

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.

APRIL 2022

PRAISES + + +

- + Praise the Lord for a good week-long master's level course on 'Theology of Missions' with students from around the country.
- + Praise the Lord for recent visitors to the church and opportunities to share the gospel.
- + Praise the Lord for an enthusiastic women's group at church and pray for direction on ways they can serve others.
- + Praise the Lord for the good weather and being able to work outside with refugee women.
- + Praise the Lord for Ali with his engagement to Selin. Pray for both their marriage and their wedding preparations. Additional prayers for Ali as he plans to leave Istanbul. He will be missed as being a gifted young teacher and preacher.
- + Praise the Lord for the visit Greg and Debbie had with their son and his family last month and for the good relationship and understanding between them now that their son and family who live in Portland were told that Greg and Debbie would be moving to Chicago instead.

PRAYER >>>

- > Pray for lasting blessings as the student from the master's level theology course finish homework and digest all the material.
- > Pray for effective wisdom and guidance in a follow-up to a subject discussed at length in the 'Theology of Missions' on how the gospel can reach the conservative majority of people in Turkey. Most of those who have come to faith so far are from more secular or non-practicing Muslim backgrounds. Romans 10:1-2 describes their situation as did the earnest law keeping Jews in Paul's time.
- > Pray for the Lord to raise up godly individuals in the church to take the place of people who are moving away or will be gone over the summer.
- > Pray for the team that is formed to do follow-up calls for the Bible correspondence course.
- > Pray for wisdom in dealing with the variety of problems that the refugee woman face.