



**Chris M.
Royston, GA
Born in 1960
Diagnosed in 1996**

"I am a man with hope."

Chris almost died from encephalitis in 1996. He survived, but was left with brain damage and epilepsy. The highly-educated pastor woke up unable to remember his sons' names, and had to learn to eat, speak, and read all over again. His wife, Deb, and their three sons, knew their lives would never be the same.

However, Chris persevered as he relearned the skills he needed to live. Many people have reached out to Chris and his family. Chris has chosen to see himself as more than a person with brain damage and epilepsy: as a man still alive, a man willing to seize every opportunity, a man with hope.

It has been a long, hard journey. Some of the medications caused him to gain weight and others made him lose weight. They affected his liver and his kidneys.

He never will remember names like before, or be a great speller. He's not afraid to ask for help when he needs it. Chris accepts his new challenges and continuously tries to manage the best he can. Now, as a campus pastor, author, student mentor and grandfather, he gives others hope that they can live a full life, too.

As an Epilepsy Advocate, Chris hopes sharing his personal experience will build further awareness and understanding about living well with epilepsy.