



*The Road Forward*  
Cades Cove, East Tennessee  
Photo by Dan Hardison

## The Bright Road

*By James Still*

This is the bright road to the mountain top  
Beset with shadows and with paths astray,  
By dangerous crag, by cliff's sudden drop  
Into eternity. This is the way  
That man might climb upon the verdant sod  
And find among the peaks the peace of God.

On this long road man needs an iron-bound will,  
A purpose clear that strengthens every hour,  
A hand to help the weak o'er steepening hill  
And heart to cheer the sad through darkening shower.  
This is the bright road youth must climb with care  
To gain the top and its good blessings share.