

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 Bensons' 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

Greg and Debbie contracted Covid in early November. The Bensons praise God that the Turkish health department has been very good about delivering antiviral medicine to them and checking up on them by phone.

Please pray for Greg and Debbie as they recover from Covid. The first few days they had fevers and headaches and some coughing. Their sleep has been disrupted. Pray also for other brothers and sisters in their church who are also infected. Pray for God's protection and complete healing and for encouragement and hope in their recovery.

Pray for the Bensons' church. Greg and Debbie feel such a need to pray for unity in their little church as all of these Covid outbreaks have made things very unsettling for everyone. Pray that the church elders will be of one mind in their decisions and will be able to communicate with great love and grace to the members of the church community.

The Bensons are thankful that the believers seem to be ready to pursue several ideas for evangelism that have been proposed, especially using social media. A large room in their church building is nearly ready to use as a studio for doing short videos that can be used on their website. Pray that many people will be drawn to the Lord through this new initiative.

Debbie is grateful to be part of a ministry to refugees again. She interviews and gives guidance to young mothers, mostly from Afghanistan, once a week. And she continues to use her nursing knowledge even after all these years! Pray for Donna and all the other volunteers to reach out in love to these refugee families and that many will be drawn to the Savior.

Pray for Debbie's residency permit. Unfortunately she was only given a year permit while Gregg was given two years. They will have to go to the immigration office. Pray for God to grant them favor through this.