

# Human Kindness Foundation

A Little Good News

Christmas 2012

## HOLIDAY BLESSINGS

*For this holiday newsletter we're featuring several stories from Tales of A Magic Monastery, along with some colorful drawings we've received from men and women inside. Like the parables of Jesus, these stories unfold new levels of meaning if we take time to sit with them. Whatever your tradition, we wish you a blessed season and deepening Peace.*



Wade Holman, Cleburne, TX

## CHRISTMAS AT THE MONASTERY

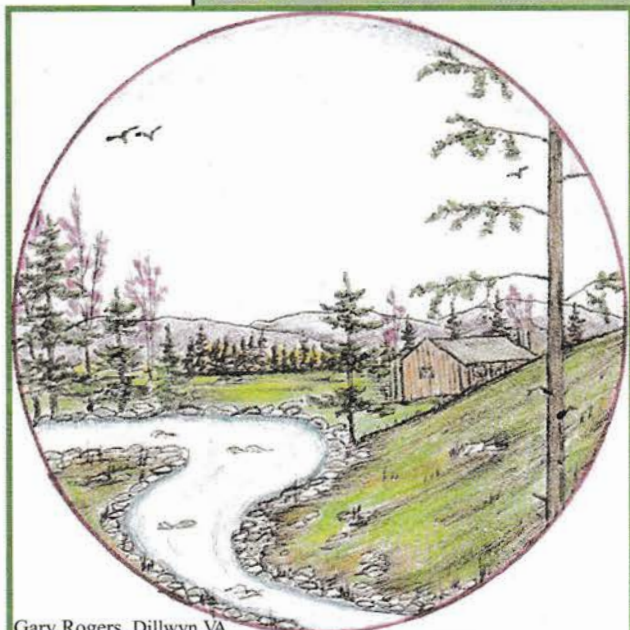
For Christmas why don't you go to the Magic Monastery?

They have a Brother there who was one of the shepherds who first greeted the Christ Child. Of course this Brother is very old now, but when you hear him play his flute, you will become very young.

The three Wise Men are there also. Each Christmas one of them will give the sermon. Listen very carefully. You may have difficulty with his language, but that is because he is so wise and you are so foolish. I thought he was superficial, talking about incense on Christmas. It was only later that I realized he had been talking about the REAL incense, and now I can smell that wherever I go. Perhaps when you go there he will be speaking about the REAL gold, or the REAL myrrh.

And then there are the angels. You'll hear them singing. What shall I say? It's God's music. It gets into your bones. Nothing is the same afterwards.

But all this is nothing. What really matters is when the Word becomes Flesh. Wait till you experience that.



