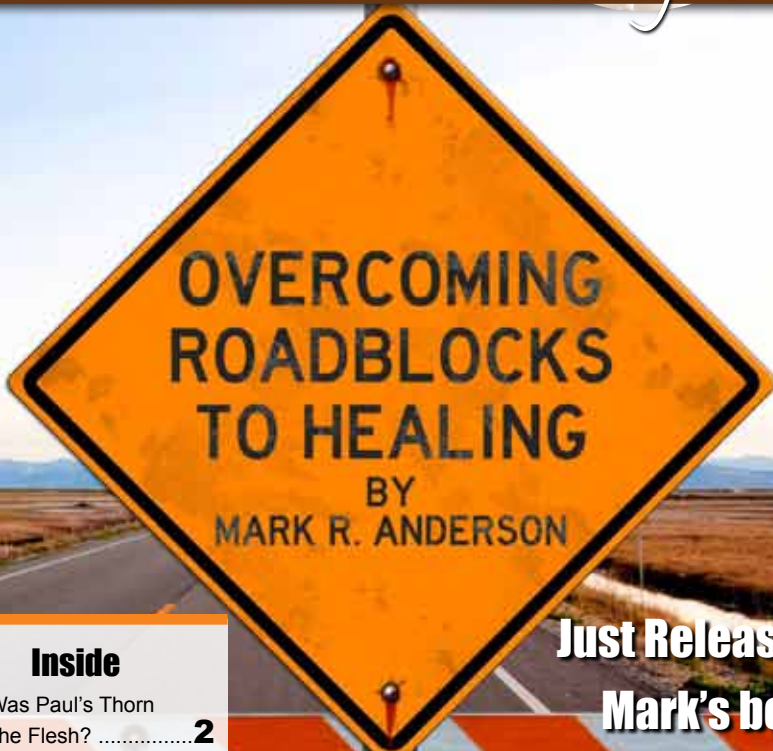


goodnews

Winter 2012 Report

Magazine



OVERCOMING
ROADBLOCKS
TO HEALING
BY
MARK R. ANDERSON

Inside

- What Was Paul's Thorn
in the Flesh? **2**
- Miraculous Healing! **5**
- Schizophrenic God?
Finding Reality in
Conflict, Confusion
and Contradiction **6**
- E-mailed Testimony **9**
- Spring 2012 Mission
Trip **10**

Just Released,
Mark's book
"Overcoming
Roadblocks to
Healing"

FOREWORD BY RANDY CLARK



by Mark R. Anderson

What Was Paul's Thorn In The Flesh — Chapter 5 (condensed) from “Overcoming Roadblocks to Healing”

There are other hindrances to healing that we need to avoid mentioned in the Bible. These pitfalls in our lives can prevent healing from flowing freely. A belief in physical suffering can also stop healing.

“and lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproach, in needs in persecutions, in distress, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

There has been a lot of controversy in Christian circles over these scriptures, concerning Paul’s thorn in the flesh. Many feel that we have to remain sick to glorify God in our physical weakness. Much of that belief comes from the influence of Greek philosophy and asceticism (a belief in suffering physically to get closer to God) mixed with Christianity in the early days of Christianity. Many have gone to premature graves because of this incorrect belief. In this chapter, we want to share through God’s word, exactly what Paul’s thorn in the flesh was.

What Religious Tradition Believes Paul’s Thorn Was

In 2 Corinthians chapter 12, Paul received a thorn in the flesh as a result of the revelation he saw. Many feel they have received a thorn in the flesh as well. Have they received a revelation so great and been caught up to Heaven as Paul was? This is what brought on the thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:1-6).

A number of people believe that Paul’s thorn was a sickness. Some believe that Paul’s thorn was an eye disease that the Lord refused to heal. If that was the case, then Paul was the first person in the New Testament who the Lord refused to heal. Acts 10:38 says, *“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”* Only once in the New Testament Jesus was unable to heal the sick: Matthew 13:58, *“He did not many mighty works because of their unbelief.”*

People quote Galatians 4:13-15, to prove that Paul’s thorn in the flesh was an eye disease. It reads: *“You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at first. And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God even as Christ Jesus. What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.”* The word infirmity in the original Greek means bodily infirmity, such as mentioned in 2 Corinthians

11:23-30, not a disease. Paul had been physically beaten many times for preaching the gospel and suffered with physical infirmities because of it. However, I am sure God healed him each time, as He does today. The Lord even raised Paul from the dead in Acts 14:19-21. Galatians 4:15 in no way shows that Paul had an eye disease. The Galatians were friendly with Paul at that time and would have given Paul anything he needed, hence Paul writes that you would have given me your eyes if I had needed them. It does not say that he had an eye disease. Paul was merely using that as an example, saying that the Galatians were really committed to him and cared deeply for him and his needs to be met. There is no mention of any eye disease in these verses.

