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Pedaling the Lord's power  
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By JOHN HOWELL

When Johannes Myers spots a cop he waves. The friendly gesture has served the 51-year-old minister well. Police officers and sheriffs across the country have helped the pedaling preacher connect with area churches, find lodging, and have escorted him from one end of town to the other to ensure his safe passage. He says law enforcement officers are among the friendliest people on the road.

Myers waved to Warwick Police yesterday as he pedaled north on Post Road. Five minutes later a reporter caught up with him as he pulled into the CVS parking lot in Greenwood.

Myers smiled from beneath his bike helmet. A couple of his teeth are broken, but his tanned skin and warm eyes reflect a healthy and optimistic outlook about a mission he began Feb. 19, 1993, in Portland, Ore.

Myers rides an Easy Racer/Sun short-wheelbase recumbent that has 27-speeds and a 20-inch front wheel that gives him the appearance of pedaling from an almost prone position. He wears a bright, multicolored shirt and neatly tied behind him is his tent, sleeping bag, water jug, clothing and a pair of saddlebags with his laptop inside of one.

The laptop is an essential communication tool. He regularly checks his e-mail on the road and frequently updates his Web site, [pedalprayers.org](http://pedalprayers.org).

"This is day 2,900," he says with the confidence of a man who pays close attention to such details. Myers has covered 168,400 miles and visited every state except Hawaii and Alaska. In all, he has crossed the United States 14 times on 12 different tours.

"I'm out here for prayer and compassion," he says. While Myers tries to fulfill invitations to speak in churches – something he will be doing later this week in Nashua, N.H. – he says much of his work is "street counseling." He also gravitates to disasters. He assisted earthquake victims in Los Angeles and made three tours to assist areas hit by Hurricane Katrina. His basic message is his life of faith. It's what he has practiced since becoming a Christian.

Myors said he was a native of Germany and was raised as a Jew. He said his parents are Jewish and survived the Holocaust. When he found Christ and became a Jew for Jesus, Myors said, his parents disowned him. He said they went as far as to tell friends he had committed suicide and had a gravestone made with his name.

"I'm dead to my family," he said.

Myors first joined a Messianic church. Now, he says he is of no particular denomination and considers himself an "independent minister."

So far he says his outreach has been a positive experience, with the exception of a man who smashed up his bike with his car in Connecticut and then sought to file charges against Myors. Offerings at churches where he speaks, contributions from people he meets on the road and even money he finds in the street along the way has helped finance his tours. His home base is in Americus, Ga., where he began this tour on March 3 and, depending on where he is going, a trip last anywhere from eight to 10 months. He has never been married. Myors figures he averages about 58 miles a day and has covered as much as 2,300 miles in a month.

Myors' mission is also reflective.

"I pray every day and I listen," he said.

He also finds many people listen to him, although conventional churches frequently spurn him.

"They don't see me as a viable ministry," he said. That doesn't bother him.

"I get more help outside the church than in the church," he says.

And how much longer will he be pedaling and praying?  
"For as long as the Lord has me out on the road," he answered.

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