

# @Boulevard



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



A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 21 — August 2014

## Jots from Jeff



God continues to do what He is so good at: taking tiny efforts and producing results far greater than any of us can imagine (Ephesians 3:20)! Last month we announced the addition of **Ivan**

**Gonzalez** to our staff as an associate minister. Last Friday, he married **Diana Esparza** and we are eagerly awaiting their return from their honeymoon. Please keep these newlyweds in your prayers for their new lives together and their ministry with the *Boulevard church*.

As a volunteer, **Logan Glover** has been helping us for many months by leading our worship. Last school year, he was able to recruit some great helpers from university students at *Oklahoma Christian*. Our singing and assemblies have never been more dynamic! **Logan** is also a graduate of *Oklahoma Christian* who worked in ministry for several years. At great personal sacrifice, he is joining the ranks of our small staff to establish a youth ministry at *Boulevard* and to



continue to cultivate involvement with university students, not just from *Oklahoma Christian*, but *OU* and others. With the school year beginning, we are already being blessed with the excitement and energy of having many university students back in our church family. They are beginning to establish mentoring relationships with our teenaged members. There are plans in the works to reach out to the surrounding neighborhood through activity in the city park across the

street, as well as regular service projects to benefit the most vulnerable among us.

I mentioned **Logan's** personal sacrifice in passing, which is what is making this possible through the power of God. **Logan** left his comfortable office job and took a part time job with a stone mason to free up time to devote to this ministry. He is selling his car and driving a 26 year-old compact pickup on loan from someone to save on transportation costs. He has been painting, renovating and cleaning up a 79 year-old one bedroom house next to the church building to save on living expenses. And we are able to pay him very little for food and other necessities. He has no company benefits except the comfort of knowing he is choosing service to God as his first priority. To find such a dedication and spirit in a gifted young man of God is refreshing and humbling to me. Please join me in praying for his fruitful ministry. And if you have something extra, well, I know a deserving young man who would appreciate it.

— Jeff Gardner, evangelist

## Addiction

with Dr. Lisa J. McWhirter



Intervention in someone's life who has an addiction is never an easy thing to do. Usually by the time someone comes to my office to talk to me about doing an intervention with a family member or friend they are "at the end of their rope". When a family comes to me they have so

many emotions. They have **fear** that they are going to lose their loved one, because they are afraid they are going to kill themselves, someone else, or get arrested. There is **stress** because they have become hypervigilant trying to anticipate what will happen next. They may feel **hopeless** due to their learned helplessness. They are **angry** because they have been lied to, stolen from, and used. There is often **guilt** due to the voice in their head that plays the "if I had only ...." record over and over again. They have often become **divided** because the flip side of that record, "if YOU had only. . .," has become a wedge in their own relationships. They are **embarrassed** because of what others will think. They have often covered for the addicted person for months or years unknowingly enabling the addiction to continue. All these emotions make taking action difficult. I know, because I was sitting in their chair once, at a loss for where to turn. I only wish that I had known then what I know now.

Last year I was invited to *The Betty Ford Center* in California by Jeff and Debra Jay. Their training "Love First" was developed to train a small group of therapists from across the country in how to conduct an intervention. The name of their training says it all – *Love First*. As I sat through the week of 16 hour days of training, I couldn't help but revisit Matthew 18. We often refer to verses 15-20 of this chapter as the "discipline" chapter.  
(continued on reverse)

# 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.*

The Betty Ford training reminded me that verses 10-14 should always set the stage for an intervention. That when we look at an addict we should remember this paraphrase: "See that you do not despise these . . . your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these should perish."

For an intervention to work it must be done in **love**. Remember that it is the addiction that you hate – not the person suffering with the addiction. An intervention must also be done with **determination**. At a structured intervention each person lays out the consequences for what will happen if the addict doesn't get help. These consequences must be enforced if the intervention is to succeed. Remember that addiction is a disease. A disease that, more often than not,

needs a loving but firm hand. Hazelton, one of the most established treatment centers in the US, did a survey of their residents and found that 70% of them admitted that they would not have gone into treatment if it had not been for someone that cared about them enough to intervene and convince them to go into treatment. For the other 30% they may have decided on their own, or after having a friend talk to them, or a couple of people close to them that come to them with concerns. It is not until these individual efforts fail that a formal intervention should take place. (Sounds like Matthew 18 doesn't it?)

It may be that only one member of the family is addicted but addiction impacts the

entire family. If you think that sending the addicted member off for treatment is going to "fix the problem" you need to think again. Good programs also have a family component. If the addict goes off for treatment and comes back to the exact same environment, sobriety usually flies out the window. So if you are considering an intervention with a loved one, realize if you expect them to do the work necessary to become sober you need to be willing to do the work that will enable them to be successful in their recovery.

If you would like more information on interventions and what you can do to reach out to someone you love, you may contact me at [lisajmcwhirter@gmail.com](mailto:lisajmcwhirter@gmail.com).

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](mailto:lora@eaglerecoverycenter.org)**

**Address — 3701 East Reno**

**Oklahoma City, OK 73117**

**Facility Minister — Donna Stevens-Leonard**

**Phone — (405) 760-9086**

**Email — [donna@eaglerecoverycenter.org](mailto:donna@eaglerecoverycenter.org)**



## Boulevard Contact Information

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

**(405) 943-3578**

### Shepherds

**Jim McWhirter**

**Charles Custer**

### Assembly Times

**Sunday — 9:30 am**

**Wednesday — 7:00 pm**

### Evangelist:

**Jeff Gardner • [heal@blvdchurch.com](mailto:heal@blvdchurch.com) • (405) 550-7658**

### Associate Minister:

**Ivan Gonzalez • [ivan@blvdchurch.com](mailto:ivan@blvdchurch.com) • (405) 923-4964**

### Youth & University Outreach:

**Logan Glover • [logan@blvdchurch.com](mailto:logan@blvdchurch.com) • (405) 415-5949**

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