



Harold Catlow

His life and service for God

by Mary King

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FOREWORD

If ever a story needed to be written it is that of Harold Catlow, so when I heard that Mary King was to embark upon such a task I was absolutely delighted. I am equally delighted to be invited to write a foreword to this book because if ever there was a man whom I admired and respected it was Harold Catlow. My first contact with the Emmaus Bible School was around 1958 when I became a student. A few years later I became a leader of an Emmaus Study Group in our local Christian fellowship. In the early 1980's I was introduced to Harold Catlow in person and immediately I recognised him to be a man of God. Little did I realise then that eventually I would be invited to become a Trustee of the Emmaus Bible School. This of course brought me into an even closer relationship with him.

Harold Catlow was a man whom I not only admired, but whom I greatly respected. He was a man who 'walked with God' and served Him faithfully as this story of his life reveals. He was a man of great vision and indefatigable energy, of tremendous enthusiasm and very high standards. He was lovingly and sacrificially supported by his dear wife Louie.

To me Harold Catlow was 'Mr Emmaus U.K.' and the continuing and growing ministry of the Emmaus Bible School is a lasting and fitting memorial to a man of whom it can be written "whose faith follow". I pray that this account of his life and work will be a challenge to many to "follow in his train".

John. J. Grice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to write this book. I met Harold only once, on a visit to the school, but he was my tutor for several years and gave me much help and encouragement in my studies with Emmaus U.K.

Amongst the many people who have assisted in the production of the book I would like to thank Mrs Catlow and her daughter Joy, Irene and Denis Pendlebury and Karen and Roy Wood. Duncan Fisher and Michael Hemming with Emmaus staff members searched through the files and their memories, and Wendy Kadri in Southampton, gave valuable help in reading and correcting the text. Finally my thanks to the printing and publishing team and David Thompson, Emmaus UK Director, for seeing the project through to completion. All of us - labourers together with God.

CHAPTER 1
THE EARLY YEARS - FAMILY BACKGROUND
1913-1924

".....and how from infancy you, have known the holy Scriptures.'

2. Timothy 3: 15.

It was at the beginning of the 20th century that a young couple, Harry and Polly Catlow, left their home in Bolton, Lancashire to look for work on the Wirral Peninsula in Cheshire. Just across the River Mersey and opposite the great city and port of Liverpool the eastern coastline of Wirral was developing into an important centre for industry. Harry became an engine driver for the firm of Lever Brothers and as an employee was entitled to a house in the village of Port Sunlight. It was here that Harold and his twin sister, Winifred, were born in 1913 - a fitting birthplace for a man who would show vision and commitment in every area of his life.

For Port Sunlight was the brainchild of another man of vision and commitment - William Hesketh Lever. Born in Bolton in 1851, the son of a wholesale grocer, Lever and his brother specialised in the manufacture of high quality soap, which they marketed in an attractive way. The business grew and larger premises were needed than those at Warrington in Cheshire. Both sides of the Mersey were explored for suitable sites for building and eventually a marshy, muddy area near Lower Bebington on the Wirral Peninsula, was purchased. Its great advantages were its proximity to the main railway line and the River Mersey and the availability of a large labour force.

But William Lever was much more than a good business man, he was a man with a heart for his employees. The North West had taught him much about the destructive nature of overcrowded living conditions. Clean, pleasant housing should result in healthy and contented workers and so the village of Port Sunlight came into being in 1888, planned by Lever and paid for by the company, its first block of houses ready for the firm's employees by 1889. Gardens, a village hall, shops, schools and houses continued to be built and the village still stands today, a living memorial to its founder. Viscount Leverhulme (as Lever became) was a successful business man and a true philanthropist, willing to use his wealth and talents for the good of his workers and their families. He was very much a man of his times and Harold Catlow, who would grow up within the ethos and

environment of Port Sunlight and Lever Brothers would become a man of *his times* - willing to use his energy and gifts for the blessing of others, in the spiritual as well as the secular sphere.

Although external surroundings were paternal and helpful, the influence and care of Harold's parents cannot be over emphasised. Harry and Polly had come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour in their home town of Bolton at an evangelistic crusade led by the Americans, Torrey and Alexander - the 19th century equivalent of Billy Graham. After moving to Port Sunlight they went to a nearby Brethren assembly at Hope Hall, New Ferry, but it was at home that their son Harold became a child of God; he was just twelve years old. "There, by an old red rocking chair at our home in Port Sunlight, by my father's side....." The memory of that moment was still fresh after sixty long years and treasured as the first of the links in the chain which led to the forming of the Emmaus Bible School.*

Two years later Harold was baptised by R.H.Pritchard, one of the elders at Hope Hall and, as the custom is, he was given a text at the baptismal service. It was destined to reflect the whole purpose of Emmaus and also Harold's own spiritual ambition and achievement. "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth," 2 Timothy 2: 15.

Mr. Pritchard, though an elderly man, took the time and trouble to see that this young believer had a good start to his spiritual life. He not only taught Harold the scriptures, he showed him how to study the scriptures and introduced him to the 'tools of the trade' - a good concordance, a Bible dictionary and study books. And as his pupil responded to both the teaching and example, another link in the chain was forged in God's plan for Emmaus UK.

*Emmaus Bible School Thanksgiving Service 19.10.85.

CHAPTER 2
THE EARLY YEARS - TRAINING AND DISCIPLINE
1924-1932

"so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:17

Viscount Leverhulme provided much more than housing for his workers. He built schools, a cottage hospital, a church and various public buildings used by clubs and societies; Port Sunlight could even boast its own fire service. Attendance at the church Sunday School was encouraged and every year 'Aunty and Uncle Lever' held a picnic for the children at their home, Thornton Manor. There was a sense of belonging for all who lived in the village and in general, the people (who were known as 'Sunlighters') were healthier and happier than many of their contemporaries who lived elsewhere.

Education was a priority in Port Sunlight and in the early days Lever even provided annual scholarships for children's further education in Liverpool and Birkenhead. Harold went to the primary and junior schools in the village and at 11 years old passed the state scholarship for Calday Grange Grammar School, which is situated towards the north-west corner of the Wirral Peninsula. There were no grants or child benefit schemes in 1924 and it was a struggle for Harold's parents to provide the necessary uniform and all the extras. However, they gave every encouragement to their son, who fulfilled all their expectations and passed his matriculation examinations in mathematics, physics and chemistry - receiving a large pile of books from Viscount Leverhulme on prize giving day. The Grammar School had been founded in 1636 by William Glegg, who reasoned "how very godly, virtuous and necessary it is to provide that youth should be brought up in virtue, learning, good order and obedience." The school's founder would have been proud of a pupil who, over 300 years later, would be encouraging others to practise such principles in their spiritual lives as well.