For the sake of argument, let's assume that Paul did have an eye disease and that was the reason why the power of God rested on him. If that was the case, we should all pray and ask God to make us sick so we can be greatly anointed. We should not go to a doctor, but suffer in our sickness to glorify God as well. That is absurd, but that is the way many Christians believe because of the Greek influence, gnosticism and asceticism that was mingled with early Christianity.

After reading what the Word of God says on healing, how healing was provided in the atonement at Calvary, I do not see how anyone could believe that remaining sick glorifies God. John 6:2 says, *"Then a great multitude followed Him (Jesus), Because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased."* Acts 3-5 tells us that many thousands turned to Jesus because of the miraculous healings that took place when the disciples preached about the risen Jesus and prayed for the sick and infirm. No one turned to Jesus because of some disciple remaining sick to show patience and fortitude! Many turned

to Jesus because of the healings and miracles He performed on those that were suffering.

Messenger of Satan

2 Corinthians 12:7 clearly shows us what Paul's thorn in the flesh was. It says it was the messenger of Satan. The word messenger appears seven times in the Bible and the word angel appears 181 times. Both words come from the Greek word **angelos**, which means messenger or angel. They can be used interchangeably. Hence we see that the thorn in the flesh was a personality, a demonic angel rather than an eye disease.

Numbers 33:55 sheds more light on the subject. It says that the inhabitants of the land (or other nations) would be pricks in Israel's eyes and thorns in their sides, and would vex them in the land wherein they dwelt if they would not drive them out. They would not physically be pricks in their eyes or physical thorns in their sides, but just like a thorn in the side is an annoyance, the other nations would be an annoyance to the Israelites. Joshua 23:11-13 and 2 Samuel 23:6 both talk about thorns, but both refer to a personality rather than a sickness or disease.

2 Corinthians 12:9 tells us that this messenger of Satan (Paul's thorn) caused "weaknesses" or "infirmities" to come upon Paul. The words weaknesses and infirmities can also be used interchangeably. The Greek word is 'astheneia' according to Thayers Greek-English Lexicon means "weakness and to bear trials and troubles." Once again, it has no reference to sickness or disease. 2 Corinthians 12:9 reads, *"and He said to me, 'My (Christ's) grace (which is for the inner man or spirit) is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness (Greek- asthenia)."*

– continued on page 4

Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." The weakness mentioned here does not refer to physical weakness, as in sickness, but one's own spiritual weakness. When we realize that in and of ourselves we are weak, but God is strong, then we will see the power of God resting on us. Paul realized that apart from Jesus, he could do nothing (John 15:5).

I do not see anywhere in God's Word where He has called anyone to suffer with sickness or disease. There are times He has called us to suffer. 2 Timothy 2:12 says, *"if we suffer with Him (Jesus) we will reign with Him."* This is not talking about sickness; it is talking about persecution for standing up for the name of Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:12 says, *"all who live godly in Christ shall suffer persecution."*

What Did Paul's Thorn Cause?

I have shared with you what Paul's thorn is not and have explained the thorn in the flesh. I want to share with you what Paul's thorn in the flesh caused to happen to him.

2 Corinthians 11:23-30, the verses just before, talking about Paul's thorn, clearly reveals that Paul's thorn in the flesh was a messenger or angel (demon) of Satan that caused Paul to go through beatings, prison, shipwrecks, death, weariness, hunger, thirst, cold, nakedness, painfulness and many other perils. Nowhere does it say that Paul's thorn was an eye disease or sickness. We need to stick to God's word. If it is not in the Word, then do not buy into that belief. That is how false doctrine comes about.

In 2 Corinthians 11:29-30, Paul sums it up by saying, *"Who is weak, and I am*

not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity." Paul did not glory in sickness. He gloried in that he had to bear trials and troubles while he was taking a stand for Jesus.

