

@Boulevard



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



A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 33 — November 2015

Jots from Jeff



It was Abraham Lincoln who established the first official Thanksgiving Day nation-wide on November 26, 1863 with a proclamation which

included these words: "...a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens." The background was the Civil War, one of the bloodiest times in the history of our nation. It seems apropos to reflect on this beginning for a national day of Thanksgiving in light of the bloody events of the past few months. Many around us are filled with anxiety and uncertainty about the future. But as believers in Jesus Christ, let ours be the voice of thanksgiving to our beneficent Father in Heaven. For in spite of worldly unrest, our peace is other-worldly. In spite of uncertainty, let us rest in the certain expectation of a home in Heaven with Jesus Christ. Instead of being thankful one day a year, let us be a people known for thankful hearts every day.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever" (Psalm 136:1).

Speaking of Heaven, one of our good friends has gone on to be with Jesus. Brother **Hank Henderson**, a friend to our ministry, a former minister of the Del City church of Christ and a mentor to me was transferred to that heavenly Home Office

on November, 21, 2015, and reunited with his beloved wife, **Pat**. I am sad to see him depart, but I am thankful he has been freed from this life. My favorite **Hank** quote is: *"God gives us memories so we can enjoy flowers in December."* **Hank** left many great flowers for others to enjoy.

Our **Hands and Feet of Jesus Christ** ministry continues to bless not only those whom we serve, but all of us who are involved in



the serving. We are preparing 50-60 meals every Wednesday night, along with cold drinks and hot coffee, and delivering them to many of the homeless people in downtown Oklahoma City. We are only able to concentrate on one area right now. With the coming of cooler weather, we are finding many need blankets, coats, socks, hats, and anything to help keep them warm. We have been collecting surplus items from others and making them available. Perhaps you would like to help. We are accepting new or clean used items, anything you would be willing to wear yourself. The gratitude we are witnessing from those we meet is overwhelming.

You don't have to be wealthy to join our mission. Let me introduce you to **Bill**. **Bill** is a homeless man looking very much the part. He came walking up one Wednesday evening and wanted to speak to someone in charge. He was directed to

me and he began the conversation with, "I'm not hungry, I'm not thirsty and I'm not cold. But there are plenty of people who are. I want to thank you for what you are trying to do out here and I would like to help." **Bill** opened his tattered wallet and pulled out a five dollar bill, which appeared to be half of all of his money. He handed it to me and said, "This food costs money. Those blankets cost money. Gasoline to run that van costs money. I want to give you this to help with your expenses. I'm not hungry, thirsty or cold, but I want to help you help those who are." We visited a few more minutes, then he quietly walked away in the direction of an undisclosed location where he had a tent pitched he called home. I don't know about you, but I have never given half of my money to help anyone. That night, **Bill** struck a chord with all of us. His generosity brought tears to our eyes. His spirit challenged us to not grow weary and to renew our commitment to helping others in the name of Jesus Christ. I hope you are equally blessed.

The residents at *Eagle Recovery Center* have been equally involved in this ministry, and it has been a blessing to watch the way that they interact with, love on and embrace the ones we serve. Some have taken a leading role in raising awareness and rounding up cold weather gear to share with those in need.

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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.

It has been a wonderful blessing to have University students from Oklahoma Christian, Rose State and Oklahoma University join us on Wednesday nights. There have been from 25-30 students on any given evening. They are key in preparing food, setting up the generator for lights, and setting up distribution tables in a vacant lot where we gather downtown. They are masters of going out and seeking the homeless and inviting them to come over to where we have set up in order to

receive a meal and something to drink. I was especially touched by one young woman who patiently entreated a homeless woman, who called herself **Cheyenne**, to take something to eat. The woman was distraught from life in general and wasn't really hungry. But the kindness of this young woman won her over to smiles and hugs before the night was over.

All that a man named **Jones** wanted was a Bible. The food was appreciated, but his real hunger was for a Bible. The

next Wednesday, one of our brothers brought a Bible for **Jones**, brand new, still in the wrapper. **Jones** was elated and we were all, once again, blessed.

During this season of Thanksgiving, we are especially thankful for you and your partnership. We need your continued prayers. We need your donations which we will pass on to those in need. We would love for you to join us from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm on any Wednesday night. Until then, God bless!

—Jeff Gardner, evangelist

Donate online at <http://www.gofundme.com/eaglerecovery>

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

www.eaglerecoverycenter.org

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 Donna at one the numbers listed below to volunteer.

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 Myers

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

Assembly Times

Sunday — 9:30 am
Wednesday — 7:00 pm

Evangelist:

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

Associate Minister:

Ivan Gonzalez • ivan@blvdchurch.com • (405) 923-4964

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