

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 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 for the wedding of their daughter on August 7. It was a wonderful celebration even though the numbers had to be scaled back due to Covid.

The Bensons praise God that they received approval of their residency permit.

Pray for the Bensons' daughter and new son-in-law as they begin their life together. Ask God to bless their marriage. And pray that they together make Christ the center of their new family.

Gregg has 15 students working on a course (Introduction to OT Studies). The main face-to-face week of that course will be in early September. Most likely it will be mostly online, which is challenging, as we all know these days. Pray that their students' faith would be strengthened as they study the Hebrew scriptures together and see how they testify to Christ and the gospel. "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" Rom 15:4).

Pray for the small churches of Turkey to be strengthened in faith and in love. Pray for the clear teaching of God's Word to be preached in these churches. Pray for wisdom and boldness to continue to proclaim the gospel to those around them. Pray for unity among the believers. Pray for open doors for the gospel, and that it might spread quickly, drawing many people to Christ.

Pray for Debbie's residency permit. Unfortunately she was only given a year permit while Gregg was given two years. They will have to see if that can be changed.