Acts 5 talks about the miracles that God did through the apostles as they preached Jesus Christ and the persecution they suffered. Acts 5:41-42 records, *"So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ."* If you believe you are to suffer for God's glory consider what it is to suffer for Him while out preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ not with sickness. Suffering with sickness is not what glorifies God. The glory goes to God when we believe in God for a miracle and we receive it. The scriptures are very clear on this.

Isaiah 53:4-5, Matthew 8:16-17 and 1 Peter 2:24 all talk about Christ bearing our sins, griefs, sorrows, sickness, disease and infirmities. If that is true, why are so many Christians thinking they have to bear sickness, infirmities and disease? Was not Christ's suffering and sacrifice enough? It was more than enough! I am going to stand for what Jesus purchased! Jesus Christ paid for it all! It belongs to you. You do not have to suffer with these things to glorify God. Jesus bore our sin, sickness, torment, poverty, and humiliation—not with us, but for us! He is not asking us to bear or carry these things. He did it for us. The word borne in Isaiah 53:4 is the Hebrew word *nasa*, which means "suffered for, bear up, carry off, take away." He did all the suffering so we do not have to. He took the raw deal and we received the good deal. He paid the price in full for spirit, soul and body. 🍊

Miraculous Healing!!

Jesse Anderson (Mark's son) was in a coma. One year later he entered World Impact Bible Institute completely freed of leukemia! Read his exciting testimony of how he overcame his roadblock to healing in Chapter 8 of Mark's book **Overcoming Roadblocks to Healing**

What other Leaders are Saying about Mark's Latest Book:



Foreword by Randy Clark

"Overcoming Roadblocks to Healing is an outstanding practical guide... I believe this book should be read by every believer..."

"This is a great contribution to the Body of Christ..." — **Harold R. Eberle**

"Mark Anderson has done a very thorough and excellent job with his new book, 'Overcoming Roadblocks to Healing.'" — **Pastor Steve Shank**

"This book Overcoming Roadblocks to Healing will act as a personal guide to help you overcome the barriers to healing." — **Pastor J.R. Polhemus**

What's in the Book?

*Have you ever received prayer for healing and nothing seemed to happen or you were healed only to lose your healing a short time later? Clear cut answers from God's Word show how to overcome roadblocks to healing or deliverance. **Many testimonies are shared on how people overcame cancer.***

*We explore major hindrances to miracles, healings and deliverance in western Christianity. Many Christians do not realize just how much Greek Philosophy influences their everyday Christian walk and belief system when it comes to healings and miracles. *

*In this book we explore what was Paul's Thorn in the flesh. How to properly stand for healing is addressed. The final two chapters show how people like you and I overcame huge roadblocks to their healing and received their miracle from Jesus. **You too can overcome the roadblocks to healing.***

Order you copy today \$13 (includes shipping) or order online at www.markandersonministries.com/store



by Pastor Steve C. Shank

Schizophrenic God?

Finding Reality in Conflict, Confusion and Contradiction

Chapter 2 Why All This Confusion?

Was the world designed to be so chaotic, confusing, and downright dangerous—or was it made for everything to function in a harmonious, orderly way? Was it originally intended to be a loving and safe environment for all who dwell here?

Some people tell me, “I have a dysfunctional family,” and I tell them, “You have a dysfunctional world!”

Let’s look at two predominant views. But before we do, let’s look at the definition of a few terms. Most people believe that God is *sovereign*; and of course, if God is God, He *is* sovereign. The dictionary defines *sovereign* as “having supreme rank, power, or authority.” In other words, He’s at the top of the ladder. There is no one above Him. God is also *omnipotent*, which means He’s all-powerful, possessing unlimited power. He’s also *omnipresent*, which simply means He’s always present everywhere.

The Extreme Sovereignty View

With those things in mind, let’s examine the first worldview, which I call the “extreme sovereignty” view. As we closely look at this view, I will explain why I call it *extreme*. Most people, whether atheists or firm believers, may be shocked to discover that they have parts of this view imbedded in their belief systems.

The extreme sovereignty view reasons that since God is sovereign, omnipotent, and omnipresent, He also exercises *omnicontrol*. In other words, God has predestined and preordered everything that happens in life; whatever happens, God either causes it or allows it as part of His divine plan and will. An event wouldn’t have happened unless God willed it, because God exercises omnicontrol. This view says all things are prearranged in the plan of God, and there’s a divine reason behind everything that happens in life.

