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Inspirational Thought...

*Create in me a clean heart oh God,
and renew a right spirit within me.*

— Psalms 51:10

Her promise...

Continued from front page

had to leave, my mother had to hunt a sheet from someone to cover me up so I could return the jacket to the officer. I was not even offered a gown. My feet were cut from broken glass and I was told to walk over to the emergency room across the hospital parking lot and then someone would examine me. I could not even walk! Thankfully, my parents and my uncle were there, and they took control of the situation. I do not know what I would have done without them. My family had to find a wheelchair and a sheet for me. They wheeled me over to the hospital where I again sat in a hall for all to see. I waited for the emergency room OB/GYN doctor on call. He was exasperated; his camera was not working and could not take pictures. Finally, he saw me. He never once asked me how I was, or even who I was. I had just been through the most horrendous experience of my life and I was being treated like I did not even exist. That night, that moment, I knew this was going to change if I had any thing to do with it. I saw God's plan for me in all of this."

Lee Ann says her road to recovery was a long and hard journey. She was given a Workers Compensation settlement from McDonald's for her on-the-job injuries. She applied the settlement towards her college education. Lee Ann graduated with a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Social Work. Today, she is a licensed clinical social worker. Lee Ann was instrumental in starting a Victim's Advocate Program for the school while attending there, which is still growing and doing great! She has served on the State Attorney's Sexual Assault Task Force and is currently on the Mayor's Victim's Assistance Advisory Council and the Sexual Assault Advisory Council. "I made a promise and I wish it was as easy as it sounds, but my family and I went

through a traumatizing time during my healing process. Today, I am a stronger person and the rapist did not win. Despite what he did to me, God prevailed and I have overcome my assailant's efforts to control and destroy me! I gladly take every opportunity to tell my story. I want people to know they can survive a trauma such as rape. If the victim is willing to take a small step forward, there are people and organizations willing to help. The system is not perfect, but it has improved much over the years in Jacksonville. This is my calling and my promise that one voice can make a difference."

Advertising Deadline

The deadline for advertising copy for the **June 2002 Edition** of the **JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE** will be May 12, 2002.

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