

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 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

We praise the Lord for the healthy birth of Jack Gilead Schultz. The seventh grandchild of Greg's and Debbie, born to their daughter Amy and her husband Kevin. Jack is the baby brother of three older sisters.

We praise the Lord for the visitors who are coming to Greg and Debbie's Turkish church now that face to face worship meetings have begun.

We pray that the visitors and seekers come to know Christ and that others follow.

We pray for the church to be built up in faith and love.

We pray for the Lord's hand to be over Greg as he begins preparation for courses he'll be teaching after returning to Turkey at the end of August.

We pray for the approval of a Turkish journal to accept Greg's article for publication which has been delayed several times.

We continue to pray for Debbie's healing. Debbie still has tingling sensations in her feet, hands and face.

We pray for Greg and Debbie's cat Bilbo who is alone in their apartment in Turkey until their return. The arrangements for Bilbo to stay with a Turkish friend in the church didn't work out.

We pray that Greg and Debbie have no re-entry problems upon their return to Turkey on August 29.

We praise the Lord that Greg and Debbie are having a safe and joyous trip visiting their children here in the States and that they were present for the birth of their newest grandchild.