Gary Rogers, Dillwyn, VA

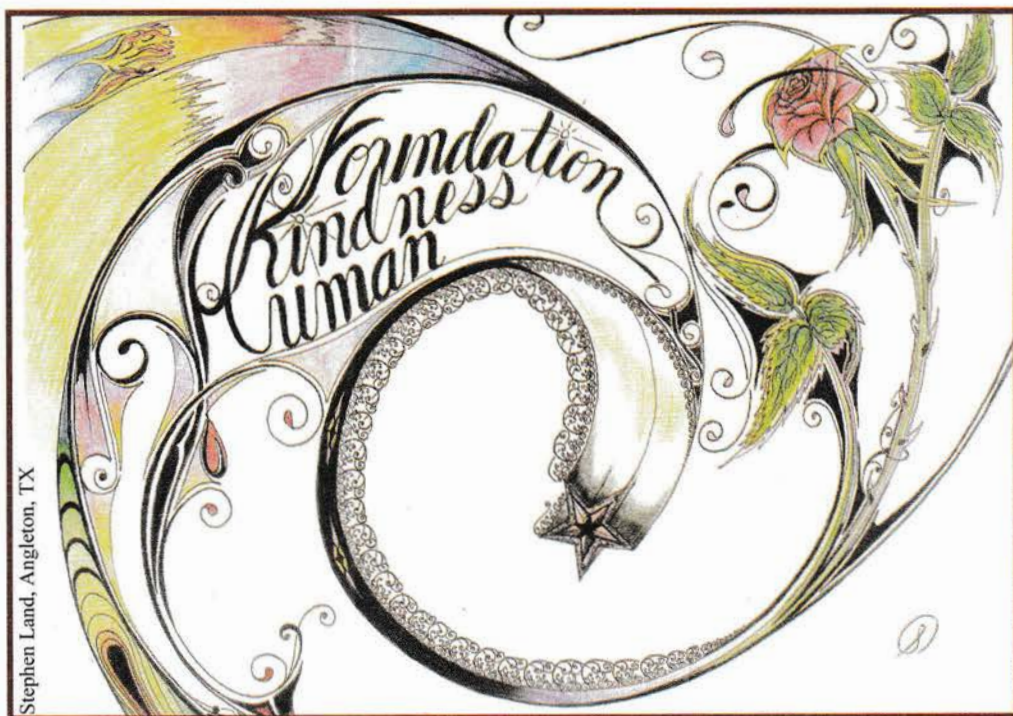
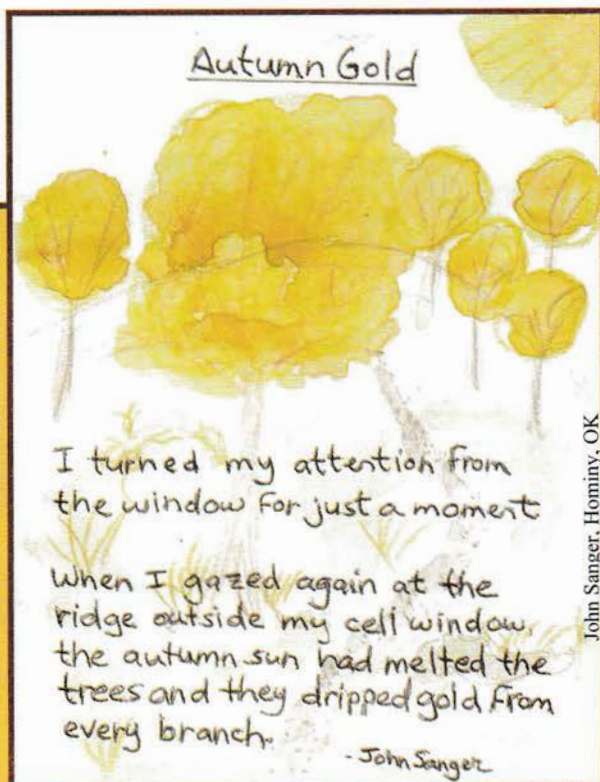




## THE MOUNTAIN OF DECISION

"How long have you been a monk?" I asked.  
 "A real monk? Not long. It took me fifty years to get up the Mountain of Decision."  
 "Do you have to see first before you decide, or is it that you decide first and then you see?"

"If you'll take my advice," he said, "you'll drop the questions, and go right up the mountain."







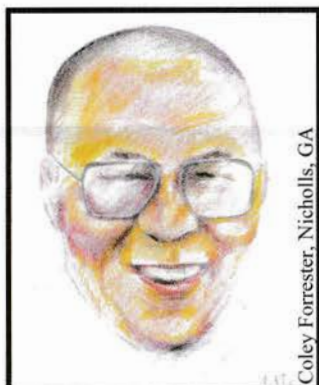
Carl Marshall, Huntsville, TX

## NOW

I had just one desire—to give myself completely to God. So I headed for the monastery. An old monk asked me, “What is it you want?”

I said, “I just want to give myself to God.”

I expected him to be gentle, fatherly, but he shouted at me, “NOW!” I was stunned. He shouted again, “NOW!” then he reached for a club and came after me. I turned and ran. He kept coming after me, brandishing his club and shouting, “Now, Now.” That was years ago. He still follows me, wherever I go. Always that stick, always that “NOW!”



