

## Call to Houston Texas

Luke Barnett, pastor Barnett's oldest son had returned to Phoenix after being a pastor in a church in Whittier California. He was preaching at Phoenix 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly on a regular basis. One Sunday evening he preached on prayer. This was probably the 100th time I had heard a sermon or read a book on prayer. This one was different. Luke emphasized the need to set aside a specific time each week for prayer. He said it needs to be a time like your bowling



**Praying up in the mountains overlooking Phoenix Arizona. It was up here that I got the call to go to Houston.**

nite church night or other activity. WOW!. Jane and I said OK we'll do it every Tuesday morning. We had been doing a Jewish fast on Tuesday for many years and still do. Occasionally we would walk around the back 2 acres of our property on Tuesdays and pray. We decided to make Tuesday our prayer day too. We lived at the base of South Mountain so we would drive up the trail up to South Mountain and pull off at the first look out place. We had been putting little paper slips in Jane's Bible that contained prayer requests that we had accumulated the rest of the week..

Jane, our granddaughter Sam, (5 years old) and I started out about 5:am. when the park opened. We also went up to the mountain for special times like Good Friday where we had communion with our entire family. This continued on for a couple of years. In March of 2007 while praying on Tuesday I felt God telling me to move to Houston Texas..What, why? We have never been to Houston except to a convention in 1992 and as a plane change over on the way to see our daughter who lives in Woodville Texas 120 miles north of Houston.

I broke the news gently to Jane and asked her to pray. We lived on the farm with our son Abe, his wife Maggie and Sam. Abe and I had started an internet home business of rebuilding and selling carburetors. This would involve relocating the business too. We did no local business so this would be easy. After a week of prayer and discussion we all agreed to lets got for it. We agreed on 3 conditions that had to be met before we would know it was God's will. #1. We had to find a church to go to. #2. We had to find a race track to continue our chaplains ministry. #3. We need to find a house to rent or buy. Jane had been watching Joel Osteen on T.V. And said I would like to go to Lakewood Church. I didn't know anything about Osteen or Lakewood. I sent Joel an email and asked him if we could come there and use the church as our umbrella as an outreach for the chaplain's ministry. While waiting for an answer I contacted Bay town race track.. They had a full time chaplain and they were wanting to hire another one. I told them I did not want a paying job but I would come and volunteer. Two weeks later I got an email from the outreach ministry at Lakewood and they said come on and join us. On the internet we found a house for lease in La Porte with the

option to buy. We sent them a \$5000 deposit and bought 2 one way plane tickets to Houston. We gave our landlord a 2 months notice and canceled our lease. We gave away everything in our house except our clothes and personal belongings. We loaded up our race car and moving van that we owned with our shop tools and inventory. Our son Abe drove it and had one of the hounds with him. Our son Wesley came to Phoenix from Safford and drove our Chevy Astro Van with our clothes and computers in it. His wife Tabby drove Abe's car with Maggie. Wesley had Sam and 2 of the hounds with him.

