

# 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 discipled 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 four 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 graduated from a US college in May 2018.

## 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.

Praise God that the believers in Turkey are doing a great job streaming broadcasts.

The Benson's youngest daughter "C" and her fiancé "E" are still planning to be married August 7. Pray for Gregg and Debbie to successfully get a flight out. Pray for the Benson's son and his family to also get flights.

Pray for "C" and "E" to find an apartment and jobs in Boston, as "C" begins her master's program there.

Pray for wisdom for the Bensons as they make decisions about whether or not to visit supporting churches while here.

Pray that the Benson's residency permit will be renewed. Turkey has suspended in-person renewals and is now doing this by mail. Pray for favor from the government.

This month the Benson's church has begun meeting at the building again but in very small numbers (max 15 people, no children or elderly), and with social distancing, masks etc. Pray for the four elders, that God would guide them through the next steps of the church meeting together and grant them wisdom for some serious issues they face.

Pray for Gregg's leadership. The Biblical teaching seminars are over but there continues to be planning and restructuring for the coming fall. There has been a lot of interest in online seminars, so this may be a growing area of ministry even after things become more "normal."