Although he was academically able, financial reasons made it impossible for Harold to continue his education at university. There was an offer for him to study at Cambridge but Harry and Polly had a family of four to care for and their eldest son needed to earn his living. Harold's willingness to shoulder responsibilities would override any

disappointment he may have felt and, on leaving school, he joined Lever Brothers as a laboratory technician. Blessed with an inquiring mind, a sharp intellect and youthful energy, he continued his studies for an external degree in chemistry at night school in Liverpool Technical College. Unlike many others of a similar age and ability, Harold appreciated the value of 'learning, good order and obedience' when he was a young man and the results of his self appointed discipline would be far reaching.

In spite of being occupied with secular studies, Harold continued with his spiritual education. Mr. Pritchard and a Dr. Grierson were his special encouragers within the local church. His groundwork in Bible study came from a correspondence course written by Graham Scroggie, a renowned Bible teacher of that time and author of many study books. The course covered the entire Bible and took four years to complete - an exercise of faith and determination for a young man of eighteen with a degree course to do as well. As he studied 'The Message of Nehemiah', Harold could never have guessed that this man, who organised the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem in the 4th century BC, would in many ways mirror his own character and experience in his work for the Lord in the 20th century AD.

"Nehemiah, a man on whom, in a wonderful degree, rested the Spirit of God... God never lacks workers for the work and when the hour of need strikes, the appointed man appears.....he made it his business to know what was required to be done.....he knew the necessity for and value of organisation.....he was a man of dogged persistence, determined courage and dauntless faith and he believed in prayer as a practical power." *

In later years Harold, like Nehemiah, would be known as a man with his feet firmly on the ground, ready to do the work in hand - however humble a task - always inspiring those around him by his own faith and example. The Bible is relevant to every age.

* Bible Correspondence Course 1932. Rev.W.Graham Scroggie D.D.(Edin).

CHAPTER 3
MARRIAGE AND THE WAR YEARS
1933-1948

*"A wife of noble character who can find? she is worth
far more than rubies." Proverbs 31: 10*

In 1933 Harold fell in love. He was part of the welcoming team at a gospel campaign when he met a young lady, Louise Bowles - a Christian from a Methodist background - who had been invited to the meeting by a girlfriend. During the next two weeks, Harold made sure that he was there with a welcome, a smile and a hymn book for Miss Bowles and while cycling home one evening Harold happened to catch up with her and discovered that Louise (known as Louie) lived in Port Sunlight as well. This was the beginning of their 'courtship', as it was known in those days, and for Harold it was love at first sight, although Louie took a little longer to make up her mind. However, it was six years before they could get married. Harold's studies had to be completed and although he obtained his degree in chemistry in 1935, the young couple needed time to save for their marriage: there was little money to spare in the nineteen thirties.

Harold and Louie were married in Hope Hall on 23rd March 1940. The war had just begun and because Harold was in food production, a reserved occupation, he was exempted from military service. He joined the Home Guard and quite appropriately for an academic, served in the intelligence department. The young couple had planned to live locally but the house in Heswall was never completed. The Second World War had started in earnest and the building trade was required for more urgent needs - air raid shelters, factories, bomb damage repairs and camps for the military. Harold and Louie rented a house in Eastham (a few miles from Port Sunlight, but still part of Wirral) and joined the fellowship at Carlett, an assembly near their home in Bridle Road. It was the beginning of a long and fruitful association and a crucial link in the chain for the development of Emmaus UK.

Home Guard duties often took Harold out on his bicycle in the early hours of the morning. Liverpool port and the city were heavily bombed, as was Wirral, and from time to time land mines (high explosive devices which were dropped by parachute) fell near the

Unilever plant, which was situated by the power station. One of Harold's favourite stories was of the night he was cycling either to or from the plant when he felt someone push him off his bike. He landed behind a mound at the edge of the path and just at that moment a landmine exploded nearby; the mound of earth took the force of the blast and Harold was unharmed, apart from a few cuts and bruises. "For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways..." Psalm 91: 11. There was no other person in sight and Harold was convinced that the Lord had saved his life. It was an experience which, in later years, confirmed his belief that the Lord had something special for him to do.

Every Sunday Carlett assembly held a special meeting for the forces billeted in the area. It was just one of the many churches all over the country which, during the war, cared for the spiritual needs of service personnel - army, navy and air force - who suddenly found themselves far from home and faced by an uncertain and dangerous future. Welcomed and fed by local Christians, these young men and women were given spiritual direction and help. Some committed their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ and others were encouraged and strengthened in their Christian lives. None have ever forgotten the sacrifices made for them by people who because of age or occupation had to remain at home and away from the battle, but who willingly shared what they had with the strangers who now lived among them, Leviticus 19: 34.

The assembly at Carlett had a special allowance from the government of five loaves and a large tin of salmon for feeding their extra congregation and, like the original feeding of the five thousand, it was a lovely witness to the care and provision of the Lord. There was only one occasion when the Sunday meal was cancelled. A landmine had dropped nearby and as damage to buildings needed to be assessed, the whole area was evacuated to a local school. Louie remembers the neighbours trooping down the road with their belongings - birdcages as well. But the loaves and the fish weren't wasted; they were used to feed the temporary evacuees instead, John 6:12.

Almost from the beginning of their association with Carlett, Harold and Louie took up various responsibilities in the assembly, which had a membership of about sixty. The building was new, dating from 1937, and the intention was to build a bigger church one day, on the

adjoining land. The original hall would then become the Sunday School. However, with the onset of the war, many of the younger people went into the services and numbers never increased after the war, so the 'new' church was never built. Harold, being one of the younger, active men left in the assembly, had to take on the work of secretary and treasurer for a while and he became Sunday School superintendent in 1944 - doing this work until 1961.

With his innate sense of responsibility, a great love for the Lord and the gospel, and his enthusiasm to see the Word of God taught amongst the young and the old, Harold was the all round Christian, an asset to any church or organisation. But his spirituality was not something which alienated people by its 'other worldliness'. Harold possessed a great sense of humour and was able to relate to people of all ages and backgrounds. His superior intellect was worn lightly and was no bar to friendship - he was completely approachable and always ready to listen. His rock-like, consistent faith meant that others would lean upon him but he accepted this, even when the demands were above and beyond the call of duty. And in all these things, Harold had the unfailing support of his wife Louie. She understood the calibre of the man she had married and accepted that sacrifice would be part of their life together. Sadly, a greater sacrifice than time or companionship was to be required from this young couple.

In 1944 Harold and Louie made a solemn commitment to the Lord, placing all that they were and all that they possessed before God - "Do as Thou wilt." His will, just a few years later, was to prove a hard one to bear.

Michael was born in 1946 and the long awaited baby, a son, was a double blessing. Seventeen months later the little one developed a viral illness and although taken into hospital, he died within twenty four hours. The shock of losing their child, so suddenly and so quickly, was a heavy blow. Louie wrote at that time, "Faith can do everything except give the human touch and that we miss increasingly..." A letter from a friend came 'like a heavenly messenger' which uplifted and encouraged the grieving parents and led Louie to write a poem which encapsulated their grief and yet confirmed their abiding trust in their God.

