

@Boulevard



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



A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 22 — September 2014

Jots from Jeff



"It's not about perfection; it's about progress." I don't know who coined that phrase, but it is spot on when it comes to recovery from drugs or alcohol or any destructive habit that leads us away from Jesus Christ. I love 2

Corinthians 3:18, *"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another."* It is time we all removed our "veils" or our "masks" and acknowledged our utter dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ, and focused all of our attention upon Him. Then, one degree at a time, we will continue to be changed into His likeness. And as long as I am making progress, I have hope that one day I will be like Him. John put it this way, *"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is"* (1 John 3:2). That is our goal at Boulevard and that is our goal at Eagle Recovery Center. Inch by inch, it's a cinch; yard by yard, it's too hard. And progress we are seeing.

I neglected to mention that on July 13, 2014, **Mickey** and **Laura Foree** made the decision to fully put on Christ in baptism. What a joy to see husband and wife united also in Christ! They are an inspiring addition to the Boulevard family. **Mickey** is also struggling with brain cancer. He recently underwent his third brain surgery. We believe it was very successful. And after about a month in rehab, we are happy to report that he is home and healing well. Please pray for this wonderful family and complete healing for **Mickey**.

School is back in session and with that our *University Outreach Ministry* led by **Logan Glover** is an amazing blessing. We now have ready, willing and able helpers when it comes to worship leading, prayer leading, communion talks, Wednesday night teaching, Children, Junior High and High School teachers and a renewed energy at the Boulevard church.

We are seeing progress in the lives of our Eagle residents as well. It is such a blessing to witness precious ladies putting the pieces of their lives back together, finding employment, going to college, reuniting with their children, restoring family relationships, and growing in faith in Jesus Christ. Inch by inch it's a cinch; one degree of glory to another. In addition to thanking Father God, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit, we have you, our partners in finance, service and prayer, to thank. Thank you for your continued partnership.

— Jeff Gardner, evangelist

In the Spotlight

*In issue number 7 of our newsletter from May 2013, we did a spotlight feature on **Lisa Green**. She had just finished 7 months of sobriety. You can review that on our website. In September, 2013, **Lisa** graduated from our program at Eagle Recovery Center and has since maintained her freedom from Meth Addiction and is very active still with the Boulevard church. She wanted to share another message with you from her heart.*



My name is **Lisa Green** and today I am a child of God. On March 17, 2013 I was baptized into Jesus Christ at the

Boulevard church. On September 25, 2014, it will have been 2 years since I decided to turn my life around. Numerous things needed to change: attitude, lifestyle, and most of all, faith. When I walked through the doors of Boulevard, I was lost in despair and addiction. Each day I grow to be a better disciple through which I can better serve others as Jesus did. *"For I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me"* (Philippians 4:13).

There are a few people I want to recognize in my journey which has changed me. Firstly, my **Heavenly Father**, I love you. I am YOUR child. I want to thank my counselor and friend, **Lisa McWhirter**. For the tools you have given me to be a better person of whom I need not be ashamed, I will be forever grateful. **Jim** and **Lisa McWhirter**, you two are truly God's disciples, a couple with more love for one another than I have ever known. **Jeff Gardner**, we have come a long way since I walked into Eagle/Boulevard. Thank you for all the spiritual guidance that you have given me. **Jeff** and **Susie Gardner**, you all as a couple have restored in me that love does exist. Thank you. **Jeanne McWhirter**, you are the mother of all mothers. What a blessing you are! **Maxine Cole**, you are the first woman who took me in her arms and welcomed me at Boulevard. Thank you, **Maxine**, for being God's disciple. **Pat** and **Robi Casey**, you are the sweetest couple I have met at Boulevard. **Mark Foree**, you have always given me a smile and greeting when I walked through the door. Thank you. **Margarita** and all of our **Spanish-speaking family**, I love you and all of our blended church family. Thank you for everything! **Billy Maddox**, thank you, thank you, thank you. You already know how much you are loved. **Scott Kearnes**, you are one of my greatest friends with which I have been blessed since coming to Boulevard.

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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.

Sister **Benita** and **Mark Hamblin**, you rock like no other. You have always accepted me with all of my quirks. Thank you. **Logan**, other than our Savior, you are the greatest thing our youth have. Sister **Willie**, thank you for all of our sweetest conversations. I love you. Sister **Dana**, you have been a great inspiration of a woman that I would like to become. Thank you. Ms. **Judy**, your smiles have made my days better. **Lori**, you have been with me in my lowest valleys and highest peaks. Through it all you have loved me. I cherish that. "Ms. D," I love you and respect you. Thank you. To the **rest of Boulevard**, thank you all for allowing me to be a part of you and for accepting me as I am, watching me grow as a Christian who is becoming a better disciple for the Lord,

striving to be of service, basking in the grace of Jesus Christ knowing I am now worthy because He has adopted me as one of His children.

I am now 29 months in recovery. *Eagle* and *Boulevard* have changed my life, allowing me to become a sober and a faithful Christian, enabling me to love who I am today. Satan is still lurking in my life. Addiction is still robbing the lives of my loved ones. It is a constant turmoil, and without the congregation at *Boulevard* and my Heavenly Father, a person could easily be swallowed back into addiction. Taking it one day at a time, keeping faith, and never losing hope is what maintains my focus. With this in my life, **God** will grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the

courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

Editor's Note: As of this writing, Lisa is in the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Tahleah, Oklahoma. She suffers from acute COPD and has contracted pneumonia. We are asking for your prayers for God's healing. Every day is a struggle for Lisa to breathe and continue to function. Yet most days, even when she can barely breathe, she is riding around in her broken down car with bald tires and no a/c going from place to place mowing yards and cleaning houses. She also cleans the Boulevard church building with great enthusiasm. If you would like to send a card or maybe a donation for some tires, you can send them to Lisa Green, c/o Boulevard church of Christ, 1301 N. Drexel Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73107.

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

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

Assembly Times
Sunday — 9:30 am
Wednesday — 7:00 pm

Evangelist:
 Jeff Gardner • heal@blvdchurch.org • (405) 550-7658
Associate Minister:
 Ivan Gonzalez • ivan@blvdchurch.org • (405) 923-4964
Youth & University Outreach:
 Logan Glover • logan@blvdchurch.org • (405) 415-5949

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