

# The Phoenix Embraces a Phoenix

her Medicaid ran out. It was said that her husband made too much money.

But when one door closes, Jocelyn knows another is opened. Her church friends and her family have helped her gain the strength and confidence to move forward.

"Eventually, I would like to start a family," Jocelyn said. "I have had two miscarriages. But even though I am paralyzed, I can see and hear and I am anxious to hear my child say, 'I love you, Mommy'."

Before the accident, she had extensive work experience in the customer service field. Jocelyn enjoys working with the public. However, now she has made a conscious decision to seek a career opportunity that would allow her to work out of her home. Jocelyn doesn't want to depend on the government for the rest of her life. Rodney Sumler, publisher of the "A.C. Phoenix," has just brought Jocelyn on board as an account executive. "We thank God for giving us the opportunity to work with her," Mr. Sumler said. "We are praying she will learn quickly and fill our position of supervising account executives. Jocelyn is a living testimony."

Jocelyn echoes how the violent attack changed her whole life and her family's life. "But the Lord has been good to me," she said. Her husband has been a gift from God. "He's basically my legs," Jocelyn said. "He could have been a weak man and ran far away. I am happy to say we are a team."

The assailant did not rob her spirit, nor her determination to succeed in life. "I know the Lord has a plan for me and it's up to me to work the plan," Jocelyn said. "If I can help the 'A.C. Phoenix' as an account executive, I am willing and capable and want to make the most of the opportunity."

I asked her what her gifts and tools were. "I am a good talker, a good listener, I can type 45 to 60 wpm, and I am comfortable with a keyboard," Jocelyn said. I told her she left out she has a beautiful smile.

Through vocational rehab, she will be taking computer training. She is motivated and determined in her efforts.

Jocelyn's house has been modified for her disability and her car is being adapted for her to drive. "I am very excited," Jocelyn said.

I asked if the assailant was apprehended. "No," Jocelyn said, "the police have not found him, even though people know who he is. But, one day, he will meet his judgment." This was said with no bitterness.

Her strong constitution is accredited to her grandmother and her parents. "I was brought up knowing who God is," Jocelyn said. She is an active member of Redbank Baptist Church, Rev. James R. Clyburn Sr.

"It's a day to day struggle," Jocelyn said. "But bad energy and feeling sorry for herself would surely pull my spirit down, and I can't afford for that to happen." Jocelyn recognizes her blessings and is quick to give thanks.

Jocelyn's message to me and you: Don't take life for granted. Just a simple shower is a blessing. Be grateful for your family and take the time to say, "Thank you." Appreciate life and don't sit back and do nothing. If the Lord is in your life, don't be afraid to tell others. People are always watching you and your words of encouragement may help the needy.

"Winter is harder," she said. "But as Spring comes and new life springs forth, so do I. I am ready for the adventure of living."

I felt good in my soul just writing these words. I could feel Jocelyn's spirit rise as she dares to return the embrace of the "A.C. Phoenix."



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