God came and plucked our sweetest flower
To place in His bouquet.
He came - we had our darkest hour,
Yet would we bid Him nay?
We offered ALL - He chose our best,
Our love was His love too.
Do as Thou wilt - on Thee we rest;
Thy will, be our will too.

"Sorrow may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning" and just a year later, their daughter Joy was born - another gift from God to cherish and encourage.

Although the ensuing years were to be full of responsibilities for Harold, his family and home remained at the centre of his affection and never once did Joy feel that she came second to other things in her father's life, she always felt special. Harold's interests were wide ranging and active. He loved classical music and liked to sing - operatic arias as well as hymns, but not in public and the family did not always value his efforts..... He appreciated art and one of his favourite painters was the Italian Old Master, Canaletto, whose wonderful eye for the tiniest detail appealed to Harold's disciplined mind. He was fascinated by the order and pattern of creation and had the ability to take highly technical facts and give them a Christian interpretation.

In everything, Harold used his intellect and gifts for the glory of God and the blessing of others - especially his family. Joy's abiding memory is of the time Harold spent in telling her stories - wonderful stories which were always new and full of humour and guaranteed to keep her amused. He shared with her his skills in art and calligraphy and coached her patiently for O level mathematics. And it was done in such a way that Joy grew up to appreciate Harold as her teacher, encourager, confidant and most memorably, as her friend. She has written of their family life, "It was a lifetime of love - love for the Lord, love for my Mum, love for all our family, love for all those he met and of course love for me! I'm so grateful for everything he gave me - and he gave me so much - and I'm so proud to be his daughter."

CHAPTER 4

UNILEVER - ITS HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Colossians 3.23.

Harold's energetic, forward thinking personality mirrored the spirit of the post war years in industry. They were years of industrial revolution, when scientific discoveries, which had done so much to destroy the world during 1939 to 1945, were harnessed and developed for peaceful uses and to restore standards of living. Material prosperity was gradually increasing and Unilever took its place in the overall expansion of consumer production and marketing.

Before the First World War Lever Brothers had concentrated on producing a variety of soap products, although the milling operation also included a process for crushing seeds to use in the production of margarine. In 1914, when the war in Europe threatened the import of Dutch margarine and Danish butter, Lever Brothers were asked by the British government if they would produce the margarine as well as provide the raw material. This natural progression in the development of the company put them in direct competition with Margarine Unie of the Netherlands but eventually, in 1929, the English and European companies merged. Their combined business activities took them into world wide trading and into the processing of more than a third of the world's commercial oils and fats.

This global strategy continued after the Second World War with the development and expansion of research and marketing techniques. 1945 - 1955 was a period of rapid economic growth in much of the Western world and Unilever recognised, with industry in general, that there had to be adaptation to new markets and new technology.

An important area of research and advancement was in margarine. In the early days, margarine had simply been a substitute for butter, which was in short supply during the First World War. When supplies of butter improved, margarine needed to offer other advantages to the customer and, due to an early discovery in the twenties, it was possible to add vitamins to the product, which gave Unilever an opportunity to market a 'healthy' food. Other refinements were to

follow as with increasing competition from abroad, scientific methods of research, production and marketing needed to be developed.

Harold was very much a part of this expansion and progress. Science and its application were to transform Unilever in the fifties and sixties and appropriate skills were needed to bring the firm to the forefront of the emerging technological age. His talents and training in analytical chemistry, alongside his vision of what was possible in the use of raw materials, were used to their full potential and in the early fifties Harold designed the largest edible oil refinery in the world, situated at Bromborough Pool - part of the Unilever complex on the River Mersey.

Although Harold's position in the refinery was largely managerial and administrative, he was no mere figurehead. His managers and workers knew that he understood all the technicalities of the plant and there were daily tasting sessions to check the quality and flavour of the oils. His claim to national fame was his role in the creation of Stork margarine, still a familiar sight on supermarket shelves. The significance of the plant in the research and techniques of food production brought many important visitors to Bromborough. During the first few years, Harold himself explained the intricacies of edible oil refining - to royalty as well as to the general public. Later, when specially trained guides took over this responsibility, he was still ready to talk to visitors, if necessary. He was proud of the refinery and the contribution it was making to the expansion of Unilever but more than that, he liked people and enjoyed sharing the results of his knowledge and expertise.

Harold was a man whose heart and mind were always concerned for the needs of others. That concern reached into every area of his life and his attitude was always the same, "Can I be of help?" It was especially so when it came to spiritual matters. He was an excellent Bible teacher and week by week, at Carlett assembly, he taught the young people's Bible class. Nothing was too much trouble to explain and for those who were new to the Bible and its contents, he would stop and clarify in detail. Remembering his own early years and the patient teaching and encouragement he had received, Harold made sure that the young people in his care were given the same nurture and support.

But now there was another generation which needed spiritual encouragement - a generation who, after their involvement in six years of world war, were rebuilding their own lives as well as their nation's life. They needed detailed, concise and relevant teaching in the Word of God.

It was during the mid-forties that Harold became convinced that there was more to Bible teaching than a preacher and a pulpit and he began to pray and consider just how the Word of God could be made available to more people in a wider area. In 1951, God showed him just how He planned to do it.

CHAPTER 5

EMMAUS - ITS BEGINNINGS IN NORTH AMERICA

"Blessed is the man.....whose delight is in the law of the Lord...." Psalm 1.1-2

Just before the outbreak of the Second World War a young Canadian missionary, Dr. Ed Harlow, was engaged in Bible teaching in the Belgian Congo* He had a desire to see spiritual needs being met through faithful and committed Bible teachers back home in Canada and he wrote to a friend in Toronto sharing this vision and enclosing a small cheque with the letter - to start a fund for a Bible School.

By 1941 Ed Harlow and his wife had returned to Canada. They had no prospects of an early return to Africa because of the war, but there was a work waiting to be done in their own country and Ed met up with others who shared his vision for a Bible School - John Smart and C. Ernest Tatham. They began in the autumn of 1941, by setting up an evening school at Central Hall in Toronto, to be named Emmaus Bible School. Every Monday three classes were held: Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey and Teacher Training. Each class lasted 40 minutes and included textbooks, homework and examinations. This was demanding study and there were those who felt that such a serious approach would have no appeal for young people. But their pessimistic outlook was proved wrong - by the end of the first school year 144 students had registered and the average attendance for 24 weeks had been over a hundred. That same year, branch classes were set up in another town (one hundred miles away) and the course was

expanded during the second year to meet the needs of students who wanted to continue their studies.

