

@Boulevard



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



A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 18 — May 2014

Jots from Jeff



It's been two months since our last newsletter due to my absence during total knee replacement revision surgery. I survived it and am well on my way to recovery 2.0! Hopefully there won't ever be another. Your prayers during this time have been greatly appreciated.

I want to thank **Jim McWhirter**, **Logan Glover**, **Jacob Brumfield** and **Robi Casey** for stepping up in a big way to cover my responsibilities while I was down. And a special word of thanks is in order for my sweet wife, **Susie**, who has been by my side without fail.

In my absence on March 30, we had a record Sunday attendance of 197 thanks to some area youth ministers bringing their groups to worship as part of a weekend retreat. This was an enormous encouragement to our little group. So we want to thank the following youth ministers and their respective youth groups for literally making our day: **Joe Caruthers** (Luther), **Ryan Russell** (Northwest), **Patrick Alred** (Westwood), **Kevin Peters** (Oakdale), **Levi Peck** (Oakcrest), **Ian McCloud** (Lakehoma), **Nathan McBroom** (Lakeview), **Jerred England** (Del City) and **Lee Langdon** (Alameda).

Last month we were also blessed with the addition of two new sisters to the body of Jesus Christ: **Loretta Price** and **Tara Myers**. Please pray for these new disciples!

This week we are excited that **MobileSmiles Oklahoma** will be on our *Eagle* campus for three days of complimentary dental care for so many who cannot afford regular dental care. This is an amazing work which is provided to us completely free of charge. I urge you to learn about them and offer any support you can. Learn more at:

www.MobileSmilesOK.org

Spring has sprung and Summer is on the way, and we are always in need of helpers with grounds maintenance at the *Eagle* campus. If you are willing and able, please give me a call at (405) 550-7658 and I will show you how YOU can make an amazing difference in the lives of others.

— *Jeff Gardner, Boulevard evangelist*



The young woman sits in front of me, gently rocking, with tears streaming down her face. All her earthly belongings stuffed into the torn trash bag lying beside her on the floor and, in her hand she grasps the

folded and wrinkled parole papers. Her children are no longer hers, they have been physically taken from her arms; her relationship – if that is what it was - is over. She is sitting here not because she chooses to, but because she has nowhere else to go. “I just don’t understand myself. I want to do the right thing but I just keep messing my life up and end up doing the very things I hate the most. When I do these things that I don’t want to do I realize it is a good thing that the law is there to set me straight. It’s like it’s not the real me that’s doing these things – it’s this demon that is living in me that does these things. I know that there is nothing good left in me because I am always doing these things that I don’t want to do. So, if I am always doing the very things that I don’t want to do, it means that I am no longer the one who is living my life – it is this thing inside me.”

These paraphrased words reflect the emptiness and the desperate feelings of the loss of control from someone in the depths of an addiction. However, these words may seem familiar to you – they should, they are also a reflection of the words of Paul in Romans 7:15-20 as he speaks of his own battle with sin.

In the simplest words addiction is defined as “the continued repetition of a behavior despite adverse consequences.”

(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.

Individuals who are suffering with addictions are struggling each day, each hour, and every minute with their demon. If we are honest with ourselves, as Paul was, we each have a battle we fight each day – some are just easier to hide than others.

Addiction does not just impact the user, it has an impact on every person who comes into contact with them. From the tax payer that foots the bill for the legal and medical system – employers who deal with a lack of productivity – co-workers who pick up the slack – the innocent bystander who faces months of

physical rehabilitation due to a drug related wreck – friends who deal with the ups and downs – and family members, right down to the smallest child, who ride the roller-coaster of emotion and financial burden right along with the user – all are impacted by addiction. But how do we, as family members, as friends, or just as fellow Christians, help those who have become a casualty of addiction?

In the next few issues we will be discussing how to navigate the mine field of addiction; from looking at the causes of addiction, to enabling, to intervention, to recovery, to rebuilding relationships and

how you, as a caring person, can reach out and touch someone in need.

Please keep *Eagle Recovery* and the women of *Eagle* in your prayers. If you have a specific topic that you would like to be addressed in this series, you may contact me at lisajmcwhirter@gmail.com.

A goal is a dream with a plan and a deadline.

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.**