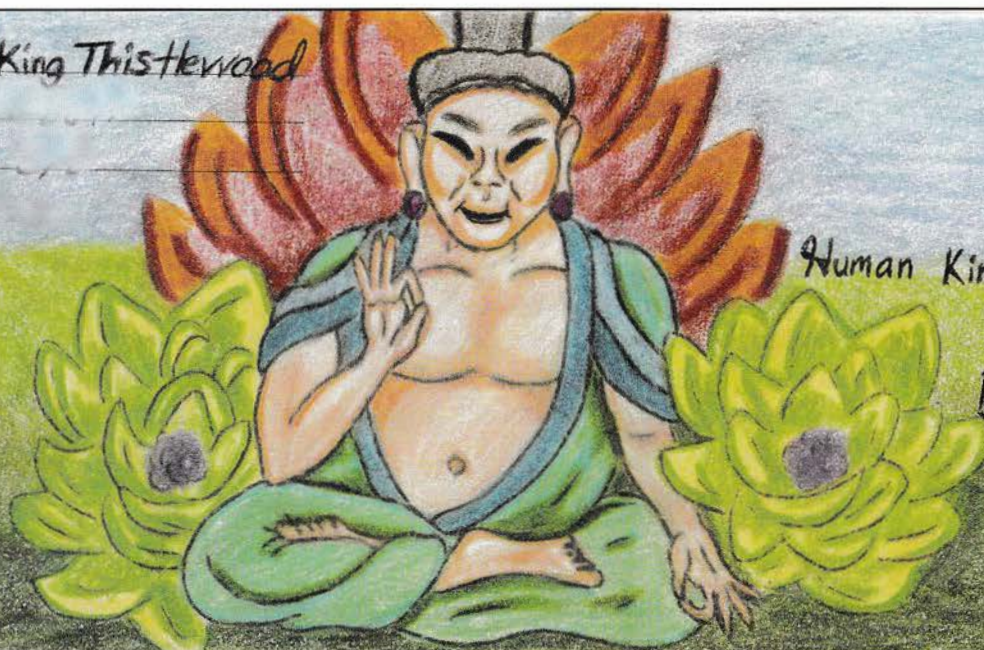
Coley Forrester, Nicholls, GA

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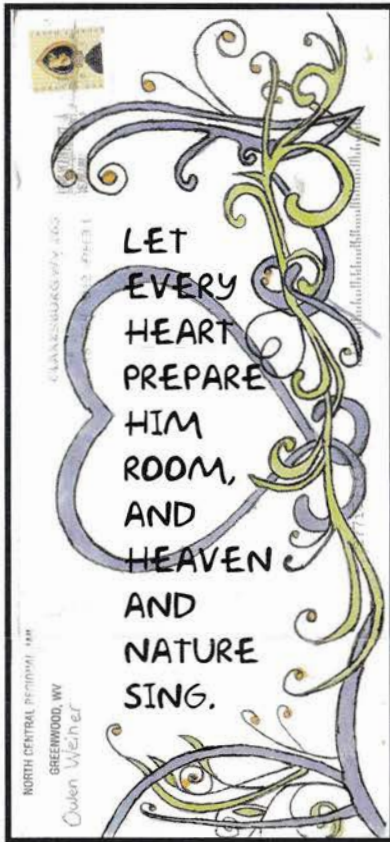
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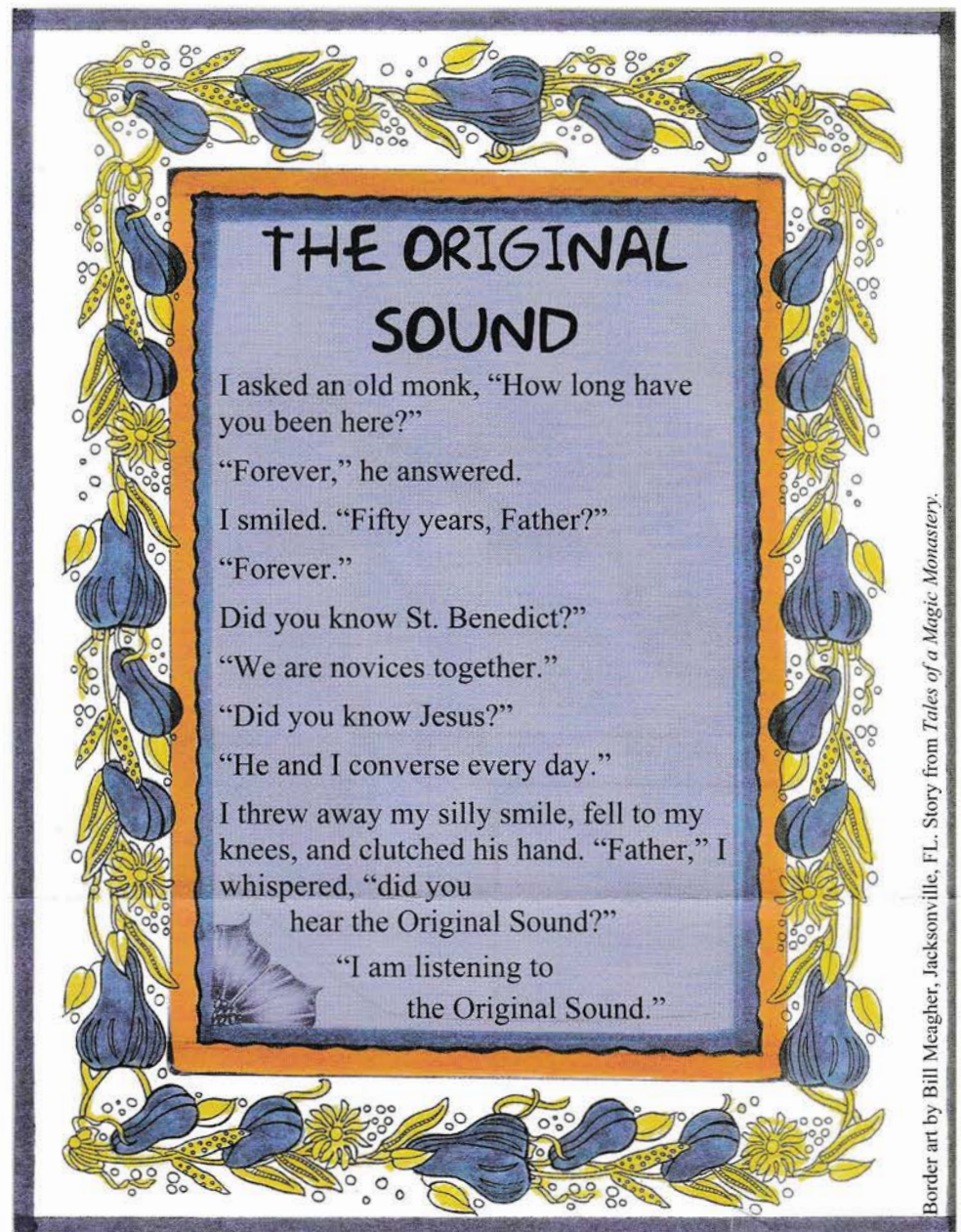


