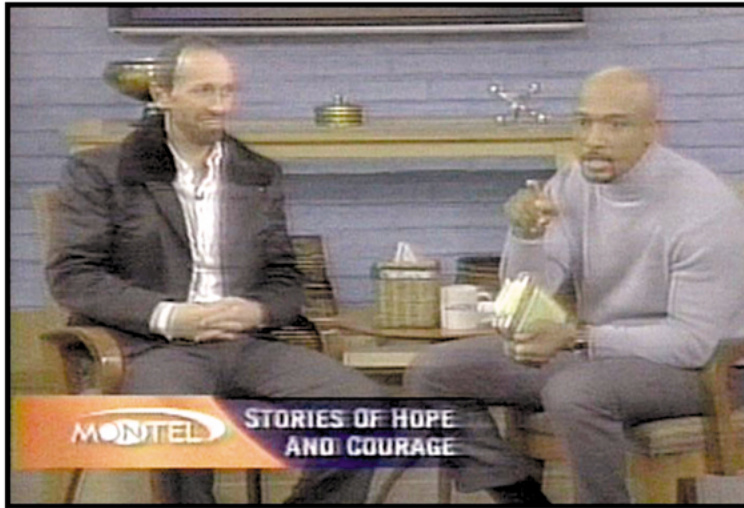


On December 18, 2001, Eddie Lama was a guest on the Montel Williams talk show



EDDIE: I didn't want anything to do with animals, I had an aversion to animals. I was one of those guys that used to chase those cats in the alley ways. My only relationship with animals was on a dinner plate.

MONTEL: You watched this friend's cat, and what happened inside of you?

EDDIE: I was smitten by a kitten, and that's how it all started, and it just went on. The cats and the dogs I'd see every day on the job sites became beings to me, individuals, rather than just these denizens of the earth, that just crawled the earth, and I started seeing them differently. That's how things change, you start seeing people and places differently. I've always had certain prejudices and unrealistic perceptions on people, places and things, and I've been given a gift to be able to see animals in a different light.

MONTEL: Out of your own pocket you decided to start, what?

EDDIE: Oasis Sanctuary

MONTEL: You started rescuing animals and placing them there. But then, you decided to rescue *people* [men in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse].

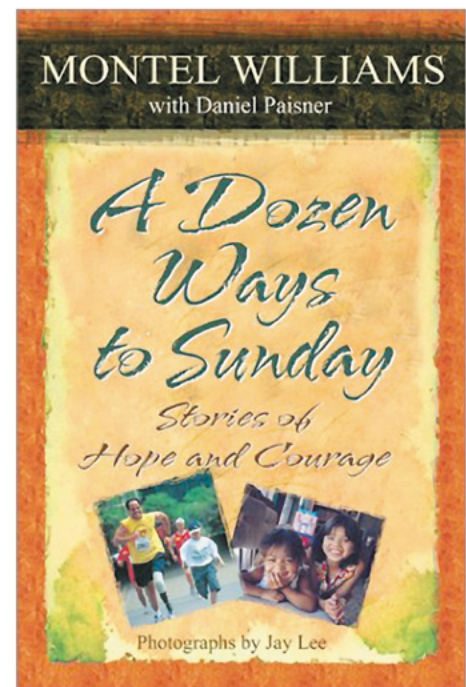
EDDIE: I was one of the rescued, many years ago. People have opened their hearts, homes, and their pocketbooks many times, to help me out. So I wanted to give back what was so freely given to me. And early on I wanted to somehow do



something special, spectacular. I just thought it would be a great synthesis of both passions to help humans and animals, which we call Oasis. And now, rescued two-legged live alongside rescued four-legged, and it's a beautiful symbiosis that occurs.

"ALL THE EARTH'S CREATURES MEAN SOMETHING TO EDDIE LAMA. Two-legged. Four-legged. Fur-coated. Winged, scaled and shelled. Nothing unusual here, until you find out a little about where Eddie comes from, the kind of life he used to live, the complete one-eighty he's done to turn his own life around - and, along with it, the lives of hundreds of abused and abandoned dogs, cats, pigs, pigeons, chickens, sheep, goats and rabbits, and dozens of recovering addicts and ex-cons, who, like himself, have been through hard times and need an opportunity to bring out the goodness that lies within..."

—Montel Williams, from *A Dozen Ways to Sunday: Stories of Hope and Courage*, featuring a chapter about Eddie Lama



For more information about Eddie Lama or "The Witness" documentary, contact: James LaVeck, (607) 275-0806, james@tribeofheart.org — or visit www.tribeofheart.org