



Rebekah Smith of Dania raises her arms in prayer while at a revival meeting conducted by the Rev. Leroy Jenkins, a faith healer.

Amen!

Faith healer draws believers, skeptics

By Steven Girardi
Staff Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE — Shan Harrilal, a one time skeptic who wallowed in depression, walked out of the big top a changed woman. "He shook me! He really shook me! He shook me!" cried Harrilal, a 41-year old native of Trinidad, moments after picking herself up from the dirt floor Monday night.

The Rev. Leroy Jenkins, the flamboyant evangelist, faith healer and convicted felon, is in town.

Jenkins will stay until Saturday, holding nightly Christian revival meetings like the one Monday night under the big top at Sunrise Boulevard and Northwest 28th Avenue.

For more than three hours, Jenkins led about 250 revelers in an emotion-charged rally of faith.

Dressed in a black suit with a white ruffled shirt and a rhinestone studded ascot, he spoke of his God-given gifts of healing and knowledge.

To doubters, he issued a challenge, daring anyone to prove him a liar, "because I'll show that you're a *darned* liar!" he shouted.

There were no takers. He worked the crowd, telling them their most intimate maladies and problems, and of divine "visions" that revealed personal secrets to him.

Harrilal was among a handful of revelers who claimed to have been healed by the former television evangelist. Suffering from depression and arthritis in her back, she fell to the ground when Jenkins touched his hand to



Staff photos by KEITH HADLEY

Jenkins clasps the arm of Shan Harrilal, Fort Lauderdale.

her forehead and prayed for her to be well.

Jenkins, 47, recently returned to the evangelist circuit after spending five years and eight months in the Kirkland Correctional Institute in South Carolina. He served less than half of his 12-year sentence.

He was convicted in 1979 of threatening to burn the houses of a businessman who allegedly owed him money and a highway patrol officer who arrested one of his three daughters on minor traffic violations.

Jenkins was paroled after promising South Carolina corrections officials he would leave the state and never return. Florida officials

agreed to supervise his parole and he moved to Tampa.

"Wouldn't that tell you a lot right there?" he said of his exile from South Carolina.

"They wanted me out of town and used everything they could to get rid of me," Jenkins said moments before taking the stage. "They framed me. I was raising two black children. They saw them riding around in a big car and living in a nice home and the rocks began coming through my window."

The congregation gathered Monday night neither doubted Jenkins nor cared about his prison stint. They came to be healed, to pray and to have their spirits revived.

PLAN TO ATTEND THIS GREAT HEALING, MIRACLE REVIVAL

with EVANGELIST LEROY JENKINS, also
Rev. Tony Leyva, Rev. Edwin L. Kelley, Dr.
Gilbert Holloway and the Crusade Staff

*Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. evenings at 7:30 PM

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