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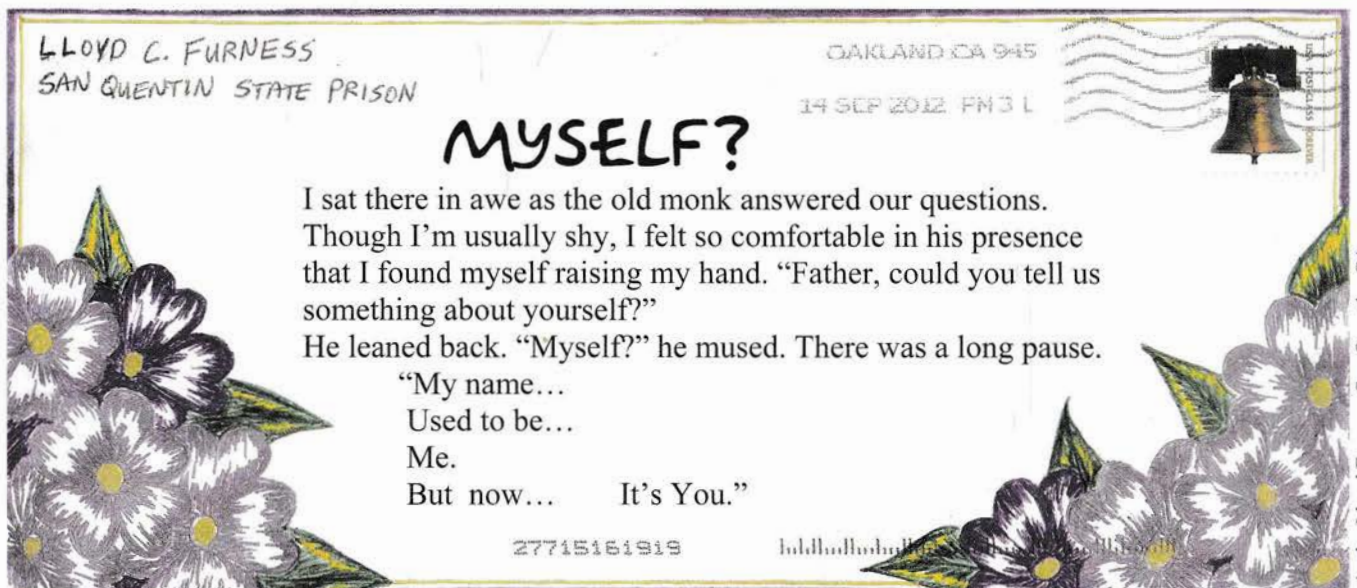




