

# @Boulevard



A joint publication from the Boulevard church of Christ  
and Eagle Recovery Center



A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 6 — April 2013

## Jots from Jeff



Spring is an amazing time of year. Everything around us is coming back to life. It reminds me of the risen Savior we serve and the new life we can have because of His.

We have witnessed the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ at Boulevard three times during the past four weeks by seeing three precious people commit their lives to Jesus. On March 17, **Lisa Green** confessed Jesus as Lord and was baptized into Christ. On March 31, Resurrection Sunday, **Kayla**



**Hernandez** named Jesus as Lord and seized His promise of a new life through her baptism. Then on April 7, **Scott Russell** decided he wanted to follow Jesus, confessed Him as Lord and was baptized, raised as a new creation. I would ask you to pray for these three new disciples of Christ as they grow in the Lord.

Those of you who pray for us, financially support this ministry and who participate in other ways are so vital to what we are trying to do for Jesus. Any fruit from this ministry comes from God, but you are our faithful partners in planting and watering, and we cannot thank you enough. People will be in heaven who would not have been otherwise because of your willingness to help. Thank you so much!

—Jeff Gardner, evangelist @Boulevard



## In the Spotlight



*Editor's Note: This month we would like to introduce you to **Benita Hamblin**. **Benita**, and her husband, **Mark**, are a greatly loved part of our Boulevard church family. **Benita** is a tireless worker for the Lord, works in prison ministry at Mabel Bassett prison for women, mentors many of our Eagle residents, maintains a cheerful disposition and is a pure joy to be around.*

**@Boulevard:** Please share with our readers some insights into your ministry.

**Benita:** I have been involved in prison ministry for the past fifteen years, something that some might say I "fell into", but I know beyond a shadow of a doubt this was and is the path God set before me. At that time I was by all appearances, an observant, pew-warming back-to-the Bible Christian. I abandoned Him in my teen years and early years of my marriage and motherhood. That said, He never abandoned me. I came back to Him in '84 and was then and forever His again.

I was the good momma that had her boys to church three times a week. If the church doors were open, we were there. That said, I was pew-warming *but not discipling*. One Saturday evening I literally dropped to my knees (something I hadn't done since I was a little girl) and implored God to show me what I was supposed to do in this grand journey we call LIFE.

The next morning I took my boys to Sunday worship. At the end of service, announcements were made, among them the request for female volunteers for a newly opening women's prison in McCloud. I looked above to the ceiling and in my heart cried out, "No way Father!" Ah, but He had plans for me! I'm involved in two programs at Mabel Bassett.

*NewLife Behavior Ministries* is a comprehensive program to assist individuals in behavioral improvement. It is a ministry of hope reconciling individuals to God, families, and society. It is our basic belief that we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) and that we are most complete, comfortable, and productive when operating our daily lives in harmony with our Creator and Savior.

*Giving Incarcerated Females Trust & Support – GIFTS – A Mentor Program*, is part of the Oklahoma Jail and Prison Ministry service. My group of six long-term incarceratedees work different Bible studies each week.

**@Boulevard:** What are the keys to your successful mentoring?

**Benita:** To mentor is to be a friend, a guide and encourager. I strive to be dependable, a guide that lets in light to another's path, and an encourager that cheers another when that path becomes steep or slippery. We bring true, enduring friendship to others in God's name.

I entered this relationship with "my sweet ladies" to bring hope to the hopeless. I entered this ministry to bring to life true agape love and compassion. I had no idea to what extent I would in turn be blessed. They are my passion.

**@Boulevard:** How has mentoring our Eagle residents blessed you?

# About Us

*Boulevard church of Christ is a family of believers in Jesus Christ who want to be the hands and feet of Jesus in reaching people with messed up lives. We believe Jesus is the great Healer physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially. And we all need to be healed of something.*

*Eagle Recovery Center is a Christ-centered, structured, sober-living group home for the purpose of empowering women to successfully re-enter society and live victoriously over drugs and alcohol or any other destructive habit. All residents are valued members of the Boulevard church family.*

**Benita:** Mentoring my *Eagle* ladies has blessed me beyond measure. Through sharing their tears, struggles, pain, growth, and yes, many, many smiles and hugs, they have enriched my life. My kids are long grown and out of the home with children of their own - and I count myself richly blessed. That said, my *Eagle* ladies have become members of my family and I love each and every one of them. After all, we are all part of the family of God.

**@Boulevard:** Why do you invest yourself like this in others?

**Benita:** I grew up feeling unwanted and invisible. I have found true meaning in my life by being willing to open up, to be

transparent, to let these ladies know that they truly do have individual worth and that each and every one of them is a priceless child of God.

Each and every one of us has the opportunity to mentor at some point in our lives. As disciples of Christ, we must understand that we are valuable in God's kingdom. We need to see our environment as a mission field. We should be encouraged to move beyond our own pain in order to touch the lives of those around us. One of my favorite poets, Maya Angelou said this, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

**Eagle Helps Serve Meals to Homeless at Local Park with the Circle of Friends Bible Class from the Bethany Nazarene Church**



Yes, I would like to partner with the *Boulevard church* and *Eagle Recovery Center* to help bring Christ to and heal those who are struggling to overcome addiction by making a donation of...

\$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ or Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (donation enclosed)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **Boulevard church of Christ** and send to:

**1301 N. Drexel Boulevard • Oklahoma City, OK 73107**

### Other Ways to Help:

- Female or Husband/Wife teams to help with transportation for a day
- Donate good clothing suitable for work
- Godly women to develop mentoring relationships with an Eagle resident
- Grounds keeping assistance (mowing, limb cutting and removal, painting and repair)

*Please contact Lora or Jeff at one the numbers listed below to volunteer.*

[www.eaglerecoverycenter.org](http://www.eaglerecoverycenter.org)

[www.boulevardchurch.org](http://www.boulevardchurch.org)

## Eagle Contact Information



**Director** — Lora Williams

**Phone** — (405) 737-5383

**Email** — lora@eaglerecoverycenter.org

**Address** — 3701 East Reno

Oklahoma City, OK 73117

## Boulevard Contact Information

1301 N. Drexel Boulevard • Oklahoma City, OK 73107

(405) 943-3578

### Shepherds

Jim McWhirter  
Charles Custer

### Evangelists

Jeff Gardner  
heal@blvdchurch.com  
(405) 550-7658

### Assembly Times

Sunday — 9:30 am  
Wednesday — 7:00 pm

Latino — Abel Maldonado  
abel@blvdchurch.com  
(405) 200-3161

**Boulevard church of Christ and Eagle Recovery Center®**, a DBA of Eagle Christian Ministries, are both 501(c)(3) charitable organizations.