But Canada is a big country and from the response to their evening schools in Toronto and Peterborough the three men felt there were many more young people out there who were waiting for Bible teaching. How could they provide it for them? Like the disciples out in the desert, faced by the needs of a multitude, they received a lesson from the Lord who had commanded, "You feed them." Matthew 14. 15-21. As they discussed the situation which God had evidently brought before them, they were led in the autumn of 1942, to begin a branch of Emmaus Bible School which would use correspondence courses. A pilot programme was agreed upon, with John Smart and Ed Harlow writing up their study material and Mrs. Harlow duplicating the lessons. A number of churches were informed of the availability of the courses, for which a small charge was made.

It is remarkable that within one year of the Emmaus Bible School being commenced at Central Hall in Toronto, the correspondence course work had begun. World War Two had prevented Ed Harlow and his wife from returning to Africa, but their presence in Canada had enabled them to cooperate in this new work with John Smart and Ernest Tatham. Faith and obedience had brought about the realisation of God's mind and will in a wonderful way. And this was only the beginning.

Within six months of the courses being advertised 300 young people were using them to study the Bible. Members of the Emmaus staff prepared more lessons and by January 1943, Old Testament Survey, How to Teach, Messianic Psalms and Romans were available. But these were advanced studies and something simpler was needed for younger and new believers. Primary Truths, written by Ernest Tatham, met that need. Publication and distribution costs increased but any students, serving in the Armed Forces, received their courses free of charge. There were many service personnel, scattered across the world, some in prisoner-of-war camps, who were studying with Emmaus.

In January 1945, the three founders of Emmaus looked ahead in faith to the establishment of a day school, the programme of studies to

begin in September of that year. Following the cessation of hostilities in August 1945, American servicemen were offered education at government expense and among the eighty students who enrolled that first year some were ex-servicemen who were already familiar with the Emmaus studies.

It was one such ex-serviceman, Lieutenant William MacDonald, who saw the possibility of reaching the unsaved with correspondence courses. He had joined the Emmaus staff in 1947, as a teacher in the Chicago Day School and his exercise led to the publication of "What the Bible teaches" which sets out the basic truths of the gospel. It became and remains a bestseller and has been used, through the power and conviction of the Holy Spirit, to bring many thousands of people to faith in Christ.

In 1949, another important development for Emmaus came about through the use of its courses in the mission field. Cyril Brooks, a missionary in the Philippines, saw the potential of using "What the Bible teaches" in conjunction with his radio work in Manila. He taught part of a lesson during the broadcast and offered the course free to anyone who wrote in, asking for it. Requests soon came pouring in and many were saved. The new converts were then in need of simple Bible teaching to help them in their day by day experiences and "Lessons for Christian Living" and "Guide to Christian Growth" were written to help them.

"The mill of God grinds slowly, but it grinds exceeding small." Little by little, things were being put in place across the Atlantic in North America, which would answer the concern and prayers of a man in England. How could believers be brought to a disciplined study of God's Word? How could they be encouraged into the systematic, regular approach to the Bible which educates believers in the ways and character of God and inspires their worship and service?

In God's time, in God's way, the work of Emmaus would be commenced in the United Kingdom.

*Now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo

CHAPTER 6
EMMAUS - ITS BEGINNINGS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

"I being in the way, the Lord led me...." Genesis 24. 27 (AV).

In 1951 Harold set sail from Liverpool for North America on a three month business trip for Unilever, not realising that the Lord had an added brief for him. On board the liner, the Empress of France, Harold met a Mrs. Lovering. Her conversation was mainly about the Emmaus work in Toronto and especially the publication of "What the Bible Teaches," which had been advertised in their local evening papers. Right from the start many students of this gospel Bible study had been converted and Christians were now using the course as an evangelical tool. Harold would have been genuinely interested in this fresh approach to the gospel and within a very short time he would be made aware of the significance of his meeting with Mrs. Lovering.

The day after his arrival in Toronto, on Good Friday, Harold decided to spend an hour or so at a Sunday School Bible Text competition. Unfortunately, the event was almost over when he arrived but although Harold might have felt his efforts and time were wasted, he had been guided to just the right place. When the lights went up in the hall, he found himself next to Mrs. Lovering and her husband, his fellow travellers across the Atlantic, with Ed Harlow and his wife seated behind him.

During his visit to North America, and when his business responsibilities allowed, Harold spent time with the Emmaus team, collating courses and experiencing the commitment and sacrifice which had gone into the establishment of Emmaus and the development of the correspondence work. In later years Harold was to say, "There and then, God touched me on the shoulder and indicated to me that I had found the answer I had sought."*

On returning to Eastham, Harold spent several months in prayer concerning the work. Ed Harlow had visited South America in 1949 and England in 1950, in order to share the vision of Bible correspondence work - a potential tool for the gospel and for Bible teaching which could be used world wide. Now, having met up with Harold in Toronto and recognising a man of commitment to the Word of God, Ed Harlow wrote to him in November 1951, asking if he would

be willing to start an Emmaus work in the UK. Harold discerned God's leading and agreed to Ed's request. His search was over, his prayers had been answered, God had shown him the way.

The first task was to build a framework for the administrative side of the work. "Light on students, heavy on workload," was his description of the first two years, but by 1956, when Ed Harlow spent 4 weeks in the UK, he could report that 'a foundation for an excellent program had already been laid by Harold Catlow, an analytical chemist, living near Liverpool.'

The amount of time and energy needed to lay this foundation must be put alongside the time consuming work that Harold was engaged in at Unilever. He was heavily involved in the expansion and development of the company and it was about this time that the edible oil refinery was built, with Harold overseeing its construction and production programme. Add to that his work in the assembly as an elder, Sunday School superintendent and Bible class teacher, we might wonder how he coped with such a busy life and why he was willing to take on yet another responsibility.

Lord it belongs not to my care
Whether I die or live
To love and serve Thee is my share
And this Thy grace must give.
The knowledge of that life is small
The eye of faith is dim,
But 'tis enough that Christ knows all
And I shall be with Him.

This extract from a poem, kept in Harold's Bible, may help us to understand the character and disposition of a man who had so much asked of him. 'To love and serve Thee is my share' was Harold's priority and he had underlined those words. He obeyed His Lord's command, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" and trusted Him for strength and wisdom in all the varied facets of his busy life.

Although immersed in an important and responsible job, with visits abroad and a variety of people and situations to cope with, Harold

was a man of prayer, a man who made time for waiting on God. In an Emmaus newsletter (Autumn 1981) he comments on Paul's prayer, 'That you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God' Ephesians 3: 19. "Paul is here presenting the most urgent practical matter which believers should be considering, namely, that they have the certainty that they are indeed 'filled with all the fullness of God'. This means that the believer must know that God controls him and all his faculties. Such a man or woman will be a truly practical Christian whom God the Holy Spirit will be using at all times!This fruitful outcome in the believer's life is the result, not of incessant bustling activity from the moment of conversion, but rather of the deliberate retirement to the place where, in the presence of God, the old life is discarded and the new fulness of God - filling every action with power - takes over God's purposes for others, through the new man in Christ."

