

@Boulevard



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



A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 17 — March 2014

Jots from Jeff



I think we have finally seen the last of Winter 2014 in Oklahoma! It hasn't really been that bad, it's just that it seems to get bad just in time for Sundays. I think I see the hand of Satan there. Thank God for Spring! Now if we can just get past tornado season...

We are pleased to report that on Sunday, March 9, **Sandra Erickson** confessed Jesus as Lord and was baptized into Christ. She is working hard to stay focused in her walk in sobriety with Christ as Lord. Please lift her in prayer for protection and focus.

One of the goals of *Eagle Recovery Center* and the *Boulevard church* is to help our residents on their journey of beginning life again. And when someone has been with us for a year and is ready to step out on her own, it is a time of celebration. So Sunday, March 16, we were pleased to celebrate **Julia Moreland's** graduation from the *Eagle* program. You may recall that **Julia** was baptized last month and we featured her in the "Spotlight" section of our November 2013 Newsletter. She is almost finished with Hair Stylist's School, has secured her own apartment, and has been added to the *Eagle Board of Senior Mentors*. We wish **Julia** the very best and look forward to her continued



involvement with *Boulevard* and *Eagle* as she starts this next phase of her recovery. Please keep her in your prayers for wisdom, focus and perseverance.

I wanted to express appreciation to two wonderful ladies who have been volunteering to provide transportation for our ladies. **Robi Casey** has been taking a shift on Mondays and **Brenda Hedgecock** has been making some late night pickups for us. In addition to providing transportation, these ladies have been wonderful mentors for our residents. Thank you so much for your love for Christ and for His children! Perhaps **you** would like to help in this ministry, also. Just call us on one of the phone numbers on the reverse side of this newsletter and we will get you plugged in.

One of the curses of this fallen world is health problems. Though there is nothing life-threatening, I am going to be having a revision surgery to the total knee replacement I had five years ago. Surgery is scheduled for March 26. I mention this to solicit your prayers for a successful surgery with full and complete healing. It is discouraging to be immobile for sure, and I will be out of circulation for at least three weeks. I especially feel sorry for **Nurse Susie!** Full recovery takes 6 - 12 months, but I should be mobile again by late April. A side effect of this is that we may not have an April Newsletter. So please don't forget us if you don't hear from us in April!

Thank you for your continued partnership in this ministry!

—Jeff Gardner, Boulevard Minister



In December, 2013, Donna Stevens-Leonard joined our staff as the Facility Minister at Eagle Recovery Center. We are putting her in the "Spotlight" this month so you can get a glimpse into her servant heart.

@Boulevard: Why did you choose to become our full-time Facility Minister?

Donna: In my mid-thirties I attempted to escape from a life spinning out of control. I was beginning to lose hope; I'd started to believe there was no way out! And then God began to move in a mighty way. Almost twenty years later I am still in awe of the things that transpired.

It is my desire that God, in some way, might use me to light the path or lighten the load for others who seek a new life. And the opportunity to work with *Eagle* is one of the ways God has chosen for me. I'm grateful I can share my story of being taken from a life of fear, darkness and hopelessness to a life of love, peace and joy!

@Boulevard: What has been your most challenging adjustment in this new ministry role?

Donna: Remaining still and trusting in God to do the work in His time and His ways. In this world of instant gratification, I have to constantly remind myself of this truth.

(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.

@Boulevard: What challenges do you generally see in the lives of *Eagle* residents?

Donna: There are many challenges for these ladies. Most do not have families who can help them as they start on their road to a new life. They have no money, no clothes and no cars. There are limited job opportunities for them to pay down debts they've accrued through court costs and fines. Daily life is a daily challenge.

@Boulevard: Has there ever been anyone close to you who struggled with addiction, and if so, what effect has it had on you personally?

Donna: I have been close to three people who've struggled with addiction. Through them I've seen the breath-taking beauty of a life transformed by Christ as well as the destructive lives of those who have refused to surrender to Christ. Those trying to do life on their own with their own set of rules only brought about grief and pain for all involved.

@ Boulevard: How important is involvement with the *Boulevard church* for *Eagle* residents?

Donna: These ladies need to know they are more than a church project. They need to know they are cared for as human beings of great worth to the Lord. They are starting over. They have left behind friends and family and they need new friends who will

support them, open doors for them and show them the joy of living a Christ centered life. *And that's what involvement with the Boulevard church can provide.*

@Boulevard: What would you like to say to our financial/service supporters and prayer partners?

Donna: We need you; your prayers, support, time and finances! These are girls God has created and He has plans for their beautiful lives (Ephesians 2:10). I encourage you to invest your lives in theirs, to be an example of God's love and grace. And if God has blessed you financially, I encourage you to ask How God would have you financially invest in these girls futures.

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.**