

***Engage* magazine**
Five-minute Mission Moment
January 2013
Episode 4: The Missionary and the Witch Doctor
Speaking script

Pronunciations

Yibop: YEE bahp

Papua New Guinea: PAH pwah new GIH nee

Verne: vern

Slide 1

- Today's mission moment is from Papua New Guinea.

Slide 2

- Verne Ward was a missionary in Papua New Guinea for more than 20 years.
- After he'd been there 2 ½ years, he walked through the mountain jungles to visit Samuel, a new believer who was very sick.

Slide 3

- He prayed with Samuel, who said, "I needed your encouragement. The chief witch doctor was just here." He described what the witch doctor looked like, and Verne remembered passing the man on the trail.

Slide 4

- As Verne walked back home, he saw the witch doctor talking with some other men.
- He walked up to the witch doctor and said, "Samuel doesn't need you. He's trusting in God for his healing. You stay away from him."
- Then Ward continued on his way home.

Slide 5

- He didn't get very far before the Holy Spirit said, "That is no way to treat a person." Verne replied, "But he's a witch doctor."
- The Lord said, "I love that man."

Slide 6

- Verne went back to the witch doctor and told him, "I came back because God told me He was disappointed with how I spoke to you. I want to apologize for greeting you with disrespect."
- The witch doctor accepted his apology. They began to talk. The witch doctor asked Verne where he lived. Trying to describe the place, Verne said, "Do you know that corner of the trail with the house where the guy recently killed his wife?"
- The witch doctor suddenly clenched his fists and screamed, "I did not kill her!"

- Shocked, Verne could only ask, “Oh? What happened to her?”
- The witch doctor said they had argued and afterward his wife hung herself.

Slide 7

- That began a sincere conversation between the two men about how we treat other people. The man told Verne his name was Yibop.
- The two men became good friends. Verne prayed for him. Yibop taught him about witch doctors – how they seek power so they can help others by healing, bringing fertility to couples, and improving crops.
- Eventually, though, the power corrupts them.

Slide 8

- Verne invited Yibop to a tent revival. Yibop declined because he was going to attend a witch doctor all-night magic ritual in the jungle that night.

Slide 9

- As Yibop walked over the wooded mountain trails with his occultic tools, something stopped him in his tracks.
- Through the black silhouettes of the tree branches against the twilight sky, Yibop saw a hot, dazzling white light descend onto the path in front of him.
- From the light, a voice commanded, “Yibop, go back.”

Slide 10

- Yibop dropped everything and ran all the way back to the village.
- He burst into the revival meeting, rushed to the front and listened to the Gospel presentation.
- At the end, he was the first to go forward and accept Christ.
- Yibop was instantly transformed, and at the same time needed to grow and mature in his new faith over time.

Slide 11

- Over the years, he shared about Jesus with other witch doctors. Some accepted Christ and then shared with even more witch doctors.
- Through person to person sharing, about 100 witch doctors eventually gave their lives to Christ and turned their backs on magic.

Slide 12

- Verne said, “The Lord taught me much about respecting people different from me and valuing them the way He valued them. I learned to see them as persons that could be redeemed and

become disciples of Jesus. Every person can become Christlike through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.”

Slide 13