Words from "Joy to the World," by Isaac Watts. Art by Owen Weiner, Greenwood, WV.



Border art by Bill Meagher, Jacksonville, FL. Story from *Tales of a Magic Monastery*.



Art by Lloyd Furness, San Quentin, CA.  
Story from *Tales of a Magic Monastery*.



EARL H. Campbell

Amarillo, Texas



## THE GREAT AMEN

When the guestmaster asked me what my spiritual practice was, I told him, "The rosary. I've been saying that every day for years. I have a great devotion to Our Lady."

"Would you like to meet her?" he asked.

"What do you mean?"

"Well, she's right over there, the door at the end of the cloister."

"You mean I could have an appointment?"

"No appointment, just go in." I did. There she was, no mis-

taking it. She remained in her chair, but her eyes and face embraced me as if I were her infant. Then she spoke my name. That surprised me. Why did that surprise me, when I had been praying to her for so many years? I was speechless. She took my head to her heart.

Then after a bit she began to speak. It was reminiscing. She went back to my infancy, told me about my parents, my childhood, adolescence, then went right up to the present. But she saw it all so differently. It was a total reinterpretation of my life. Finally, she said, "Before you go, I want to give you something. It's my Amen. You'll find it very handy. You can use it in all sorts of situations. You can apply it to persons and memories. It will grow with use, and hopefully someday you will say the Great Amen."

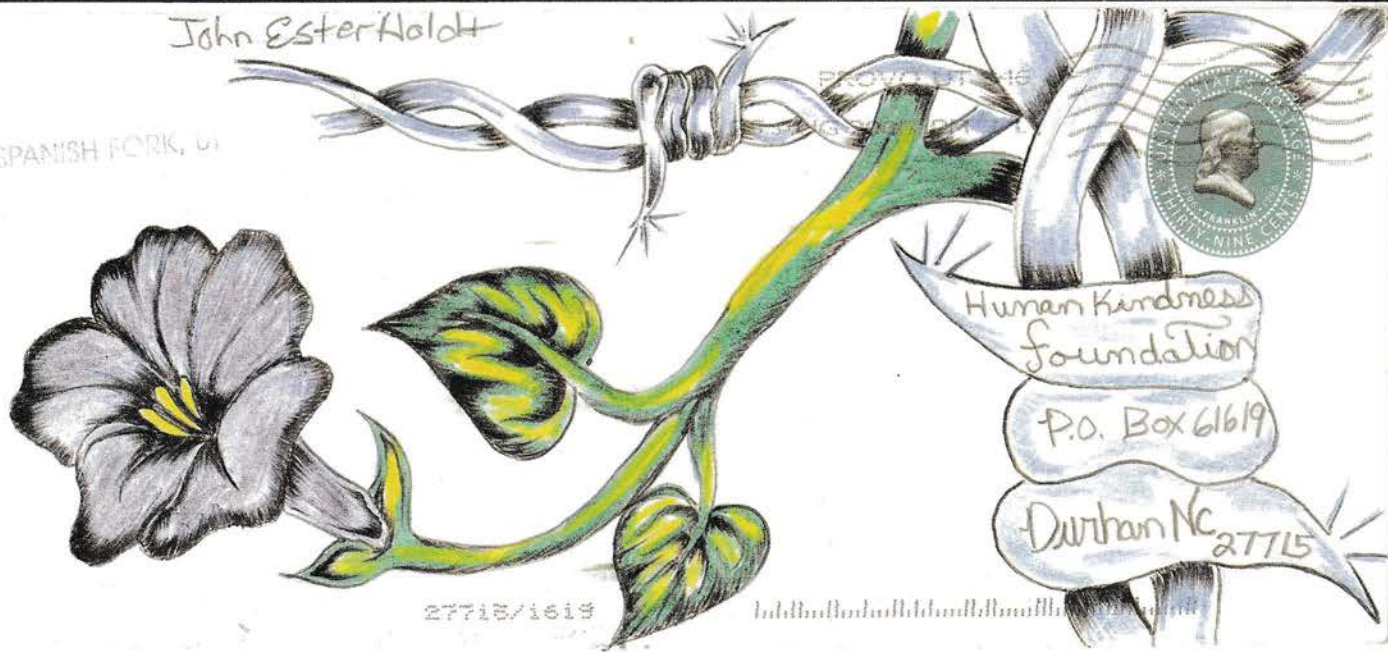
I live now in the embrace of those eyes. Daily I use her Amen. Please pray that some day I may dare to say the Great Amen.

