

meet the **BENSONS**



TURKEY

PSEUDONYMS FOR REASONS OF SAFETY



their story

Gregg grew up in western PA and studied architecture at a local university, while Debbie grew up on the east coast and received her degree in nursing from a New York college. They met and married in the Midwest, and then joined their missionary agency and headed for Turkey in 1987. Throughout their ministry, the Bensons have reached out through various media outlets, spreading the Good News of the Gospel however they can. Over the past 30 years, most of their time and energy has been focused on establishing and discipling a local church of Turkish believers who have a Muslim background. Now that Turkish leadership has been established in their church, the Bensons' role is mainly mentoring and training those leaders, and building up and "watering" the church in whatever ways are needed.

In 2009 Gregg became the director of a ministry that provides biblical "head-heart-hands" training to the Turkish Christian movement in Turkey's major cities. Since finishing a doctorate in comparative theology in 2015 he has had some opportunities to interact with Muslim scholars and hopes for more in the future. Debbie ministers to the many refugees who have flooded into Turkey as a result of the war in Syria. She also discipless women in their local church and reaches out to non-believers through friendship evangelism.

The Benson's two oldest children, a daughter and son, along with their spouses and young children, live and work in two neighboring countries. Their next son and his wife live in the US where he is finishing graduate school, and their youngest daughter is engaged to be married in 2020.

recent prayer requests

Gregg and Debbie praise God that they can do all things through Him who strengthens them and that God's strengthening power gives them endurance and patience with joy in these uncertain times.

Praise God that the believers are doing a great job streaming broadcasts of the Wednesday prayer time and Sunday services.

Gregg's biblical teaching and equipping ministry continues with live zoom seminars and very good attendance from Istanbul and other cities, so much so that they are having to turn applicants away! Online recorded seminars are also being done. Pray that God's Word continues to go out through all these different channels.

The Benson's church continues to hold everything online. New men's small groups, a daily morning prayer time for the ladies and weekly women's meetings are blessing many. They are seeing brothers and sisters stepping up to lead as well as checking in with each other. Pray that the church members continue seek the Lord, to minister to each other and reach out to those seeking answers.

The Benson's youngest daughter "C" and her fiancé "E" are still planning to be married August 7. Gregg and Debbie have tickets for June 2 to fly home but don't know for certain if that flight will happen. They are also scheduled to speak at a number of churches but are not sure whether that will be possible. And another challenge is their residency renewal appointment is scheduled for June 29. While in the states, they will need a car to use, someone to watch their cat, a place to stay while they self-isolate after arriving here. Please pray that God will work out all these details.