



# DOCTOR IN THE PYGMY FOREST

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## NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture. Show the map of the Congo on the back cover. Briefly discuss facts about Africa, the Congo and a jungle. You may want to read the historical details at the end of Chapter 5 to give you a sense of the timing of this story.

The extra activities on pages 14 are correlated with each chapter and encourage student involvement. A master for memory verse tokens is located on page 15.

We are grateful for the help of the following missionary nurses who worked with Dr. Becker and provided photographs and slides for illustrating this story: Miss Virginia Landis, Miss Olive I. Rawn, Mrs. Vera (Thiessen) Hillis

## Pronunciation Guide

Aba	Ah' - bah	Munganga	Mun - gahn' - gah
Abu	Ah' - boo	Nyabirongo	Knee - ah - beer - ohn' - go
Babira	Bah - beer' - ah	Nyankunde	Knee - ahn - kun' - dee
Ituri	Ee - tour' - ee	Oicha	O - wee' - cha
Kisobe	Key - so' - beh	Swahili	Swa - he' - lee
Kitsombiro	Keet - sour - beer' - oh	Vubisi	Voo - bee' - see
Kivu	Key' - voo	Wanandi	Wah - nahn' - dee
Lingala	Ling - gal' - ah		
Miseberi	Me - suh - berry'		
Munandi	Moo - nahn' - dee		

## Chapter 1

# CURSED BY THE WITCH DOCTOR

... *Ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.*  
(1 Thessalonians 1:9b)



### Show Illustration #1

Early one morning, Dr. Carl Becker, a medical missionary, left his mud hut and almost stepped on a long piece of hollow bamboo lying on the path directly in front of his home. The bamboo was covered with egg yolk and had a bit of leopard skin dangling out. Dr. Becker picked up the strange object and sniffed. Castor oil! Walking to the end of the hut, he showed

the bamboo to another missionary, Paul Hurlburt.

"The witch doctor did it," said Mr. Hurlburt. "It's a hex, a native curse."

"But why?"

"He wants to get rid of you. Now the people will watch you. If you cough, they will say the curse made you sick. If one of your patients dies, they'll blame you. He hopes to frighten you away."

Dr. Becker looked past the grass-roofed mud huts and over the hillsides in the distance. There were over 100 villages in the area and many of the Africans were suspicious of the missionary doctor. *I must win their trust*, Dr. Becker thought as he turned to Paul.

"What kind of illnesses do the Africans have?" he asked.

"Around here it's mostly pneumonia, flu, bronchitis as well as some malaria, dysentery and leprosy," Paul answered. "But don't expect the sick to flock to you for help. They always go

to the witch doctors first. The witch doctors rule the people by fear. They say evil spirits and demons cause illness. The people must bring presents to the witch doctors to pay for the hexes or spells to keep away illness and accident. Your treatment of your first patient is very important."

*The treatment of any patient is important*, thought Dr. Becker as he headed toward his hut.

In 1929, the doctor and his wife, Marie, with their two children, arrived in the heart of Africa. They had traveled 12,000 miles from Pennsylvania to the Belgian Congo. Their first home at Kitsombiro had two rooms made of mud still soft and wet when they arrived. There, 8,000 feet up in the mountains of eastern Congo, Dr. Becker was the only doctor for miles around.



### Show Illustration #2

One day Dr. Becker found an African woman with a painful hernia crouched outside his door. (A hernia is a large bulge which must be repaired by a surgeon quickly so the blood supply is not cut off.) She had already been to three witch doctors. They used their medicines along with chanting, dancing and spells, but the woman became worse. Now she was in great pain.

With his wife and Paul Hurlburt helping, Dr. Becker placed the patient on the kitchen table and operated. Twelve unfriendly