



Jonathan & Jeni Bransford

Discipleship / Leadership Development / Church Planting



Growing up as a missionary kid in Kenya, Jon always picturing one day returning to the mission field. From a young age, he participated in outreach projects to surrounding communities. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from John Brown University and a hope to one day go to seminary.

Jeni grew up the daughter of an entrepreneur-turned-executive-pastor. She studied at CalState Fullerton and CalPoly, earning a bachelor's degree and teaching certification. Her dream was to teach elementary school at one location until her student's kids and grandkids also became her students, until she sensed God calling her to expand her horizons to the mission field. She traveled to Kenya and interviewed for a teaching position in a school there (one of Jon's rival schools).

Jon and Jeni met at First EV Free Church of Fullerton, California. Their romance began when Jon was about to go to the Democratic Republic of Congo with Samaritan's Purse and Jeni to Kenya. As it so happened, God closed both of those doors and brought them together.

In the first year and a half of their marriage, Jon taught Bible at Western Christian High School while Jeni taught first grade at Workman Elementary. Their daughter, Graci, was born in 2006. Within the next few years, they moved to Kenya, where Jon served as a Technical Consultant and Grant Writer for Bethany Relief and Rehabilitation International; to Colorado, where he worked with a construction crew on a hospital renovation; and to Texas, where he received a theology of ministry degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. Two sons were born within this time: Isaiah in 2007 and Ezekiel in 2010.

Jon graduated seminary in 2014 with a heart for missions. A year later, they pursued serving with Greater Europe Mission in Vienna, Austria, but ended up in Palmyra, New York, where Jon served for three-and-a-half years as pastor of Fellowship Bible Church / Shepherd's Heart Fellowship and Jeni began working as a substitute teacher in the Palmyra-Macedon school district while working on her New York teaching certification. She also received her master's of Literacy degree from Roberts Wesleyan University.

For the past two years, Jon and Jeni have been serving on the Global Outreach team at Pittsford Community Church in Pittsford, New York. After Jon and Jeni attended a FIT Assessment with the NAB, they received a "thumbs up" to serve as international missionaries; they are now appointed to serve in the areas of discipleship, leadership training, and church planting, primarily among Hungarians living in Romania.

Scripture:

Jeremiah 9:23–24

Birthdays:

Jonathan – July 11

Jeni – September 26

For more information, visit our website at nabonmission.org or email us at serve@nabconf.org.