And to illustrate his point about "the truly practical Christian whom God will be using at all times".....on one of Harold's visits to America he was, in his own expressive words, "taken for a meal to one of those under the pavement dives" by the company representative who was looking after him. As far as Harold was concerned, pandemonium reigned, but the recording of a singer and a song so impressed him that he promptly bought the record to use as a signature tune for a Sunday evening gospel outreach at Carlett. The singer was Jo Stafford, popular in the fifties, and the song was 'It is no secret what God can do'. The record suited the occasion and the era and for the next five years introduced 'Sunday at Eight.* As far as Harold was concerned even in that most unlikely situation, God had His purpose.

During Harold's business trips abroad Duncan Fisher was responsible for the day to day running of Emmaus. As the number of students increased, so did the volume of office work - all of which was contained in a small room at 99 Bridle Road. Duncan had known the benefit of good Bible teaching for many years. He had been taught by Harold in the Bible class at Carlett and was keen to see it available for others through the correspondence courses. He had learned how to type during his service in the RAF and, alongside his own job, would fill in for Harold when necessary. But an expanding work needs a professional approach and the Lord was preparing a personal assistant for Harold. Someone who would respond wholeheartedly to

the spiritual focus of Emmaus and who would provide first class secretarial and administrative support.

*Emmaus Bible School Thanksgiving Service 19.10.85.

CHAPTER 7 CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE -EMMAUS PERSONNEL

"We then, as workers together with Him....."

2 Corinthians 6.1

It was at the end of 1956, that Irene Pendlebury applied for a job at Unilever. "Just a small cog in a very large wheel," she spent the first nine months doing temporary work in various departments. Irene was a Christian and during the brief time that she worked for Harold he had become aware of a kindred spirit and shared both his faith and his calling to Emmaus - and he made quite sure, when the time came, that Irene was appointed as his personal secretary. They were to be a capable and efficient team for the next twenty seven years.

Working for and with Harold brought its demands. He was a senior manager with overall responsibility for the edible oil refinery; a perfectionist. You were expected to do your job properly and although he was sympathetic to the needs of his staff, fools were never suffered gladly. But his management of men and his technical knowledge commanded respect at every level. Irene's own regard for Harold as a manager soon extended to his Christian life. She caught his enthusiasm and vision and in no time her lunch hours were spent in dealing with Emmaus correspondence. It was the beginning of a long and valuable contribution to the growth and development of Emmaus UK.

Irene left Unilever when her daughter Hazel was born but there was no question of her leaving Emmaus. Harold bought her a typewriter and forwarded the post every day. Thirty years later, he paid special tribute to Irene for her unstinting devotion and dedication to God's vision. "She held the administration and records together and without her, the Lord knows, the work would never have grown to its present size."*

For Irene, her work with and for Harold marked a turning point in her Christian life. Harold's faith and wide spiritual horizons affected her personally and brought her into a closer walk with the Lord. She continued to work for Emmaus in her own home and lifted a major burden of work from the shoulders of Harold by taking responsibility for the more mundane but so important tasks of maintaining records, printing newsletters, typing invoices etc. The Lord had brought her to the right place at the right time. And in future days when extra staff were needed, Harold was never anxious. He would say, "Don't worry about it. The Lord knows the need. He'll be working from the other end."

By the time Irene was involved, Emmaus UK had been divided into key areas, each with its own regional secretary, who was responsible for the development and marking of the work in his own locale, although the courses were supplied from Eastham. The Lord Himself had directed these men to write to Harold with offers of help and backed by prayer and 'borne along by God's hand' Harold found himself in overall charge of a rapidly expanding work. The areas covered the whole of the United Kingdom, with Kathleen Davis responsible for the children's courses and Derrick Lewis overseeing the prison work.

The management of the school was in the hands of an executive committee, consisting of Harold - the UK Director - and five regional secretaries. They worked on a voluntary basis and were unpaid, their Emmaus responsibilities taking up a high proportion of their spare time, as all were in full time employment.

In 1958 Emmaus had received Home Office recognition as a religious educational body and was able to approach chaplains for permission to use the courses as a method of bringing the gospel into the prisons of the United Kingdom. Contacts had already been made in various institutions by some of the regional secretaries but with the increase of students it was felt that such a fruitful and socially important work should have its own secretary in order to concentrate exclusively on this aspect of the Emmaus ministry. Derrick Lewis was officially appointed by the executive committee in 1960.

Every year the regional secretaries met with Harold to share the problems and challenges which such a work inevitably brings. It was a

time that Harold particularly enjoyed. He felt that Christians should hold as a treasured possession the fact that, through the Spirit of God, they are one body in Christ. Warm-hearted fellowship, where aims and ideas are discussed and prayed over and spiritual resources shared, confirms that God has answered the Lord's prayer for His own people, "So that they may be one as we are one" John 17.11.

Derrick Lewis writes of those times, "Our fellowship was very precious and Harold always supportive. His quiet approach, which showed great insight, enabled us to come to godly decisions. He was a man of prayer and humble in the Lord's work. I have only happy memories of working under him for ten years."

The financial side of the work was supervised by Bruce Blackie. In 1940 Bruce, then a young airman, had been billeted in Eastham and through his association with the Christians at Carlett Hall, he had met up with Harold and Louie. He and his wife Grace became their lifelong friends - a relationship which was to be a source of comfort and pleasure to both couples. They remember Harold as a man who had a remarkable gift for making people feel special and at ease in his presence and who was well known for his fund of stories - most of which were humorous and often directed against himself.

Bruce was an accountant and, during the early days of Emmaus, had called in to see Harold while on a business trip in North Wales. With the steady growth of the work the finances for the regional secretaries needed organising so Bruce devolved a system of administration for each area, putting the units together at the end of the financial year. He continued as the accountant for Emmaus for many years, keeping Emmaus "on the rails with the intricacies of accounting." Once again, Harold had proved that the Lord is faithful to those who trust Him and will prepare the man of His choice for the work.

Harold loved to recount how Emmaus personnel had been prepared for their responsibilities and would focus in the newsletters on a particular worker, giving a brief resume of their secular career and spiritual background. This was the 'human face' of Emmaus and meant a great deal both to Harold and Irene at Eastham, the regional secretaries themselves and the many who supported the work. Like

the apostle Paul, Harold recognised the fact that the work would only thrive and grow with the support and contribution of a committed team of workers. "Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus.....is working hard for you....." Colossians 4: 12-13.

* Emmaus Bible School Thanksgiving Service 1985.

CHAPTER 8

CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE - EMMAUS STUDENTS

"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching....."

