



RVBA Women's Missionary Union Fall Celebration

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mill Creek Baptist Church

11475 Lee Hwy, Fincastle, VA

Speaker: Mr. Doug Radford, Harvester's International

Reverend Radford was a minister in Eastern North Carolina for many years.

**Pastors and Missionaries - - are our guests of honor this evening,
please notify Diane Shepherd at 540-798-9165 or
dsva540@aol.com that you will be joining us.**

5:30 PM Dinner \$11.00 Per Person

MENU: Appetizer, Baked Ham, Green Beans, Parsley Potatoes,
Rolls, Assorted Desserts, Drink

6:45 PM Meeting/Worship

Reservations by September 16, 2024.

Checks payable to RVBA WMU and mailed to:

Irma Francisco, 7527 Bradshaw Rd., Salem, VA 24153 - - 540-597-3922

RVBA WMU Missions Celebration Offering
September 23rd at Mill Creek

The following information is from Doug Radford, Executive Director of Harvesters International. Harvesters International and their partners have been used by God for more than three decades to spread the Gospel and meet the physical and spiritual needs of underserved people and communities around the world.

Doug writes:

A new effort we have undertaken involves ministering to special needs children in Uganda. I was there in June and can say it was one of the most heart touching experiences I have had in some time. We have a great ministry partner there who evangelizes, plants churches, operates an orphanage and a great elementary school...all of which Harvesters is engaged in supporting. During my most recent trip, my team visited 18 homes of special needs children. Their conditions include Cerebral Palsy, physical deformities, what appeared as Autism, and other cognitive issues. Several suffered from Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. We were able to get several of them to a hospital for urgently needed treatment.

Sadly, special needs children are often seen as a curse by their families and community. A number of the children we met have been abandoned by their parents. One was poisoned as an infant by his mother, however survived but with severe brain damage. Most all of these children are severely impoverished and lack adequate food. A number of them experience routine hunger. Most have never had any medical care.

We are working toward establishing a program for them at our elementary school. Bringing them to school each day will facilitate 1) education, 2) improving their nutrition, 3) monitoring their health (we have a nurse and physician who will be assisting our program), 4) giving their caretakers a break as well as providing them opportunities to earn money. We likewise plan to educate the community regarding the value of these children and work towards changing the negative attitudes that exist and lead to further harm.

We are currently raising funds to purchase a specialized vehicle to transport these children to our school. Also, we have added them to our child sponsorship program, Project Hope 127. Sponsorships will be one of the ways we secure the funds to support the ongoing program. I have attached a flyer regarding this initiative.

Come and learn more about this much needed ministry in Uganda at our Fall Missions Celebration. The offering that is received at the meeting will be given to assist this new initiative to help special needs children.