**PEACE ON EARTH, AND MERCY MILD, GOD AND  
SINNERS RECONCILED.**

~CHARLES WESLEY

John Esterholdt

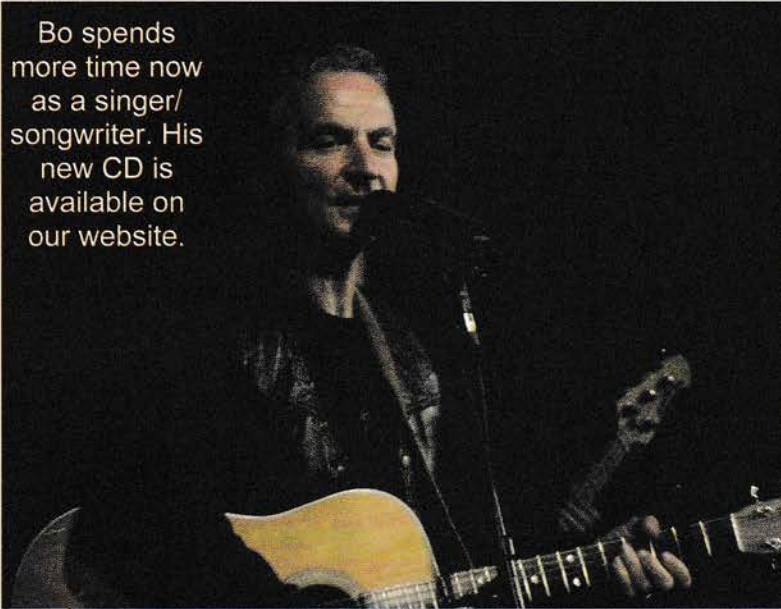
SPANISH FORK, LA





# BELOVED FOUNDER BO LOZOFF RETIRES

Bo spends more time now as a singer/songwriter. His new CD is available on our website.



## *A message from Sita Lozoff:*

My dear family,

After almost 40 years of leading the Prison-Ashram Project and Human Kindness Foundation, Bo has retired.

The Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers of the Human Kindness Foundation thank Bo for being the guiding force behind establishing this project that we're so honored to

continue. Bo wrote the books, built the buildings, set up the computer systems, inspired our donors and much more. His life's work has changed countless lives, and we are so grateful. We wish him a retirement full of peace and great spiritual adventure.

And to you, our beloved family, we pledge our commitment to continuing this work that Bo still loves so deeply, and to keeping Bo's writings available to anyone who requests them. We know that many of you will miss him — we miss him, too. It's possible Bo will still contribute newsletter articles from time to time or participate in our work in other ways. Remember that his love, wisdom, and advice are available to you through his books, and he continues to keep all of us in his heart and prayers.