2 Timothy 3.16

It was due, in no small part, to the dedicated efforts of the regional secretaries that by January 1960 Emmaus had enrolled over 20,000 students. They were divided into four categories:- individual students, groups studying with a local leader, children and the prison work. The School was financially self-supporting through fees for the courses (although those in prison were never charged) and gifts. Emmaus was becoming a familiar word and work throughout the UK and Harold decided to foster that interest with a monthly newsletter. In January 1960, the first 'By the Way' was published.

The simple A4 sheet highlighted different aspects of the work, the various regional secretaries and the aims and endeavours of Emmaus. There were quotes from letters, requests for prayer and news items from different regions. Harold was always eager to share what he was learning from others e.g. ".....this news was contained in an attractively produced 4-page assembly newsletter giving details of meetings and reports of various activities and events - an idea worth copying."

The newsletters also reflected another characteristic of Harold - he was an encourager. The words and adjectives used in the editorials and articles were a constant uplift both for those who had sent reports and those who were receiving them. "An interesting news item greatly blessed progressing steadily happy to learnheartening news." Harold knew that people needed to be appreciated and prayed for. They worked hard and, like him, were

keen that the aim of Emmaus should be constantly promoted - to persuade people to open the Book and study the Word of God.

Emmaus had never pretended to be an academic Bible School. Its students certainly needed to apply themselves to study, but not to the advanced standard that is required in Bible Colleges. From its early beginnings in Toronto the aim had been (and still is) to give every Christian the opportunity to discover the truths and the treasures of the Word of God. Not all have access to concordances and commentaries and Emmaus set out to help those who, without the concise and easy to understand approach of the courses, could never aspire to serious Bible study. For others it would give a good foundation for more advanced learning. Students came from all walks of life - housewives, young people, merchant seamen, nurses, men in prison, young people in remand homes. They studied as individuals or in groups and ranged, at one time, from a ten year old to an octogenarian. Although Harold was encouraged to see more and more students enrolling, he never lost sight of the ultimate purpose of Emmaus, "We long to see individuals blessed and local churches revived, as the Bible becomes their all-important instrument in bringing them to a closer knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and a more obedient walk with Him." Newsletter Autumn 1981.

But Harold also had a concern for evangelism and mission. One of the most popular and most useful courses has been "What the Bible Teaches." These simple studies give an introduction to the basic truths of the Bible - sin, salvation etc - and is widely used as a tool for evangelism. Harold produced a tract for local evangelists, containing information about the course, which could be obtained from the school at no cost to the applicant. This ministry proved to be a great blessing and in the early days the courses went far afield - to all applicants from an Operation Mobilisation campaign in Europe and from a World Evangelisation Crusade in France.

By the mid nineteen fifties it had become clear that larger premises would be needed in order to accommodate the increasing amount of Emmaus material. In 1957 Harold and Louie moved from Bridle Road to Pine Acre, Eastham Rake - an address which would become familiar to many. One student remembers the early days at Bridle Road, "with books piled high around the walls." She had responded to an

invitation to see the available courses and so began a long association with Emmaus - first as an individual student, then leading group studies with young people. Today she has become part of the Emmaus staff dealing with the lessons - a demanding occupation. After marking the questions the majority of time is taken up with counselling - showing the student where they have gone wrong, answering their questions, perhaps writing a special letter.

Harold himself was a 'marker' and while still in full time employment he sometimes had to eat his breakfast and check the exam questions at the same time. He was a busy man but each lesson received his personal attention. Mistakes were carefully corrected with a few helpful remarks (usually in green ink) and there was always a supportive comment at the end. Every student knew that Harold had given time and thought to their work. He had within him the spirit of the Master who cared unceasingly for His sheep, Who knew them all by name and Who made sure that He was available should there be any special needs. Harold set the guidelines for Emmaus tutors and the high standard has been maintained ever since.

The house at Pine Acre became the Emmaus headquarters with all the paraphernalia necessary for running a thriving Christian work. His daughter Joy remembers Harold and "his amazing gift of being positive, optimistic and enthusiastic in everything he faced in life, pursuing everything he was involved in with the highest of standards and with a perception and insight that was quite amazing. Where others would struggle to make sense of the smallest problem, he seemed to be able to see the way forward clearly and he was almost always spot on." He was the optimist par excellence and many have been blessed by his positive outlook on life.

But life does bring its disappointments. In 1970 Unilever moved Harold from the refinery to the margarine factory and although production methods still involved edible oils, it was a completely different system. After a working lifetime spent with his particular speciality - processing raw materials - the change had its effect on Harold and his job no longer brought him pleasure or satisfaction. Having been head-hunted by Smithfield Markets he spent a year with them in administration and then for a while he was out of work. It was a difficult time for him, a man in his late fifties, to be without the

challenge of secular employment. Even the responsibilities of Emmaus could not fill the void. Then Liverpool Management School employed Harold's talents and for a year or so he lectured at the school, applying the theories of business management and using as the blueprint for the course his 32 years of operational experience with Unilever.

The Lord has His own way of leading and guiding. It would have been very hard for Harold to leave Unilever for full time work with Emmaus. The refinery had been his creation - a significant part of his life - and the Lord was aware of this. Hard though the experiences were, this was God's way of leading His servant out from secular employment in order to expand another work, which was destined to become significant in the lives of thousands of people.

CHAPTER 9

EXPANSION AT EMMAUS - NEW PREMISES

"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain."

Psalms 127:1

As the sixties drew to a close, Emmaus faced problems common to most organisations - the ill health of key workers in the regions and the need for more office staff and building capacity. By 1971 the 200,000th student had been enrolled, there were 69 titles suitable for all ages and stages of spiritual maturity and Emmaus was threatening to take over the family home - every available space being used to stock the courses and also the necessary office equipment. Pine Acre was "bursting at the seams" (Harold's own description).

It was at the annual executive conference in May 1972 that the proposal was made to build a centre for the Bible School and the decision was made, in faith, to proceed with the project. Someone said, "Why don't you enquire about the land next to Carlett Gospel Hall?" It would never now be used for its original purpose (the site of a larger church building) and had become something of a local eyesore, a six foot high wilderness which resisted all attempts to be cleared of weeds and accumulated rubbish.

It so happened that at the time of the Emmaus conference, Mr. Boulton, the local builder who owned the land, was asking his solicitors to convey the land to a trust. Once the need had been made known, it was not long before Carlett Trust had agreed to sell the plot to Emmaus. That was the easy bit. Although Harold forecast that 'if all goes well we plan to be in and functioning by October this year' (Emmaus Newsletter, March 1973) there were local objections to a Bible School in the neighbourhood, as people anticipated an increase in traffic and noise etc. Planning permission eventually came through and work commenced in November 1973, with a completion date for the end of May 1974.

