

First, we want to thank the NCD staff and pastors for the warm welcome. This great welcome has eased the transition as we begin this new chapter in our lives. We have been well received at cluster meetings and at the Church Planters Retreat, and the openness of the pastors and their wives has overwhelmed us. We feel like we have joined a warm, loving family. Second, we want to thank Jim and Lois Anderson for taking us under their wing as we learn about Pastoral Care. We are starting to develop relationships with pastors and their wives from around the state while we listen to their stories and seek the Lord for how to best lift them up and serve them. Some things have already bubbled to the surface. While at the Church Planter's Retreat, Jola and Lois Anderson expressed a heart for the unique needs of church planting wives and are exploring ways to meet those needs through the development of an e-mail network and possibly a wives retreat. I (Kelley) spoke to several pastors who spoke of a need for leadership development and training, especially the training of elders and deacons. This training will focus on the responsibilities of elders in shepherding both the church and the pastor, allowing the pastor to focus on his core calling of teaching/preaching/evangelizing. I will be working on developing this training while I visit clusters in the southern portion of the state. I have a goal of visiting each cluster at least once this year, with a minimum of one a month. We welcome your input on these and any other ideas you have for us.

Kelley & Jola Johnson

Kelley.johnson@mchsi.com
jolakell@frontiernet.net