

# BELOIT DAILY NEWS - FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1996

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Helping others out keeps bike missionary pumped □

By Shawn Stapleton

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Hans Myors isn't bothered by the wild fluctuations in the weather, even though he is one with the elements 10 months a year.

The 40-year-old German-born Myors has a much bigger mission in life \_ bringing religion and a helping hand to the nation.

Myors spends his time pedaling his 21-speed Schwinn bicycle around the country, his orange-and-yellow vest and white helmet emblazoned with crosses. The bike weighs more than 100 pounds with his tent, sleeping bag and clothes strapped on to fill every available space.

In all he's travelled 63,000 miles in America since 1986, visiting southern Florida five times to aid in the rebuilding of the area in the wake of Hurricane Andrew.

But aside from lending a helping hand, he also totes his Bible and tries to bring religion to a nation that has "walked away from God."

"We can't be a nation of Sunday Christians. We can't just talk the talk; we have to walk the walk," he said during a brief stop in Beloit Thursday afternoon. "Or I guess you would say in my case that we have to ride the walk.

"When we see somebody in need, it's not good enough to just call for help," he added. "If it is within your physical power to help, then we have to help. We have to make a point to do something. Faith without work is dead, and work without faith is dead."

Myors was disowned by his Orthodox Jewish family 20 years ago in his native home, then came to the United States in 1984. He has not contacted them since, he said.

Without their support or a steady paycheck, money or food should be tight, but it isn't he proudly admits.

"There are so many supporters out there who open their doors and hearts to me. It's pretty amazing," he said. "I usually have a place to stay, whether it's in a home or a church, and occasionally I'll get offers from very kind people."

And in a pinch, he's got four or five days worth of food in his knapsack.

He's also spreading the word about Habitat for Humanity, the non-profit organization known for building homes for people who need affordable housing.

"The job out here for me is to be a silent witness," he said. "If I can serve as a spark in somebody's mind, then that works for me."

Myors planned to stop in Janesville to stay with friends Thursday, then to travel through Madison, over to Green Bay and up to Michigan's Upper Peninsula.