## Wild West Soul winning In La Porte Texas

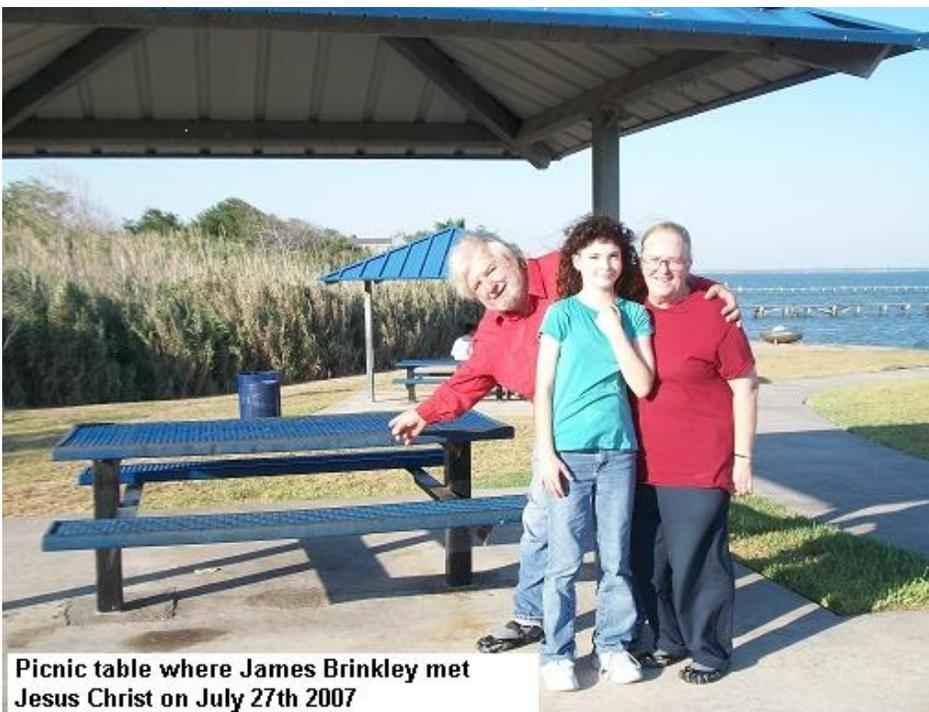
Our life style was in for some major changes. We got to La Porte on Tuesday July 17th 2007. Our daughter Susie who lives in Woodville Texas picked us up at the airport and took us to our new home. As our custom was we went to church on Wednesday evening. We chose Lakewood church in Houston. The 7000 people in attendance were meeting in the new church building which was a former basketball stadium called the Compaq Center. On Wednesdays Pastor Joel Osteen greets the congregation and has a guest speaker usually one of the Osteen family members or Lakewood church members. Lakewood is the largest and fastest growing church in the U.S. with an average weekly attendance of 44, 000. A feature of every service is the time for prayer. They have hundreds of prayer leaders that line up all over the church and parishioners line up for individual prayer. Jane and I went up for prayer because the rest of the family was having trouble making the trip. It was 1170 when they left Phoenix and the moving van was overheating and this was slowing travel. The border patrol had stopped them and the unbalanced load was making the race car trailer swerve back and forth. Our prayer was answered and they came rolling in Friday afternoon after a 4 day trip. This was the only time that we had gone to the prayer line and we were very satisfied with the results.

## First Texas soul won

I had mentioned before we had been praying up in the mountains in Phoenix so we had to find a new place to pray here. We had decided before we left Phoenix to find a quiet place by the ocean and the house we rented was about a block from the beach. We started looking around for a place to pray. In our search we came across a park on the beach called Sea breeze park. It has a pier, pavilion and picnic tables with cooking facilities. As I was walking along the side walk I passed a man

sitting on top of a picnic table. He called out "hey do you want a cigar as he held out a long fat expensive looking cigar out

of a box of 8." He described it as some imported special cigar. "No thanks I don't smoke I answered. He continued "I have about 8 left and I will not need them any more. "You see I am going to die in 2