According to this view, God decides the destiny of all human beings and orchestrates all that happens in the world, even the evil. Whatever happens to you in life—period—is God’s sovereign will. The ultimate reason behind *why* everything happens is God. God is the ultimate *Why*. Things that look “evil” somehow fit into God’s overall plan for good; God must have some wise, loving purpose behind them.

This view reasons that if God is good and controls all things, then all things must be good or loving or just. We are to accept them as coming from the loving hand of a God who in His sovereignty has some kind of divine purpose behind it. So when cancers, car wrecks, or divorces occur, people who believe this view give pat answers such as: “There’s a purpose for everything. God has His reasons.” “His ways are mysterious and past finding

out.” “All is still under His control, and remember that God is sovereign.”

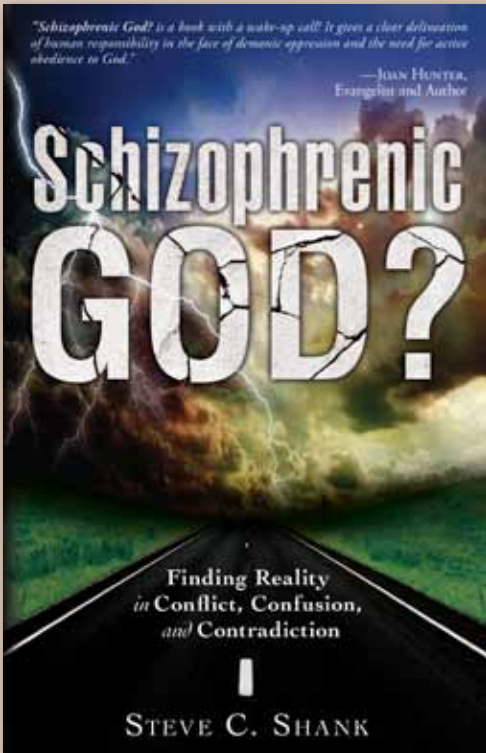
The word *sovereign* is not used in the King James Version of the Bible, and when the concept is used, it is never used in the manner in which the extreme sovereignty view defines it. This view leaves people with a passive, “*Que sera, sera*; whatever will be, will be” attitude about life. This view in its extreme form tells us that all things are of God, so God is behind all things. However, if you see God behind all things, you then see God behind all evil. In effect, you are calling good evil; worse yet, you are calling God evil!

Is it any wonder that so many people are terrified of God and inwardly feel that He has a dark, malicious side to

His nature? How can we ever know what God’s going to do? This view leaves us in doubt about the nature of God and the will of God because it paints the picture of good and evil coming to us from the hand of the same God. This view leaves people with a big sigh of resignation, and all they can say is, “Well, God is sovereign.”

Go with me now on my first trip overseas. I had never been out of the United States, not even to Mexico or Canada. You can imagine the shock that hit me when I arrived in Bombay, India. Millions of people are homeless and sleep every night on the streets of this massive city. I was completely stunned, and I wept for two days

— continued on page 8



Schizophrenic God? Finding Reality in Conflict, Confusion, and Contradiction

published by *Destiny Image*

By Steve C. Shank, Boulder,
Colorado

Schizophrenic God? is a close look at fate and free will. Has God predetermined everything that happens in your life, or do your own free-will decisions help determine your destiny? You will be challenged to rethink the assumptions you have made about God, which brings comfort and empowerment in the truths of a good God, human choice, and the prayer of faith that changes things. Rest assured—you do not serve a schizophrenic Father

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(includes shipping)**

over the scenes that confronted me. Crushing poverty and debilitating diseases made me keenly aware that the earth is filled with horrifying suffering and diabolical evil.

In India, I came face to face with a man whose nose and lips had been eaten off by leprosy. His appearance had taken on the form of part man, part skeleton! I knew from the depths of my soul that it was never God's intention for the love of His heart, the human race, to be trapped in this type of horror-movie existence. This was not the will of an all-loving God.

The Jesus Worldview

With that as a background, let's explore the second worldview, which I will call "the Jesus worldview." The historical character, Jesus of Nazareth, was actually God becoming a human being or "the Word was made flesh" (John 1:14). He was the full revelation or explanation of God (see John 1:18), actually showing us what God is like. He even told one of His followers, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father [God]" (John 14:9 NKJV).

