

A Reunion After 23 Years

According to the *Associated Press*, in 1987 a 19-day-old girl, Carlina White, disappeared from Harlem Hospital.

The infant was kidnapped in the middle of the night while her parents were home resting. As Carlina grew up in the abusive home of her kidnapper, she became increasingly suspicious.

She didn't look like anyone she lived with, and her "mother" could never produce her birth certificate.

Periodically, White would check the website of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, looking for photos of herself. On Jan. 4, 2011, White – who was living as Nejdra Nance – checked the website again and found a baby picture among New York's missing children that looked exactly like her own baby pictures.

She contacted the center, which got in touch with the birth mother. The two talked and exchanged pictures. A DNA test confirmed it all. After 23 years, Nejdra Nance learned that she was really Carlina White.

After her reconciliation with her birth mother, White told the *New York Post*, "I'm so happy. At the same time, it's a funny feeling, because everything's brand-new. It's like being born again."

There is a spiritual corollary to this story.



At the moment of salvation – when we place our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior – we are restored to our Heavenly Father to whom we rightfully belong.

Freed from captivity of our sins by the sacrifice of Jesus, we return home brand-new, born again and reunited with our true family, the family of God. And the conversion brings true happiness.

God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure (Ephesians 1:5 NLT).

– Beecher Hunter