



# Man crosses country with extra something to carry

By Caitlyn May  
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He'd been at the intersection at Gateway Blvd. for over 30 minutes. By the time tips started coming into the newsroom, he'd had at least two people exit their cars to pray with him and several others honk their horns, waving thumbs up out car windows. When the Sentinel arrived on the scene, two teenagers were chatting with him and asked to sign his cross.

Signature cover the wood, worn by weather, travel and time; one of the only things Joe Shortino carries with him.

Shortino left a job in the oil

business after what he describes as a command from God.

Now, he travels the country, carrying the cross he made himself and relying on donations and the charity of the people he meets.

"I have been doing this for almost five years and I have never slept a night on the street of gone hungry," Shortino said.

While he travels the country, he hasn't walked the whole way. Shortino does not technically live on the streets. He has a home base with his wife and two young children that he returns to for weeks or months at a time before setting out to walk again.

Shortino said God tells him what state to walk in next and this trip was facilitated by a family member in the area. Shortino prayed briefly with students in front of the University of Oregon but says he does not preach his faith or ask those who stop him on the street to convert.

Shortino has been featured in media across the country from local newspapers to national outlets that distribute only online.

He says he does not directly solicit donations on the street but has met individuals willing to give him a free meal or pay for a hotel room while he walks through town.

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