**Picnic table where James Brinkley met Jesus Christ on July 27th 2007**

months.” He had 3 metal tags hanging around his neck and wrist. He explained that he was a retired military man that had come to Baytown a town 10 miles away to settle an estate that his mom had left to him. He told me the names of the many diseases he had and all the failed treatments he had tried. “There is no hope for me now he said.” He also told me that his wife had been killed in a car wreck . As I listened to him I began to think about his soul 1<sup>st</sup> and then his physical condition. How cruel it would be to not tell him about my Jesus that could heal his body and save his soul. I put my hand on his shoulder and said “I know of a cure for all your sickness”. I almost ducked as I waited for his response. “Oh yea” he answered “have you read something in the latest medical journal or heard about a new miracle cure for my sickness?” Again I shriveled up and said “I believe that God can heal you in the name of Jesus Christ.” WOW he got receptive. Here is how the conversation continued. Do you believe there is a God that can heal you? I asked. He said “I don't know any thing about God I have only been to a Catholic church one time with my grandmother.” Well I continued, “God can and is willing to heal every disease if we believe and ask him.” “Those diseases you have are no big challenge for God.” I said. He said how can I get this healing? This is how it went. Me: We need to pray to God and believe he can heal you. J: OK you pray. Me: Dear Jesus we come to you now asking for healing for, what is your name? J: James. Me: Jesus we come to you asking for you to heal James. Suddenly I got a strong voice in my mind and stopped praying and looked in James eyes. Me ”Hey James wait a minute. Jesus just told me that he wants to be your shepherd and you be his sheep. J: What? Me: Jesus is the chief shepherd and those that believe in him his are his sheep. We can ask him to let you be one of his sheep. What do you think James. J: Yes I want to be his sheep. Well you will have to ask him I told him. J: How? Me: Just say in your own words I want to be your sheep, I want to follow you and you be my shepherd.. J: OK God I want to be your sheep and you be my shepherd. I believe in you. Me: Tell him you want him to send his Holy Spirit to come and live inside you. J: OK Jesus come and live in me be my shepherd. Me: Now ask him to take care of you and heal your body. J: Jesus now I ask you to take care of me and heal my body. In Jesus name. We prayed a little more and I said Amen. He then turned to me and said “ is it OK to do this?” He made the sign of the cross on his body . I saw them do it in church when I went with my grandmother he added. “Sure” I said God understands. I got his full name and phone number and told him I would pick him up for church if he wanted to go with us to Lakewood. I looked at the name he had written on the back of an old business card I had. It was James Brinkley : Yes he was a member of the famous family of news anchor David Brinkley. That was July 27<sup>th</sup> 2007 I know I wrote it down in our praise report paper..

James never called and I often thought of him and prayed for him. About nine months later we went down to Sea Breeze park to do some fishing. As I pulled into the parking lot I saw a van parked with the back tail gate up and a man sitting on the floor with his legs hanging out on the ground. I saw a stack of books piled up on the side of the van floor. I immediately recognized James sitting there. I jumped out ran over and hugged him. He looked real good. Hey what are you doing? He said I have some excess books from my church library that I am giving away. WOW!. Yea he said right after we prayed I went to Baytown Baptist church that Wednesday. I joined the choir and never miss a service. I feel fine. I am not sick any more. Also I am going to the Brinkley family reunion in Austin Texas and tell them all about Jesus my shepherd. Some months later I saw in the news that the Brinkleys did have a reunion in 2008 a year later. I still see a person named James Brinkley listed in Bay town Texas living with a 90 year old person possibly his dad. This could be James. This is 4 years later..

## Prayer list expanded

As you may have noticed I repeatedly refer to we. The we is my faithful wife Jane, myself and most of the time our 11 year old granddaughter Samantha who we call Sam is with us. Jane and I have never spent one night apart in all of our marriage heading for 40 years. Even when I was on the staff at Phoenix 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly of God Church. they tried to send me all over the U.S. to buy buses. The first time they sent me I told them to buy 2 plane tickets they said oh no when church staff members have to go out of town on church business the officials go alone. I said not me I will pay for my wife expenses but I will not go alone. They agreed, and from that day forward they sent us both which was very often. I tell people that I did not get married to be alone.

We settled on Sylvan beach for our prayer place. We would sit on a blanket or sleeping bag when it got cold and pray.. We continued our morning prayer and it grew until the Tuesday list got to be 4 hours long . We decided to add a day to the schedule and cut the list in half and added Friday mornings. Sam is home schooled and she has been going with us every morning to pray for 4 years now. Sam stated bringing her little kiddy Bible with her and as part of her reading class she would read us a Bible story every morning. This was now taking 3 hours on Tuesdays and Fridays and the list was growing. We then divided the prayer list into 7 equal parts and we go every day. We used to go to the beach at 3:00 am every day. The Texas weather finally got so bad so often that we started backing our van up to the beach and sitting on the floor with the back tailgate open. About the 2<sup>nd</sup> week we began to see the La Porte police patrolling the beach and slowing down until they could see that people were there in the parked vehicle with the back door open. They could not resist, one morning I was praying with my eyes closed and I saw a bright light flashing in my face. Hey what are you doing they shouted as the big shaved h