

Welcome to Kelley and Jola Johnson

In January 2009, Kelley began a half-time position with Grace Community Church in Olivia as their Pastor of Spiritual Development and Equipping. He left his position as a Deputy Sheriff with Renville County in January of 2008 to participate in a pastoral internship under the mentoring eyes of Pastor Jeff Brown of Grace Community Church. This internship was a half-time position with Kelley assisting Jeff in the areas of leadership training, discipleship, life group ministries, and occasional preaching. This internship provided Kelley with practical pastoral experience, deepening his understanding of the demands placed on those in ministry, allowing him to serve them better. Kelley also used this internship to explore his gifts prior to shift into permanent ministry. "In the past year the Lord has made it very clear to us that it is time to step out of the boat in faith and start walking on the water." says Kelley, referencing Matthew 14 and Peter's water-walking experience.

The other half of their ministry is committed to serving the NCD by assisting Jim Anderson as the Pastoral Care Assistant. In the NCD position, Kelley and Jola will continue to assist with the Sabbath Rest retreats while building relationships with pastors and their families. Kelley and Jola both have many years experience in caring for those in fulltime ministry. They will be working with the NCD Friends of Pastors Network, attending regional Cluster meetings, working in the area of accountability with the Pastoral Care Point Persons across the district. Kelley also hopes to explore opportunities to work with and train leadership boards in the area of promoting pastoral care within their local congregations and in caring for their own pastor, a principle Kelley calls "shepherding the shepherd."

Kelley has six years of elder experience and has served in many roles within his church experience. Kelley holds degrees in law enforcement and sociology from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, a Certificate of Biblical Survey Studies: Old and New Testament Survey from Village School of the Bible, and a Master's Degree in Ministry Leadership from Crown College. Jola shares a heart of compassion for those in fulltime ministry and a willingness to serve them. She hopes to develop and deepen relationships with pastor's wives across the district and encourage them to make connections with each other through retreats and in other ways. She currently serves as deaconess and the Communications Assistant at Grace Community Church. Her duties include answering the office phone and relaying messages to Pastor Jeff or the appropriate leadership team member, producing the weekly worship bulletin and sermon notes for the body, other assorted office tasks, and assisting Kelley in the leadership of their life group ministry at Grace. At home, Jola has the wonderful duty and responsibility of home schooling their two children, Sarah (17) and Isaac (13) while she manages the home and bakes some of the best bread in the world. We ask that you pray for the Johnson's as they leave a field they have worked for 24 years and expand a field the Lord has been moving them into for many years (Matthew 19:29). Anyone interested in joining the Johnson's prayer and support team can contact them at Kelley.johnson@frontiernet.net.