

@Boulevard



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



A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 4 — February 2013

Jots from Jeff



January was a full month of ministry and fellowship at the Boulevard church and Eagle Recovery Center. We want to express our sincere gratitude to those of you who continue to partner with us through

your prayers, financial gifts and visits. We couldn't do any of this without you.

You may recall in last month's newsletter seeing pictures of some of our Eagle ladies ministering to Brother Ken Bonner in the nursing home. Shortly after that, he had to be hospitalized, as his health continued to fail. On January 22, 2013, Brother Ken went home to be with Jesus. We were sad to see him leave, but so very happy he is now able to rest in the arms of Jesus. Ken didn't have any family in the area and his apartment needed to be cleaned out. So several of our folks volunteered to help including Lisa Green, Charlene Smith, Brett Rimmelsberger, Jerry Gardner, and Mark and Benita Hamblin. This was a selfless act of service to honor a man who had spent his life serving others. Thank you for your service!

Speaking of service, we were amazingly blessed on Sunday, January 20, 2013, when Todd Robeson from the Alameda church of Christ brought another group of about 25 up to worship with us. Bill Pink led our worship and it was simply outstanding. When we were done we had a better idea of what Heaven will be like. And our people especially liked Bill's rendition of *I'll Fly Away*.

We were also blessed when Jim and Nancy Hale and Bill and Beth Daniels from

the Del City church of Christ worshiped with us. Beth's voice was a beautiful boost to our singing. It may seem like a small thing, but when brothers and sisters from other congregations come to worship with us it is such an encouragement!

Several months ago we lost our worship leader, Kyle Parker, who moved to Lawton to work as a youth minister there. This has left a big void which a couple of us attempt to fill, but we miss the dynamic singing he helped us with. Perhaps your congregation has a surplus of worship leaders. If so, we would love to give them an opportunity to come lead us from time to time and help a missional church at the same time. Just give me a call at (405) 550-7658 and we'll get it scheduled.

Thank you so much for your partnership!

—Jeff Gardner, evangelist @Boulevard



In the Spotlight



Meet Lora Williams. Lora is the director of Eagle Recovery Center for Women and she has a passion for helping women recover from addiction and abuse.

Lora is the point of the spear for Eagle. She literally lives, breathes, eats and sleeps ministry at Eagle. Without her leadership and tireless service we would have a difficult time meeting the needs of our residents. From the break of dawn until long after dark, she is transporting and coordinating transportation for residents to and from work, to and from medical appointments, to and from social

services, to and from job interviews, to and from legal appointments, to and from the grocery store, to and from GED classes, and the list could go on. Her phone constantly rings with phone calls or text messages related to ministry. And somehow during all of this running around, she still finds the time to mentor the ladies at Eagle. She always has a ready ear to listen when they need to talk.

This hectic pace that Lora has to keep would probably kill an ordinary person. But Lora is no ordinary person. She is a quadriplegic confined to a power wheel chair. She drives a specially equipped van to accommodate her chair and her very limited hand mobility. She answers her phone usually via Blue Tooth technology because holding a phone to her ear is difficult. She has to rely on ramps and handicapped parking spaces to get in and out of buildings and to complete her many tasks throughout every day. She never takes a day off. She never calls in sick. She never complains. She always smiles. She's no ordinary person. She's extraordinary in so many ways!

But it hasn't always been so. You see, Lora is also a recovering addict. She hasn't always been a quadriplegic. It was her addiction that crippled her. She will tell you it was her crippling that saved her life. She grew up in a Christian home, went to church, summer camps and youth rallies like all the other church kids. But she had a wild streak that landed her in an out-of-control addiction to drugs and alcohol and risky behavior. She lost everything: her mobility, her health, her children, and even her hope. She was confined to a nursing home while still in her 30's unable to care for her basic needs that most of us take for granted. It was a predicament she created for herself, true. But God had bigger plans. (continued on back)

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.

(continued from front)

Even after the accident that crippled her, she continued in her addiction. She wanted to be left alone to die so the misery could end. But her parents and a lot of Christians from the **Del City church of Christ** refused to let that happen. And so they loved her, unconditionally, intentionally and completely. Even when she wasn't lovable. *Especially* when she wasn't lovable. And it was this love of **Christ** from other Christians that wouldn't quit which rescued her from addiction and self-destruction. She will tell you that her wheel chair was the best thing that ever happened to her. It was **God's** great attention-getter and she was forced to be still and know that He is **God**.

That was nearly five years ago. This April will mark the five-year anniversary of **Lora's** sobriety! And we are praising **God** for her because she allowed the love of **Christ** and **Holy Spirit** to transform a catastrophe into a testimony about the power of **God**. She doesn't want a physical miracle because a spiritual miracle has already taken place in her heart and her life. Of course she looks forward to a new body in Heaven. In the meantime, she serves others passionately out of gratitude for the service she herself has received.

Lora joined the *Eagle* family in January, 2010, and has not looked back. She is our greatest ambassador and most tireless volunteer. Yes, she is a *volunteer*. She receives

no income for her 24/7 dedication to *Eagle* and the ladies we serve. It is truly a labor of love. And on those days I don't feel like getting it done, she is my inspiration. If **Lora** can do it, then what's my excuse?

She offers her own story as a source of hope for our ladies struggling to overcome their addictions, also. "If I can do this, anyone can with the power of God." She is uniquely qualified to provide proper guidance and compassion to those who want a better life. If you or someone you know is ready to start a new chapter of sobriety and rebuild a better life from their ashes, put them in touch with **Lora** at (405) 737-5383.

—Jeff Gardner

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)
- **NEEDED:** additional sofa, love-seat or sectional for the living room

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

www.eaglerecoverycenter.org

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.