

## Christy - Return to Cutter Gap

*Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:27 ESV*

*Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people. Isaiah 43:18-20*

*And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way. Isaiah 35:8 ESV*

CBS produced the first Christy TV series. PAX continued it 5 years later. Although only a handful of the actors and actresses are the originals, the characters and storyline remain the same. The story resumes with Return to Cutter Gap, when the now eighty year old Christy Huddleston returned to the mission property with her daughter Catherine. It's plain that Christy was gone from the Gap for years, but that in her heart, her time there was one of the most precious in her life. What memories are precious to you?

When Mr. Franklin drove Christy and Catherine to the old mission, he directed them to follow the path. "Keep a sharp eye," he cautioned with a twinkle in his eye. "No tellin' what critters haven't had their dinner yet." Christy laughed and straightened. Her steps became firmer and quicker as she said, "It feels like home." Christy loved the mountain humor and the beauty of the countryside. She knew that the work she had done in the Gap had made many differences in the people's lives.

Have you made a difference in someone's life?

Christy saw the abandoned mission in disrepair and she said, "David would have a fit if he saw it. He built the mission with his own hands, you know, he and Alice." On the porch she said, "After all these years I can still see Alice Henderson confronting Bird's Eye Taylor and the moon-shiners with a shotgun. She was the glue that held this place together. A source of strength and conviction when we all needed them."

Are you the glue that helps hold things together?

When Christy reached the schoolhouse, she stood behind the teacher's desk and said, "This is where I grew up, Catherine. The story must be told. The secrets of the human spirit, the strength of the mountain families, they deserve to be remembered. I want people to know them for who they really were. Years before Miss Alice had warned Christy to not try to mold people into who she wanted them to be, but rather to help them be who God created them to be. Has anyone tried to make you into something you are not?"

The road (like all progress) brought both blessings and problems to Cutter Gap. People believed that the road would allow outsiders to come into the Cove and change everything. When a rash of robberies occurred many of the local people blamed it on the road. The people of the Gap were suspicious of all outsiders and wouldn't help with building the road. The children told Christy that their parents were saying that "Things were better off before you brought your citified ideas." Christy thought she had hit bottom.

When Christy was administering the college entrance exam to Zach she realized that it wasn't only his test, but also her test as a teacher. She said, "If I could send just one student off to college I could leave Cutter Gap with a sense of accomplishment." When Zach failed the test she asked Neil, "What should I tell him?" Dr. McNeil replied, "Tell him that life isn't fair."

Have there been times when you've felt that life isn't fair?

*Dear Lord, we know that life isn't always fair, but You are good. You will watch over us and keep us in Your loving care no matter what trials and struggles come our way. Help us to see the best in each other and encourage each other to trust in You. Give us the strength and convictions to live our lives boldly and triumphantly in Your name, Amen.*