



SECOND RUNNER-UP - Christina (Crissy) Marie Bolin was second runner-up in the 1985 Miss Summer Fantasy Pageant and will compete in the National Fantasy Pageant August 30-September 1 at the Holiday Inn in Greenville, S.C. Crissy is the daughter of Danny and Melany Bolin and the granddaughter of Bill and Mary Clark and J.V. and Rene Bolin, all of Kings Mountain.

### First Freewill Baptist Sets Gospel Singing

There will be a gospel singing Saturday at 7 p.m. at First Freewill Baptist Church in Cherryville. The church is located on Lake View Drive off Mary's Grove Church Road. Featured groups will be the

Redeemed Singers of Boone and the Crystal Hearts of Bakersville.

Rev. Grayson Brown, pastor, and Danny Wright, music director, invite the public.

## What Does Born Again Mean?

By: Rev. Gene Land  
Second Baptist Church

There is that danger of the sublime becoming common or misunderstood due to familiarity. "Ye must be born again" is a sentence that Jesus spoke to the honorable, honest, seeking Dr. Nicodemus about the need of a personal commitment to God.

But what does it mean to be born again? What does it mean to be born in the Spirit or born from above? Jesus was, and is, the world's foremost teacher and He invariably used illustrations to enforce and make clear His great doctrines of truth. The doctrine of the new birth is no different. It is in the parable of the two sons as recorded in Luke fifteen, that Jesus gives us a word picture on "How to be born again."

Jesus introduces the story by picturing a scene in a home which has two sons. The younger son is unhappy living under his father's rule and authority, so he requests his freedom, his inheritance. The father, maybe with reluctance, grants the younger son's request. Here is a picture of the free choice that God, the creator and Father grants to all His people. He let's us choose our own way, our own journey and, as with the son, self-will and self-determination always ends in tragedy.

It was only when he had spent all that the young son realized his need. This is a key in the experience of the new birth, we must come to the realization of our need before we will seek the fellowship of the Father.



REV. GENE LAND

A doctor can't help us until we see the need of consulting the doctor. Medication won't help us until we see our need of it and use it. God can't become real to us unless we see the need of seeking Him. Some people, like the younger son, have to make a total wreck of their lives before they will come to themselves. Others awake to their need of God at an earlier stage of experience and the probable reason is the Christian influence and lack of influence. The more a person is exposed to the Gospel, the more likely he is to come to a sense of need.

The next step on the road to regeneration is to realize the cause of separation, which is sin. He proposed that he would confess to the Father that he was a sinner. Too many people, when confronted with their sinfulness, try to excuse it, cover it up or condone it. But, sin is the worm in the apple of man's garden of Eden. Sin has ruin-

ed our lives, our hopes and our ambitions, it has ruined our relationship with God, with our fellowman and with our own conscience. The story of every man is the hog-pen of sin that he finds himself in due to his own willful acts and actions.

But, the younger son knew where to find release from his need, he said, "in my father's house is bread enough to spare." Only when we come to God through Jesus Christ, His Son can we escape the pit of sin. We must come to the realization that Jesus is the only one who can help us if we are to be born again. He is the only one who has the resources, the ability and the power. But is salvation completed when we realize our need, confess our sinfulness and acknowledge that Jesus is our only hope? No!!! If that were true, all who ever heard the Gospel preached and believed it was truth would be born again Christians and we readily own that, this is not the case. The younger son said, "I need something, I am a sinner, I know that my father can help me," but he was still in the hog-pen, still a sinner, still lost, still dead to his father.

It was only when "He arose and went to the Father" that the new birth was experienced!! The turning point of the new birth is this hinge of action, making a decision, going to God and trusting His son's provision. Saving faith is actively trusting Jesus to forgive you of sin and cleanse you from unrighteousness and impart to you the righteousness of Christ. The younger son didn't slip home under cover of darkness,

crawl in a window unnoticed and sneak down to the breakfast table before daylight and pretend nothing ever happened. He came openly, before the eyes of friends and family, confessing his sin and failure, rushing down that road as fast as he could, falling down before the Father in conviction, weeping for his sin and trusting the Father's forgiveness. When I married, I did it openly before witnesses. When the preacher asked, "Do you take this woman to be your wedded wife?" I didn't say, "Marriage is such a private and intimate relationship that I would rather not say in front of these people." If there had been no open profession, confession, no open dedication, there would have been no marriage. Just so, if there is no open act of confession and reception, there is no new birth. "To as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." "If thou wilt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in thy heart that God has raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

The younger son came openly to the Father and the Father openly received him and confessed that he was born again, "This my son was dead, and is alive again." How can you be born again? First, realize your need, secondly realize that your sin has separated you from God. Then, know that God can and will save you and finally, come to Jesus in open confession of sin and trust Jesus to receive you into the family of God.



JIM TESTA

# 95% CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

THE HIGHEST OF ANY DEALERSHIP IN THE AREA

Based On Chevrolet's Survey For The Past Six Months, Jim Testa Chevrolet, Kings Mountain, N.C. Has Been Rated The Highest Of Any Chevrolet Dealer In The Area. In Customer Satisfaction. It Makes Good Sense To Buy From The Dealer Who Sells For Less And Also Gives Satisfaction . . . THINK ABOUT IT!!!!

## JIM TESTA

- CHEVROLET
- RENAULT
- AMC
- JEEP

# 8.8%

APR Financing Available On Many Trucks

I-85 AT HIGHWAY 161  
KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C.  
PHONE 739-5471

## WE SELL FOR LESS!

Guarantee

"I Guarantee That I Will Beat Anyone's Deal On A Comparable New Or Used Car Or Truck.

Free!

If Not You Will Receive Absolutely FREE A Quartz Watch."



## NOBODY BUT NOBODY

—WILL SELL YOU A VEHICLE FOR LESS—

DRIVE A NEW 1985 RENAULT FREE! 10,000 MILES FREE

AMC will pay for gas\* and scheduled maintenance—all you do is make your regular car payment if any.

\*AMC will pay cash from \$338 to \$595 depending on model. This may be used as a down payment.

## JIM TESTA

8.8% CHEVROLET - RENAULT - AMC - JEEP 8.8% APR

APR I-85 AT HWY. 161-KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. 739-5471 APR