I challenge you to approach Jesus and His worldview as if this is your first time to ever hear about Him. Lay aside all your preconceived notions and notice the character, heart, actions, and will of Jesus of Nazareth as He is so carefully portrayed in the Bible in the Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

When Jesus burst upon the scene when He began His ministry, He approached life as if He was entering a war zone! He came to the rescue of a victimized, suffering human race.

Every person He touched, He treated with mercy and compassion. He treated them as if they were casualties of war. Now remember that Jesus is "the exact representation" of God's nature (see Heb. 1:3 NASB). Jesus is "re-presenting" God to the human race. Everything about Jesus *represents* God exactly (see Heb. 1:3).

Therefore, Jesus is the great Revealer of God to you. He reveals God's heart, God's attitude, and God's desire toward life and the human race. Watch how Jesus approached the brokenhearted, the sick, the suffering, the confused, the guilt-ridden, and the downtrodden, and there you will see the will of God in action. Jesus is the will of God in an earth suit; and when He entered the war zone on planet Earth, He aggressively challenged the disasters and dilemmas of humanity.

Just a little side note here—in my travels around the world, I have noticed that the majority of the people of the world believe that there is a real, invisible spiritual realm that is inhabited by spirit beings. From this spirit realm, things can be determined and set into motion in the physical realm. These parts of the world (India, Asia, Africa, South America) see a steady stream of miraculous occurrences taking place; things happen that cannot be explained by human logic.

In contrast, countries in the West (U.S., Canada, Britain, France, Spain, etc.) believe that the world is all physical and material. This puts us out of step with the vast majority of people groups of the world; and, consequently, we see and experience less of the miraculous.

Is there a realm of spirits, a spiritual realm, or is there not? How would we ever know?

I appeal to Jesus! Throughout this journey you will hear me make that statement. Jesus said that He was “the Truth,” or that reality was found in Him (see John 14:6). In a judicial system, there is always a final court of appeal. Jesus’ life and words are the supreme court of appeal—the final authority—where all issues about life can be settled.

Here’s where the confusion has entered in: people have allowed their logic, opinions, and experiences in life to determine truth for them instead of settling the issue that Jesus knows the truth and tells the truth, and that reality can only be found in Him. If my opinion about matters in life contradicts or doesn’t agree with Jesus’ words or actions, guess whose opinion is invalid? Mine! I don’t have the wisdom, experience, or audacity to say, “Oh, no, Jesus! I’m right, and You’re all wrong!”

Let’s recap these two contrasting views: Extreme sovereignty worldview—God has predestined or preordered everything that happens in life. God exercises omnicontrol, so you have no choice or will in the matter. If

something happens, God willed it for you. If something fails to happen, it was not His will. Whatever happens in life, God either causes it or allows it as part of His divine will and plan. In this blueprint plan, it is believed that even evil things that happen will somehow bring about good in the end. God’s will is the ultimate reason behind every event in life.

Jesus’ worldview—Jesus approached the world as if something had terribly gone wrong, “An enemy has done this!” (Matt. 13:28). Jesus does not view everything that has happened as the will of God, but with determination He resolves to reverse the curse of suffering and heartache that has blasted the human race. Jesus brought healing, deliverance, and relief to people, treating them as if they were casualties of war. Jesus’ worldview does not show us that everything that happens in life is always God’s will; He actually waged war on that which was *not* God’s will by helping the misfortunate out of their predicaments. Jesus’ life and worldview clearly show us that there are wills, other than God’s will, at work on planet Earth. 🍊

E-mailed Testimony

At Chapel at River Crossing in Jackson Wyoming, Mark Anderson prayed for me. I came forward for prayer because I have very flat feet. When I stand for short time my feet, legs and lower back hurt. I asked Mark to pray for Jesus to create arches in my feet. As he prayed for me I fell forward into him and on the floor face first. I kind of blacked-out. I felt good inside but still had flat feet. While we were driving home I asked my grandparents why God had me fall forward. They said “We don’t know- ask Jesus”. So I asked Him. “He told me that I needed to lean on Him and not on myself.” As I began asking Him to forgive me, my feet started to feel funny. I took off my shoes and socks and you could see arches beginning to form in my feet. My grandma put her hands on my feet and could feel the arches being formed right there in the truck. I thank Jesus and hope that my testimony will inspire other teenagers to “lean on Jesus.” Thanks for coming to River Crossing--- **Jacob Piros**



by **Sharmila Anderson**

Spring 2012 Mission Trip

Mark is leaving for **India & Nepal** on March 25th. Charisma and I follow him on April 4th. We are particularly excited about these outreaches as our 14 year old daughter, Charisma is joining us and will be participating in the outreaches. Paul Rapley, a graduate of **Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry** is joining us on the trip. He will be ministering alongside Mark. He is seeing a lot of miracles as he ministers in the USA and Mexico.

