

Director's Statement – *Pedals of Praise*

Pedals of Praise began with a simple idea: that the natural world has the power to bring us closer to something greater than ourselves. Following three cyclists on their journey along North Dakota's rugged Maah Daah Hey Trail, this film explores the intersection of faith, endurance, and the healing beauty of the outdoors.

As a filmmaker and photographer, I've always been drawn to landscapes — not just for their aesthetic value, but for how they quietly hold space for reflection and transformation. With *Pedals of Praise*, I wanted to ground the visual language in a strong landscape photography foundation while maintaining the emotional pacing and intimacy of narrative storytelling. The Maah Daah Hey is a trail of grit and grace, and I aimed to capture both: the harshness of the terrain, the quiet of a sunrise, the sweat of the climb, and the awe that follows.

While the film is rooted in a faith-based perspective, it's not only for those who share that background. It's an invitation — to unplug, to push limits, to listen, and to connect. Whether viewers are people of faith, seekers of meaning, or simply lovers of adventure, I hope they find themselves in this story of movement, struggle, and praise.

At its core, *Pedals of Praise* is about spiritual discovery — not just in church pews or quiet prayer, but out on the trail, in the wild, under a wide sky.

— Chris Dempsey
Director, *Pedals of Praise*