It had always been Harold's dream to have a building for Emmaus and he was often heard to say, "One day we'll have our own school." At times he found it hard to wait while that dream was being realised. He had taken the decision to resign from Liverpool Management School in order to run Emmaus on a full time basis and was totally involved with the design and building, even down to the choice of shrubs for the car park. Having built an oil refinery, he had the ability not only to make plans, but to see them through to the final stages when the business is up and running. There were knife edge experiences and frustrations which are part of any important project, but Harold was never depressed. His faith in the Lord was backed by prayer and was thoroughly practical. Harold and Louie, confident of God's leading and guiding, had from the beginning placed the deeds of their own house, Pine Acre, in the bank, as security against the cost of building. Once again Harold's faith in action was a shining example to all around of God's guidance and provision for those who put their trust wholly in Him. Irene bears witness to the fact that as each invoice for material or labour arrived at the office for payment, so the Lord met that need - always just in time and often in a miraculous way.

The transfer to the new building took place during September 1974, but not quite as planned. Just a few weeks before, Harold had suffered a heart attack. He was never hospitalised but was unable to hire and drive a removal van and take part in the emptying of Pine Acre as he had hoped. However, he was able to direct operations. Friends from Carlett Assembly, using their own transport, took on the formidable task of shifting all the stock and equipment, for which support and encouragement Harold recorded his 'warm gratitude'.

Whether friends, fellow workers, prayer partners or students - like Paul, he "(never) stopped giving thanks for them all, remembering (them) in his prayers." Eph. 1: 16.

Emmaus Bible School was in use by October 1974 and an official opening ceremony took place on 3rd May 1975. It was the culmination of nearly 25 years of vision and commitment and the Lord had confirmed the decision to build, by adding another 85,000 students in the three years since 1972, when the proposal to build the school was made.

Later that year -1975 - Harold was invited to an Emmaus conference in America. This was so that he could share his experiences as an established director with those who were comparatively new to the work.

The Emmaus policy had always been to allow those with a similar exercise to use the Emmaus material - with no strings attached. From the Philippines, Cyril Brooks' early enthusiasm had spread to many other missionaries and during the early fifties Ed Harlow and his wife set out on extended tours of Africa, Asia and Europe to make the work and method of Emmaus known. As a result, many regional directors commenced the work all over the world and were able to do so in their own languages, taking into consideration local conditions and cultures. The simple, specific aims of Emmaus in every place are to win people for Christ and to build up believers in their faith.

Harold spent 15 days in America, sharing in discussions and listening to reports. He took 24 meetings altogether and travelled hundreds of miles - enjoying the scenery, appreciating the food and the fellowship and taking note of the way things were done. Like the wise man in Proverbs 1:5, Harold was always ready to learn and he came home fired with enthusiasm to expand the prison work, which was going well in America.

By 1975 Emmaus had access to thirty one prisons situated in England and Scotland. The work had been commenced mainly by the regional secretaries and, later, coordinated through Derrick Lewis. Now, with a centralising of the work at Eastham, Harold began to design a project which would involve establishing permanent contact in all H.M.

prisons, also prisons for the mentally sick and establishments for young offenders. In March 1976 he wrote to the Home Secretary explaining the work of Emmaus. "We are engaged in a Bible Correspondence ministry, interdenominational in character, by which we encourage the systematic study of the Bible. We have enrolled a total of over 350,000 students in the U.K. in the last 25 years, including over 8,000 people in H.M. prisons and establishments for young offenders." There followed a request for a complete list of all penal institutions in the U.K. That list was returned the following month.

Pressure of work at the school slowed down the implementation of Harold's project. Although more students in prisons were enrolled and new prisons contacted, it was not until a year later that Harold made enquiries concerning the steps which needed to be taken in order to facilitate the processing of Emmaus courses and the arranging of prison visits. He received a sympathetic and very helpful reply from a chaplain in Reading, in the south of England, which clarified and opened up the points that Harold had raised and which he was eventually able to put into practise.

- The Emmaus lessons could be distributed by the Chaplains and Education Officers but the marking of lessons and record keeping would be the province of the Bible School.
- Although Prison Visitors are not allowed to talk about religion to the prisoners, Ministers of Religion who are appointed at prisons can nominate voluntary workers to assist them. These assistants can then talk to prisoners on matters of faith at the direction of the Minister. The Chaplain at Reading spoke of his own experience in which he had been helped by Christians who had conducted Bible Classes and instructed men during cell visits.
- The requests for such appointments had to go through the Minister to the Prison Governor, with the bona fides of the proposed assistant being approved locally.

Harold's business experience had laid a strong foundation for the administrative side of Emmaus and the prison work is a good example of the application of proper procedures. He knew where to go for

information, which official channels would need contacting, how to phrase a letter and what exactly it should contain. Over the years such matters are apt to be forgotten, lost in the remembrance of answered prayers, the new building, the growth of the work. And yet without persevering in the day by day details, visions would never be realised, projects would never be completed. 'That day' will reveal the quality of the work and the strength of the spiritual building that Harold and all his dedicated team established, 1 Corinthians 3: 13.

CHAPTER 10

THE FINAL YEARS AT EMMAUS

"Not as though I had already attained.... but I press on.....toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3. 12-14 AV.

Once the school had been furnished and equipped, the work was eventually completely centralised at Eastham. The lessons were sent out from the school to all parts of the U.K. and returned there for marking. A team of tutors was formed as the needs arose and as people were called to the work. Harold kept up his own contacts with students through marking the more advanced courses and with the Emmaus prayer supporters through regular newsletters. Deputation work was a vital part of the ministry and was shared by Harold and other members of staff. Life was very busy and not without its extra excitements.

It was in July 1975 that an electrical fault brought about an explosion and fire which could have destroyed the whole building. Harold had been detained at Emmaus that evening, in order to pack an urgent consignment of courses. Just as he was finishing the packing the explosion took place. Harold was able to call the fire brigade immediately, which 'just happened' to be in the next road returning to base. They were on the spot in three minutes and contained a blaze which would have spread rapidly into the roof space and destroyed the whole building. Harold related this incident in the August newsletter - not forgetting to thank the Lord for His preservation of the building. His ability to see the Lord's hand overruling in all

situations was a great encouragement and spiritual stimulus to those around him.

Someone who responded to this living faith, this wholehearted trust in the Lord, was Michael Hemming. He had been using "What the Bible teaches" in door to door work and was often at the school, replenishing his supply of courses. Michael grew to appreciate both Harold's spiritual approach to the work and the efficiency of the Bible School. He recognised the value of the correspondence work and began to mark courses, giving help when needed with the office accounts and general duties - encouraged but never pressurised. Harold's policy was always to wait for someone to volunteer; he believed that the Lord would exercise the right person for the work in hand. An important part of the daily routine was a quiet time of prayer and meditation each morning and, as Michael was able, he shared in this spiritual exercise, coming at last to the conviction that the Lord had a place for him in the work of Emmaus. In obedience to the Lord's guidance and in response to Harold's growing need of a full time helper, Michael left his employment in the oil industry. He was interviewed by the Emmaus trustees and in February 1977 he joined the team.

