A black and white portrait of a man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white collared shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The portrait is framed by a white border.

Charles L. Greenwood

Pentecostal Pioneer

Denis V. Smith

Charles Lewis Greenwood

[1891—1969]

Born in humble circumstances, **C.L. Greenwood** had to make his own way in the world with very little assistance of any kind.

The Lord, however, Who sees the end from the beginning, saw as He looked upon this young man—so full of vitality and enthusiasm for everything he took an interest in the potential forces for good and the extension of His kingdom if only He could win him for Himself.

Because of his happy, enthusiastic nature, and being very fond of sport, he was popular wherever he went, and thus it was easy for the enemy of souls, with all his subtlety, to ensnare him.

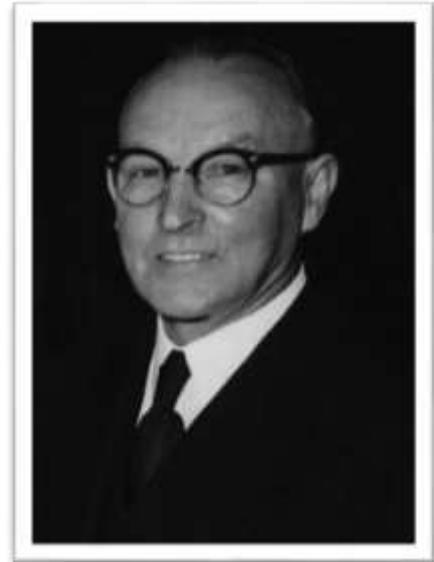
This he did until he had him entirely in his grasp. Praise the Lord, the day came when, at the age of nineteen, with a deep realization of his dire need and his own helplessness, he was brought by the aid of the Holy Spirit to believe on Jesus as his Saviour, and in a little Church of Christ in Footscray found there was power in the blood of Jesus to cleanse every sin away and break every fetter. Hallelujah!

From that day there was created in his heart a hunger for God which has never abated, and after hearing a simple, humble child of God tell of the infilling of the Holy Ghost received in the identical way the disciples received it, he longed for that unique experience. He desired nothing better than to associate with people of the same mind, and began tarrying for the Baptism.

For three years he tarried-pleading, yearning for God to fulfil His promise in him. When the Lord saw that this vessel 'which He so much needed for future service was moulded to His will and completely emptied,

God gloriously filled him to overflowing with His Holy Spirit. That was a wonderful day! There was but one desire paramount in his life then – to uplift his Lord. So at his employment among hundreds of men, in the open-air meetings (at times standing alone), in his own home holding cottage meetings, and whenever the opportunity offered, he talked about the power of his Lord to save, heal and bless.

"Pastor has proved the Lord to be his healer in a definite way. In the Revival in Sunshine, Brother Greenwood took a prominent part and also his work as Elder and Assistant Pastor at Richmond Temple.



Pioneers of Pentecost in Australia – Charles L Greenwood

Since assuming the Pastorate of the Temple on October 16, 1927, he has laboured literally night and day, to get this wonderful Full Gospel to the people.

It is not an uncommon occurrence for him to be called in the early hours of the morning to go and pray for some member of his congregation, who has taken ill, or to stand in the power of Jesus and rebuke the demon power in some demented one.

We who are in such close association with him wonder how he manages to store such an enormous amount of vitality in such a small frame, but wonderment ceases when we realized he is God-called, God-appointed and God-filled.

He understands very keenly his own limitations and is thus able to plead successfully both in public and private devotion, the continuity of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and again he proves God faithful to His promise." [Richmond Temple Souvenir Easter 1939]





Pastor C L Greenwood [third from right on front row] and Church Officers



Pastor and Mrs C L and Ella Greenwood

Pioneers of Pentecost in Australia – Charles L Greenwood



Pastor & Mrs C L Greenwood and Family
Hazel, Elviss, Lois, Leslie, Doreen [Back row, left to right]

Postscript

It was in the late 1960's when I was serving as the Assistant Pastor to C. L Greenwood that he was involved in a road accident and died some days later. The Church was stunned as Dr. Ray Moulton; the Secretary of Richmond Temple approached the pulpit at the end of the Sunday evening service and solemnly announced on the 5th January 1969, "Our beloved pastor is with the Lord." For a moment the stunned congregation was silent and Dr. D. V. Hurst, the guest speaker at the Beulah Heights Christmas Camp began to encourage the people in the Lord.

His very large funeral was held at Richmond Temple at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 8th January with Pastor A. T. Davidson, the Commonwealth Chairman conducting the service. His two favourite hymns were sung, "I shall Know Him" and "The Glory Song."

A number of ministers spoke at the service – Dr. D. V. Hurst [Assemblies of God USA]; Pastor D. V. Smith [Richmond Temple]; Pastor Tom Whiting {Commonwealth Vice-Chairman}; Pastor E. M. Irish [Commonwealth Secretary/Treasurer]; Pastor Philip Duncan [Foreign Missions Department]; Pastor Ralph R. Read [Home Missions Department]; Pastor Cyril G Westbrook [New Guinea Mission] and Pastor J. H. Luke, who concluded the service in prayer.

Denis V Smith – 2013

For a detailed background on his life and ministry, "The C. L. Greenwood Story," written by George Forbes is highly recommended.



Denis V Smith