



## **May 2010 (Special Edition)**

*"When we hurt, when pain happens to us, we are tempted to always ask the question, "Why? Why did God allow this? But there are no answers. The question is not so much "Why?" — it's "Now what?" ~Philip Yancey*

### **I am NOT going to Russia – for now**

On May 13 I [Steve] was scheduled to leave for a 3-week trip to Russia to teach a seminary course on spiritual gifts. I won't be going due to a medical emergency.

For over a week I have had intense pain from my right hip to the calf. The pain continued despite taking double-strength Vicodin. The diagnosis was sciatica and arthritis. I still planned to go with additional medication.

Everything changed when I experienced a muscle tear behind my right knee. My knee was immobilized and I was using crutches. On May 13 I will undergo an MRI to clarify the diagnosis.

I don't have the words to convey to you how crushed in spirit I am over this setback. All I can say is that I will trust that God has His reasons for keeping me from traveling there now. I also know that God has called me to this work, and in time, I believe He will allow me to make the trip.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Russia. American Christians take for granted our freedom to worship; the Russian church doesn't enjoy this same right. The government is beginning to make things difficult for Russian believers. Pray that God will strengthen His people there to remain faithful despite increasing opposition.

Please also pray for my recovery so that I may yet go to Russia. I also have a trip to Zambia planned for mid-June that I don't want to miss. Ask God to allow me to make this trip, if this is His will.

### **Contact us**

Designed to Serve  
2640 Summit Drive  
Suite 101  
Glenview, IL 60025-7628

Website: [www.designedtoserve.org](http://www.designedtoserve.org)  
Blog: <http://blog.designedtoserve.org>  
Email: [info@designedtoserve.org](mailto:info@designedtoserve.org)  
Phone: 847-514-3609