

@Boulevard



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



A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 19 — June 2014

Jots from Jeff



Where has June gone? As I write this, I have just said goodbye to an amazing group of young people and sponsors from the **Alameda church of Christ** in Norman. They came to

Eagle Recovery Center this morning and worked until this afternoon mowing, weed-eating, trimming trees, cleaning gutters, picking up debris and painting our hand rails. The *Eagle Campus* has received a beautiful facelift and we cannot say thank you enough. **Lee Langdon** organized the group and his leadership made the day. We have been blessed!

We have recently merged our English and Spanish worship assemblies into one. The language barrier was an obstacle which had to be overcome. So, **Mike Mazzalongo**, with the **Choctaw church of Christ**, told us about a technology which would allow us to provide simultaneous translating for those who needed Spanish, very much like you have seen if you ever watched a hearing at the United Nations. These things cost money, which is always in short supply for us, but we have stepped out on faith and purchased the equipment. Our members have stepped up in a big way to cover most of the cost, and the **Del City church of Christ** made a sizable donation which is a HUGE help.

We just about have all of the expense covered. If you would like to help, that would put us over the top. We used it this past Sunday and it was wonderful!

— Jeff Gardner, Boulevard evangelist



As a counselor I often have the opportunity to work with individuals who are struggling with an addiction and their families. Often, by the time I see them, the family is already in a crisis situation. They are desperate for help and don't know where to turn. Because of the stigma of addiction they have often struggled alone because they don't know where to turn for help or, may be ashamed to even ask for help.

I begin by telling them that they are not alone. The latest statistics from the National Institute of Health reveal that almost 9% of the population who are 12 years old or older are currently actively using at least one illicit drug. Studies also indicate that 51% of teenagers have used an illicit drug by the time they finish high school. If you don't think your child could be one of those 51% because they "don't run with those kind of kid's" check your medicine cabinet. Every teenager that I have worked with has admitted to me that

they have used the family medicine cabinet to get drugs at one time or another.

But to truly help someone with an addiction you must first understand what causes addiction. If you have thought that someone could "just quit if they had the will power" you would not be alone in your views. In fact, the "Just say NO" campaign a few decades ago left just that message. However, we now know that the causes of addiction are much more complicated than that.

Addiction is now recognized as a chronic disease and we realize that its predisposition begins before we are ever born much like diabetes or cardiovascular disease. These chronic diseases have their beginnings in what is now known as the Biopsychosocial Model. That is, a combination of biology (genetics), psychological factors (thoughts, emotion, and behaviors) and social factors (such as environment and peers). In Jeremiah 1:4-5a it reads "Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you . . .'" Who better to understand our genetic make-up than God the Creator of it all? He can look at our DNA and see that we will have blue eyes or brown eyes, fair skinned or dark skinned before we are ever born. We now recognize that same DNA carries the genetic predisposition for chronic diseases like addiction.

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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.

This is why some people can socially drink and then put the bottle down while others fall quickly into addiction. It's not just a matter of will power – it is also a matter of our genes, our thoughts, and our environment.

None of us had control of our genes, or the family to which we were born. Therefore, before we consider judging those who struggle with addiction we should consider the words of Paul in Romans 12:3 *“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment,*

in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.” As Christians we are called to look with compassion, to reach out to one another with a helping hand and to remember Christ's own words in Matt 25:40 *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*

A special prayer of thanks goes out to those who have reached out a helping hand to those at Eagle - may the Lord bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you, and give you peace.

lisajmcwhirter@gmail.com

Thank You Alameda



You Rock!

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

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

Facility Minister — Donna Stevens-Leonard

Phone — (405) 760-9086

Email — donna@eaglerecoverycenter.org



Boulevard Contact Information

1301 N. Drexel Boulevard • Oklahoma City, OK 73107

(405) 943-3578

Shepherds

**Jim McWhirter
Charles Custer**

Evangelist

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

Assembly Times

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

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