Michael's official title was U.K.Coordinator and his responsibilities included liaising between students and group leaders, editing the newsletters and deputation work. This took him all over the country - making Emmaus known in churches, county shows, missionary meetings and, not least, in the prisons, where he was able to take services and meet up with many of the Emmaus students. The prison work was growing and was the source of great encouragement as prisoners were saved and testified to the "wonderful course material which is leading me to what I feel is the greatest purpose anyone can have in life." *

Emmaus has always been careful to acknowledge the cooperation they receive from the prison chaplains and education officers who serve as a link between the men under their spiritual care and the School. Their work together for the Lord has resulted in many conversions and ongoing spiritual growth in the prisons and remand homes all over the country.

In 1980, the Emmaus library project was completed. Harold was well aware of the abundance of spiritual books in the English language which could encourage and challenge the Bible student - it was a rich heritage waiting to be experienced and enjoyed. Books had been available for lending to students for several years but now a large and comfortable room was prepared at the school, containing a wealth of publications, new and old, donated by Emmaus friends. A team of workers had offered their help to sort and catalogue the books, build shelves, decorate the walls and carpet the floor. Another longstanding vision became a reality and the numerous and diverse Bible study books fulfilled their purpose for many years as people were able to borrow or buy or just come to the school and read them.

With over thirty years of practice behind him, Harold was qualified to advise on the running of a Bible Correspondence School. In 1983 he put together a Management Matrix - a detailed outline or plan for such a school - which was eventually used as a guide for the developing work in Eastern Europe, each local director having a copy. It was the fruit of Harold's secular training as well as his spiritual experience and although he stressed the fact that the outline could never be universally applicable to all Emmaus schools, its sound principles and basic requirements served as helpful guidelines.

The study was comprehensive and covered all aspects of the work from the spiritual requirements of the director to the type of stationery needed in the office. All administration procedures were dealt with - incoming mail and telephone messages, filing systems, invoice follow up, banking, finances and budgeting, etc. Harold knew that the fine details of daily office management matter to the smooth running of the work. The Matrix was a distillation of over 50 years' experience and reflects the discipline and attention which Harold always applied to the task in hand. His full time working life was drawing to a close but Harold's intellect and abilities were always available for the assistance of others and the advancement of the Lord's work.

* Extract from a prisoner's letter, June 1979.

CHAPTER 11
THE END OF THE STORY

“ ... I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4: 7

Health problems and three score years and ten brought Harold to retirement. In the spring of 1984 he wrote his final editorial in the newsletter ‘By the Way’:

"For Thou Lord, hast made me glad through Thy work..." Psalm 92:4
On March 1st I move away from the busy day-to-day work of the School and hand that task to my successor, Michael Hemming.

It is difficult to condense into a single letter my reactions to this event. For thirty-two years I have been possessed by the single, simple God-inspired vision, namely, to encourage people to take up the Bible and to study it seriously (2 Tim.2:15). The pursuit of this vision has been my growing preoccupation as I have seen God working upon the lives of over half a million students. The cloud, at first like a man's hand, has grown into a great and continuing shower of blessing to all who have come under the spell of the sweet discipline of Bible study. What God has done in His ministry in Emmaus is a real possibility for anyone who is willing to obey God's call diligently and unstintingly: and to have the single eye which sees only the greatest pleasure of His Father, and the blessings which will certainly follow in the lives of His people.

To my faithful secretary, Irene, my unrequitable appreciation of her sharing of my vision, without which, God knew, Emmaus would never have become the influence for God which it is today. To my successor, Michael - may he too know the unsurpassing joy of pursuing, to His glory, the task to which he has been called by God. To my growing team of fellow workers with Him, I pray that the routine tasks of this ministry may be found to be rich in daily blessings as the students share their new discoveries of some encouraging truth learned in their study of God's Word.

To students down the years - I will miss your fellowship around the Word, but will continue to share your partnership in prayer for His work in Emmaus. Thank you for your unfailing encouragement. To all who have had a glimpse of this vision and have been moved by

the Lord to send timely help in the administration of Emmaus - my praise to the Lord for His promptings and to you for your obedience.

My health and age (70) have moved me to seek God's guidance along a quieter path, while still, as a Trustee, retaining close links with Emmaus in the future.

Harold Catlow (Trustee)

It was not easy for Harold to hand over the reins of the Bible School, but he recognised that the time had come for the step to be taken and although still available for advice and help, he never interfered in the running of the school. He had trained his successor through word and example and the years which Michael spent, working alongside this man of God, served him well in his new responsibility as director of Emmaus UK.

The 'quieter path' did not mean a quieter man. He was still the same Harold, still determined to live life to the full, even within its increasing limitations. His eyesight began to fail and his heart caused more problems but when asked how things were, the reply was always, "Life is good." He was eternally grateful to the Lord for enabling him to commit so much of the Bible to memory and he always seemed to be able to call to mind the exact passage that was required for any particular situation.

The following verse - a favourite of Harold's, expresses his acceptance of the Father's will.

Father, I know that all my life
Is portioned out to me.
The changes that are sure to come
I do not fear to see.
I ask thee for a present mind
Intent on pleasing thee.

He did miss being able to read his books but, always positive, Harold would say how much he loved the radio; he had time to listen to it now and all those tapes which he had never got round to hearing. Louie found herself always up to date with the news as she read the newspaper to him every day and although the audience for his jokes

and stories had diminished, there were the grandchildren who could enjoy them and a study which became a special place of fun and learning for a new generation. One of Harold's greatest gifts was a natural rapport with people and a willingness to get alongside whomever God brought across his path. A man who met Harold in the early nineteen fifties testified to the fact that, "at a time when many Christians condemned me, he made an effort to find me, sit with me - it can be said of him he kept me in the faith....."

There are many people who would agree wholeheartedly with this testimony, "he kept me in the faith". Men and women who, taking up the challenge of Emmaus and studying the Word of God, have been encouraged and inspired by its teaching to follow and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

A wise man once wrote, "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold." Harold Catlow's name and work are respected by all who knew him and by many who never met him personally. Ed Harlow remembers Harold as a man "whose training and mental capacities were dedicated to the work of the Lord." He will be forever linked with Emmaus, and rightly so. But although the work was supremely important to Harold, his ambition in every sphere was to bring honour to the Lord he loved and served for over seventy years.

On 22nd May 1994 Harold finished his course and passed into the presence of his Lord. He had fought a good fight and lived an active and productive life which this book has traced from its beginnings in Port Sunlight to its conclusion in Eastham - not very far in geographical terms. It has been a walk with a man who loved to walk with the Lord and a glimpse of his life and work through the recollections of family and friends. There is never an end to the making of books, but in the recording of this life, Harold's life - "may the memory of the righteous be a blessing".