule. Our trip ends with a 36 hour safari experience at the end of the trip to reflect on our time spent in Bulembu. Again the main aim of our involvement here is to engage with models of education, design, business and community far different to the United Kingdom.

Here follows a list of most of the areas we will be involved in:

- The Orphanage and Bulembu Christian Academy projects.
- The Building, Maintenance and Timber projects.
- The Dairy, Bakery, Catering, Water and Honey Industries.
- The Sports and Youth programmes.

Why should you give to the project?

There are many needy places and communities world-wide. Unfortunately, for many reasons, our 'western-style-giving' does not often reach those that really need it. Through our direct, continual and personal partnership with the community of Bulembu, we will guarantee the ongoing: Right Support, at the Right Time and in the Right Place for the people of Bulembu.

How can you give to this project?

In three ways:

1. Support our team of students with a monetary gift for the trip in July 2010:
Please contact Court Moor Secondary School directly.
2. Partner with Bulembu in multi-faceted ways (see their website).
3. Visit Bulembu for yourself.

On behalf of Bulembu and our team thank you for taking the time to read this.

Trip Co-Ordinators: June Bing (HYS) and Mischa Constant (FACCTS) - April 2010