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**Local Stroke Survivor Beats the Odds**  
**Ronnie Fox - Author and Motivational Speaker**

Cumming, GA: Ronnie beat the odds by even surviving a massive stroke. He states the obvious, "Most people who have a stroke like mine don't survive." It is a miracle.

Recovery has been and still is a daily battle. It began at 4 am on a Monday in August of 2010. He opened his eyes to dizziness and sweating. By the end of Tuesday, his right side was totally paralyzed, he could not swallow, and dizziness was his constant companion. All his energy was suddenly consumed by a struggle to survive.

Precious brain cells had literally died from oxygen deprivation. But partial recovery would eventually come. Two years of intense swallowing therapy were required just to consume enough calories each day to stop the death spiral of weight loss.

Today, his right side remains partially paralyzed and a wheelchair has replaced walking. Swallowing is still a challenge due to some dead spots in his mouth and a partially paralyzed tongue and throat. These impairments also distort his speech and create exciting moments when a thin liquid gets out of control in his mouth. Furniture, and even people, bounce around as his eyes involuntarily move in tiny circles.

Ronnie says, "You improve by pushing the edges of your current abilities." Progress is much slower now, but he still pushes. He will tell you, "Even the tiny physical gains often make a huge difference in quality of life."

His optimism is contagious. His faith has been galvanized by hardship. The physical losses are unmistakable, but they have not reduced his drive.

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***Beyond My Strength***  
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