

# @Boulevard



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



A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 23 — October 2014

## Jots from Jeff



It has been an eventful month at *Boulevard* and *Eagle* since our last Newsletter. Our greatest news is that we all have two new sisters in Christ. On October 1, a young lady from our neighborhood, whose name is **Kylie**, had

been attending for a few weeks and she decided she wanted to make Jesus her Lord and was baptized into Jesus Christ. Then on October 12, another young lady, **Ashley**, who is the granddaughter of one of our Eagle Senior Mentors (**Lisa Green**), made the same decision and was also baptized into Christ. We are super excited for them and they are both sincere young ladies who need your prayers as they begin their walk with Jesus.



On September 27, 2014, a large group of airmen from the *Airman Leadership School* at *Tinker Air Force Base* swarmed our *Eagle* campus and performed some much needed grounds maintenance. As you know, there is never enough manpower to take care of the 13-acre campus we are blessed to call *Eagle Recovery Center*. Under the leadership of **SrA Keaton Jones**, these airmen cut grass, trimmed weeds, cut dead trees and hauled debris, leaving the campus in amazing shape. We cannot even begin to express our gratitude for their service, and to their commandant, **MSgt Stuart Saunders**. Please lift up this group in praise to God for their service.



You may remember reading in previous newsletters about our partnership with **MobileSmiles Oklahoma**, a non-profit group whose mission is to provide dental health care to many in Oklahoma who would not otherwise be able to afford such. They have been on campus two other times and on September 22-25, 2014, they made their third and largest visit, providing dental care for at least 50 patients! We have been so blessed by their caring and comprehensive presence on our campus. Please say a prayer of blessing for them and the amazing service they are providing the disadvantaged in Oklahoma.



For several Sundays in August and September, **Logan Glover** and the **University students** took the lead in hosting a picnic in the park across the street from our church building as a means to foster fellowship and meet the neighborhood. Several good conversations and prayer moments were enjoyed between those who participated and residents of our neighborhood. It was a blessing to witness this community outreach. Please pray that seeds planted will bear much fruit for God.



October 24 marks the fourth anniversary of the *Boulevard church*. We were started as the dream of a few as a place where anyone from any background could come to worship, serve and heal. Your support through prayer, service and finances has helped fan the flame of the dream into reality. Thank you for your continued support!

— Jeff Gardner, evangelist



## An Eagle History Lesson

*It may be that there are those reading this newsletter who don't really know where Eagle came from or what our mission is. Following is an Eagle History Synopsis.*

*Eagle* first began as *Eagle Christian Ministries* as the vision of **Jim and Lisa McWhirter** to serve as a healing place for men struggling with addiction. The vision came from the pain of addiction and recovery in their own family experience.

They found and purchased the current *Eagle* campus at great personal financial risk after much prayer and strong faith. They, along with their son, **Scott**, provided a program of intense, Christ-focused addiction recovery and healing for men who were full-time residents learning accountability, responsibility, turning bad habits into good and learning to fall in love with Jesus. Over fifty men went through this program between 2008 and 2011, and dozens gave their lives to Jesus, being baptized in His name. The men's program was phased out in the summer of 2011 when the focus shifted primarily to women.

The *Eagle Women's Sober-Living* program began in early 2010 after **Lisa** had attended a seminar where she learned the plight of a certain population segment of women in the state of Oklahoma. She learned that Oklahoma had the highest rate of incarceration of women for non-violent offenses in the nation and that many were caught in a vicious cycle which kept sending them back to prison with little hope of breaking that cycle. Upon release and after accruing steep fines while incarcerated, women were expected to be productive citizens and repay their fines with absolutely

*(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.*

no support system. They were handed fifty dollars and dropped off on a street corner and basically wished "good luck".

This convicted **Lisa** into action and the current women's program was born. Again, at great personal risk and sacrifice, they renovated a townhouse apartment building into a group home suitable for comfortably housing at least ten women. **Lora Williams**, herself recovering from addiction with a passion to help others who has never received compensation, was recruited as a resident volunteer to direct this program.

When the men's program was phased out, the women's program was moved to the 13-acre campus on East Reno. There have been times when the current location and the

renovated townhouse were both used. Currently, the townhouse is only used for overflow.

The women's program is designed to provide an opportunity for women who have struggled with drug and/or alcohol addiction to rebuild their lives and relationships in a safe, structured environment where accountability is top priority and where Jesus is King. We provide transportation to and from work, court and parole/probation appointments, grocery stores, recovery meetings, medical appointments and church. Residents are required to work, remain drug/alcohol-free, attend regular recovery meetings, Bible studies and church worship. Counseling is provided for those who need it at no charge.

The women pay a weekly program fee which covers about 20% of operational costs. Since inception, we have served more than 130 women, dozens of which have recommitted their lives to Jesus or given them to Him for the very first time.

Recently, we added a facility minister on staff, **Donna Stevens-Leonard**, who has added stability and nurturing to the Eagle experience.

This work is not glamorous and it often gets messy. We always operate under a financial deficit, but the commitment of the **McWhirters** allows us to continue, for now. We have a few financial supporters, but for us to continue this work on the front lines of addiction, we need more. We need you.

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 Donna at one the numbers listed below to volunteer.*

[www.eaglerecoverycenter.org](http://www.eaglerecoverycenter.org)

[www.boulevardchurch.org](http://www.boulevardchurch.org)

## Eagle Contact Information



**Director — Lora Williams**

**Phone — (405) 737-5383**

**Email — [lora@eaglerecoverycenter.org](mailto:lora@eaglerecoverycenter.org)**

**Address — 3701 East Reno**

**Oklahoma City, OK 73117**

**Facility Minister — Donna Stevens-Leonard**

**Phone — (405) 760-9086**

**Email — [donna@eaglerecoverycenter.org](mailto: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.org](mailto:heal@blvdchurch.org) • (405) 550-7658**

### Associate Minister:

**Ivan Gonzalez • [ivan@blvdchurch.org](mailto:ivan@blvdchurch.org) • (405) 923-4964**

### Youth & University Outreach:

**Logan Glover • [logan@blvdchurch.org](mailto:logan@blvdchurch.org) • (405) 415-5949**

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