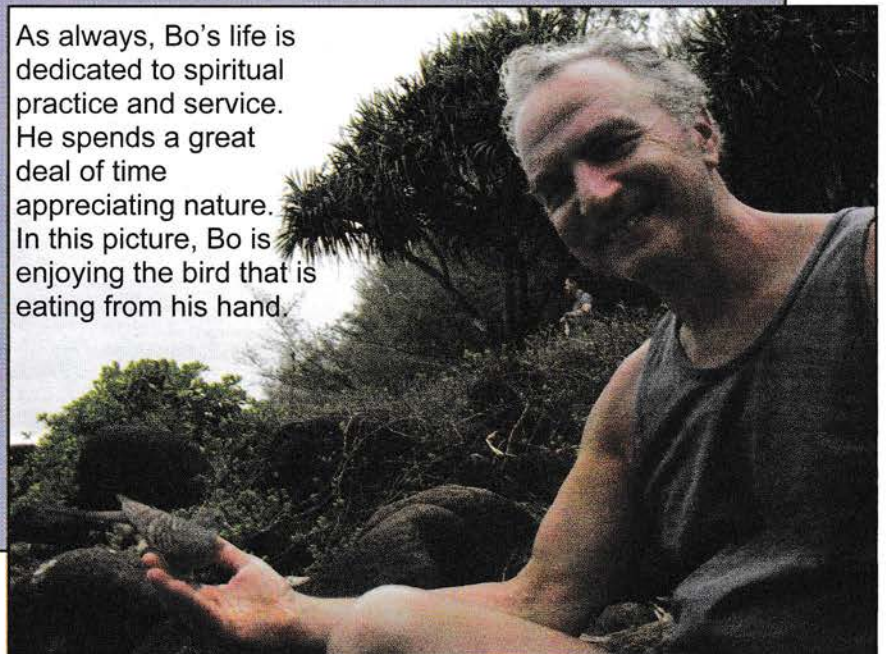
Love and Blessings,

*Sita*

Sita Lozoff and your Human Kindness Foundation Family

P.S. Although I'm also at an age when many people retire, I'm continuing my full-time work with Human Kindness Foundation. —SL

As always, Bo's life is dedicated to spiritual practice and service. He spends a great deal of time appreciating nature. In this picture, Bo is enjoying the bird that is eating from his hand.





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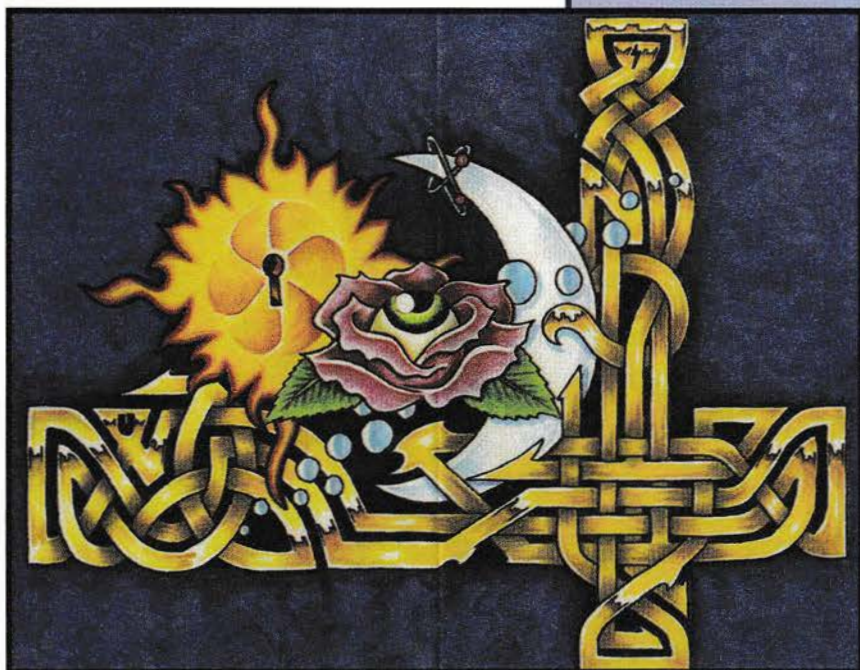
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EVEN  
AFTER  
ALL THIS TIME  
THE SUN NEVER SAYS TO THE EARTH,

"YOU OWE ME."

LOOK  
WHAT HAPPENS  
WITH A LOVE LIKE THAT,  
IT LIGHTS THE WHOLE SKY.



Poem by Hafiz, a 12th century Persian poet.  
The term "Hafiz" is used by Muslims to mean  
someone who has completely memorized the Quran.

Drawing by Vincent DiStefano, Cumberland, MD