

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



American Poet Traveling 11th Country Has Bike Stolen in Melbourne—Pivots to E-Book Campaign to Complete 750-Mile Journey to Sydney

MELBOURNE, VIC — American poet, author, playwright, and percussionist William Owens has suffered a sudden setback on his 11-country global tour after his bicycle was stolen in Brunswick early this morning. The bicycle had been his primary mode of transport throughout his nine-year journey, which began in the United States with a 1,000-mile ride from Nevada to Texas before expanding internationally to the Philippines, Australia, Vietnam, and beyond.

Owens, who arrived in Melbourne from Vietnam on a tourist visa about 90 days ago and recently renewed it to continue his journey, uses his poetry, music, and shared meals to spread a message of hope, love, and forgiveness. While in Melbourne, he has performed at local venues—including Lay Low Bar and The Motley Bar—and competed in a local poetry contest.

To fund the next leg of his journey—a 750-mile (approx. 1,200 km) ride from Melbourne to Sydney—Owens is releasing his third digital poetry collection, ***Authenticity Unleashed: Poetic Expressions of a Heart Set Free***.

"In his poetry, Owens captures the reality of life's pains, joys, and unexpected disappointments, emphasizing God's faithfulness no matter the challenge."

To recover from the theft and raise funds for replacement gear to reach Sydney, Owens has launched a crowdfunding initiative. Supporters who contribute any amount receive:

- A digital copy of the newly released e-book ***Authenticity Unleashed***.
- Access to embedded QR links leading to video performances, audio recordings, and personal commentary.
- Access to his ***Unhinged Heart*** video series.

William aims to raise approximately \$2,800 to continue his journey, set to begin October 19, 2026. Learn more about his story by visiting newbike.oftheheartpoet.com.

Trek Bicycle Maribyrnong, located at Harvey Norman Center, 169 Rosamond Rd, has recommended William a Trek Checkpoint ALR 5 in size M/L, which will allow him to continue his amazing journey. William previously had them service his stolen Trek 920, and Manager Tony Keratianos heard about William's situation and looks forward to helping.

About William Owens

William Owens ("Of the Heart Poet") is an American author, mentor, playwright, and percussionist who shares a message of hope, love, and spiritual freedom through poetry and grassroots community engagement wherever his bike takes him.

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