For approximately 10 years commencing in 2000 **Nepal** had been in the midst of great political turmoil and strife. In 2001 the King and Queen and the entire royal family was assassinated which threw the country into upheaval. The Maoist made their bid for power through violence and bullying. Christians were greatly persecuted during this time. The doors to evangelize this Hindu nation were slammed shut. However the Lord has once



40 members of the Student Body Council receive Jesus as Lord after interviewing Mark and seeing Jesus heal their Principal, **Anju Sharma**, of severe migraine headaches - **Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, November 3, 2011.**

again opened the doors for evangelism in this nation and we are not wasting any opportunities we have to minister in Nepal, as Nepal is very unstable at present. Mark is conducting a 3 day city-wide open air campaign in **Kobalpur,**



In our last city-wide open air campaign in **Ghaziabad, UP, India** 6,000 people committed their lives to Christ. We are believing for thousands to come to Christ in our upcoming **Kobalpur, Nepal** campaign April 2- 5, 2012.

**Singing at Ingraham School
in Ghaziabad, India.**



During **Fall 2011 trip to North India** Mark sang in 4 Schools to 5,300 students. Doors are opening for Mark to conduct concerts and share about Jesus in many schools in India.

Nepal from April 2-5th. The pastors and leaders of the area are very excited about this outreach and are working diligently to make it a success. Many leaders from the surrounding areas are attending the Leadership Training Conference.

Mark is also conducting a leadership conference in **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India March 29- 30th**. The anti-conversion law is in effect in this state which makes mass evangelism impossible. The best way to reach this state is to train leaders, who then minister one on one to the unsaved, pray for the sick, the demonized and plant house churches. We have been ministering in this state for 6 years now and have seen tremendous results from this kind of ministry. Jesus is moving in this state sovereignly through miracles, healings, signs and wonders.

We have been given the opportunity of ministering Jesus in 2 schools through Rock N Roll concerts. **The Ryan International Schools in Delhi and Faridabad** are very prestigious schools and well known all over the country. In October 2011 Mark ministered in The Ryan Intl School in Ghaziabad where the entire Student Body Council of 40 members gave the lives to Christ. They did this after interviewing Mark and

witnessing their Principal healed of severe migraine headaches.

Our full schedule will end with a two day mini campaign in Delhi working with the New Life Churches. We will train leaders during the day. Charisma and I will take a couple of days to visit Karishma Girl's Home in Agra. 🍊

We appreciate your prayers and support for this upcoming trip.

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Magazine

is published by

Mark Anderson Ministries

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Magazine design/layout by: GEA-designs

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designs

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Mark & Sharmila's Upcoming Schedule 2012

March 18 Overcoming
Roadblocks -River of Life
Ministries **Casper, WY**
10am (307) 267-1566

March 29-30 training
conference **Shimla,**
Himachal Pradesh, India

April 3-5 Open air
campaign and conference
Kobalpur, Nepal

April 6-9 Sharmila and
Charisma ministering at
the **Karishma Girls Home**
Agra, India

April 8 Easter Service **New**
Life Church **New Delhi,**
India

April 9 Concert **Ryan Intl.**
School **Faridabad, India**

April 10 Concert **Ryan**
Intl. **Rohini School New**
Delhi, India

April 12- 13 mini
campaign and leadership
training **Delhi, India**

Oct 30 -Nov 3 Open air
campaign and conference
Jammu, India

Nov 6-10 Open air
campaign and conference
Ambala, Haryana, India

Published by:

Mark Anderson Ministries

P.O. Box 66

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*Mark & Sharmila are conducting a book release tour of Mark's new book **Overcoming Roadblocks to Healing**. If you are interested in having Mark & Sharmila share on this subject matter please contact them at 307-587-0408 or by email goodnews@vcn.com. Their schedule is wide open after returning from India throughout the summer.*