

## **Pastors Tony and Brenda Lenthall**

Before being born again in 1976 Tony was a civil engineer managing a large earthmoving company in the mining area of North West Australia. Brenda managed a large retail business.

In 1977 they attended Moorlands Bible College in the UK and from there carried out discipling ministry of young adults in Northern Ireland during the time of the conflict between the Protestants and Catholics, majoring in children's beach activities and coffee shop ministry to young adults.

Returning to Australia in 1979 to prepare for overseas mission activity they experienced a move of the Holy Spirit in which over 100 came to the Lord from very extreme social situations of drunkenness and drug addiction. From these people they planted their first church in a very isolated part of Australia being more than 2,000km from the nearest city. They built a church building, established their own Bible training for potential leaders, started a primary and secondary school within the church and planted a new church in the nearest town 600km to the north where there was a revival amongst the drug addicts there which influenced the whole town.

In 1984 they put the church into the hands of new leadership and went to the Maldive Islands, at that time a 100% Muslim nation in the Indian Ocean where the Lord opened the door for them to live on an inhabited island, something that no other non-Muslim people were permitted to do. In the next six months they were able to share the Gospel with the local people and there is now a persecuted church amongst the people.

Returning to Australia they established a new church in the southern part of Tasmania and over the next seven years raised a congregation that became a major participant with Open Doors taking Christian literature into China from Hong Kong.

In 1992 they put the church into the leadership of pastors trained within the church and lived for a year in Brasov supporting the raising of a church in the post-Communist era, establishing a Bible school, training leaders and distributing aid. Many of those trained at that time are in active ministry today.

Leaving Brasov in 1993 they returned to Perth, Western Australia, and raised a new church which remains active in overseas mission activity. At the same time they became active with Nehemia Team, a Christian organisation based in Nurnberg, Germany, which was running short term Bible school training for potential church leaders in the ex-Soviet Union, and they ran several schools in Siberia which ran for eight weeks at a time as well as ministering in churches throughout the region and Eastern Europe. In subsequent years they have returned to Siberia to minister to their past students who have become pastors of strong church ministries.

From Perth they also became involved in ministry in Malaysia where they became part of a revival which saw many Chinese and Malay people with no Christian background born again. This led to the recognition of the lack of training of rural church leaders so they established a program of three day seminars every three months for two years using teachers from around the world to give a foundational basis for their faith. The efficiency of this training was recognised within churches over the border in Kalimantan, Indonesia and a new phase of revival and leadership training was established which has had such an impact on the region that the Muslim government officials have asked for more work to be carried out and where a Muslim politician provided a third of the finance necessary for a city crusade.

Also from Perth, ministry into Cuba has been established with leadership seminars that have attracted pastors from most of the denominations in the country and has led to such unity that the Pentecostals are sharing pulpits with the Methodists. The evening meetings open to the general public have also seen large numbers of people coming to Christ.

In the past year the Perth church has been handed over to pastors raised in the church and Tony and Brenda have been seeking the leading of the Lord in Europe, especially in the unevangelised areas of Portugal and Spain. They now intend to establish training within Romania for those interested in specialising in the raising of new churches with the intent that many would go out to meet the need in Romania and the rest of Europe as they see that Romania is relatively rich in mature Christians.

Tony and Brenda have supported themselves financially through the provision of the Lord and Tony continuing in his secular work whilst church planting.