

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

They are well. Turkey is also in a near lockdown mode so church services and the seminars that they coordinate are all shut down in terms of face to face gatherings.

They've been able to take our church services online the first time streaming live with a couple of people at the church on YouTube. They have been video recording the remaining sessions of a seminar on the Psalms that we were teaching, using a laptop at home so the people can finish the courses they started.

They're planning on being until June 1 when we are scheduled to fly to the States.

Gregg has just finished 45 Old Testament lessons for a Christian Radio Talk Show. Pray that the doors will stay open for the gospel to go out and that many people will be drawn to the Lord through these teachings.

The Bensons' visa runs out in April. Pray that they will be granted another two year extension.

Pray for Gregg as he continues to teach in various cities around Turkey. He is presently teaching courses on the Psalms, hermeneutics and research methods. He has good attendance in his classes and is even seeing new believers coming. Pray that God's Word will go forth powerfully and draw many to Himself and pray that many will be discipled in The Word.

Pray for Gregg and Debbie's church during the Coronavirus, that they would be a bright light shining with the love of Jesus to all their community.