

## *Shouting Billy Bray*

### *He Used All God Gave Him*

“Run, Billy, run.” Deep inside the tin mine something cried out in him, “run.” Run he did . . . Just minutes before 40 tons of stone and lumber fell where he had been working.

He trembled with the inner certainty that he was only seconds from an eternal hell. Raised in a godly Methodist home, Billy Bray had become one of the most hard drinking, wicked men in the area. But he dreaded going to sleep at night, afraid he would awaken in hell.

Someone gave him a John Bunyan book, “Visions of Heaven and Hell.” He wanted to share in the glories of heaven. And he didn’t want to spend eternity in hell, with his friends accusing him of leading them there.

Billy’s wife had known Christ as a child, but had wandered away from Him. Now, as Billy talked to her, she recalled with deep regret how good it had been to serve the Lord. He told her that, if she would return to Christ, he might become a Christian. At three in the morning Billy awoke with the realization that, if he waited for his wife, he might die in his sin without salvation. He fell to his knees and prayed for mercy.



The next day he came home sober and spent hours reading the Bible and praying. The following day he stayed home from work to continue seeking God. But it was days before he could believe in simple faith that those who ask shall receive. With that assurance, Billy started to shout with joy never to stop from then into eternity. He said that when he was walking, one foot cried “glory,” the other “amen.”

No sooner was Billy saved than he began winning others to His Lord.

It has been claimed that he never met anyone without inquiring about the condition of his soul. On his deathbed, he asked the doctor, “When I get up there, shall I tell them you’ll be coming too?”

Not satisfied with personal witnessing, in spite of his quaint speech, he became a much sought after preacher in Cornwall, England. The wealthy and sophisticated as well as the poor and illiterate flocked to hear him. Unsatisfied even with this, he raised funds and built several chapels, much with his own hands.

After one of these was opened and two women sought the Lord, he said, “Souls I must have, and souls I will have. And with these the chapel is paid for already.”

Are you so well paid?

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