

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 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

In September the Bensons celebrated 36 years of marriage! 32 of them have been spent in Turkey. They also had a visit from their son on a business trip layover. They loved having some time with him.

Gregg leads a ministry called Hasat, which means Harvest and whose mission is to provide biblical teaching and training to the Turkish Christian movement. Hasat seminars are in full swing now. The Bensons are greatly encouraged by increased attendance at seminars in Istanbul and in other cities. In addition to these regular opportunities, Gregg is giving a five-week seminar on the book of Revelation.

Moms and Tots for the Arabic speaking families has also started and this last week there were 41 ladies and their 65 children! Pray that Debbie can share the love and hope of Jesus with these women and that God draws many of them to Himself.

Gregg will be attending a conference in mid-October and Donna will use that time to take a trip to Jordan to see their children and little granddaughters. She is presently having back pain, probably from a herniated disc she had years ago. Please pray that the Lord heals her before she goes.

In the past nine months more than 25 foreign families who were serving in Turkey have been unexpectedly deported or denied re-entry to Turkey. Official reasons are not given, but this is a threatening trend which could affect the Bensons as well as the Turkish church. Gregg and Debbie's residence permission expires in March, so they'll be starting the renewal process in January. Pray that God will allow them to stay in Turkey and continue in ministry.