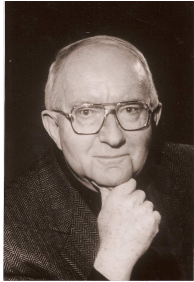


Anglican Fellowship OF **PRAYER** Canada



AFP-C NEWSLETTER - Vol. 22, No. 1

LENTEN EASTER 2014



THE DECISION

Herbert O'Driscoll

For the last couple of years you have become aware of being called to something else, something more than the village. Not until the last couple of months has the call become

focused on the person people are calling "the Baptizer". You knew him when you were both younger. He chose the desert. Now he's back with a searing social message that is drawing crowds.

What followed was something you would recall as a dream - meeting John, wading into the warm brown water, gasping for a moment as you were laid back in it, standing in the sunlight suddenly aware that in some inexplicable way your life had arrived at a moment of utter peace, that you were being called by a love beyond understanding. You knew there was no going back.

That was yesterday. Today finds you in the echoing silence of the desert beyond the river. You don't know it yet but this brutal and dangerous labyrinth of rock and sand will shape the rest of your life. The silence, the solitariness, the glittering night sky, all conspires to reveal what lies below consciousness. The desert will bring its demons of fear, anxiety, guilt and self doubt.

Self doubt comes first in the small hours. "If" whispers the ice cold voice, "if you are the Son of God". That chilling "if" will be repeated, each time bringing with it a flood of self doubt. "Are you just imagining a call to greater things?"

By now nights and days have become weeks, the demons relentless. *So you wish to change the world, do you? How? Where will you begin?* Desperate possibilities come to your mind. There was a morning when the dawn sunlight made the rocks around you shine like loaves of

- Continued on page 2 -



FRED SAYS

What is the Fred Says message?

"Fred Says" conveys the message that it all starts with food. Without food, people have a very difficult time taking medicine, sleeping, going to school, working and generally contributing to society. Food and nutrition are fundamental for positive physical and mental health, fuels for community growth and prosperity.

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is the official Anglican Church of Canada's agency for sustainable development, relief, refugees and global justice. With the support of Anglican parishes across Canada, PWRDF makes financial and human resources available to support partners' initiatives and to promote knowledgeable actions of solidarity at home and around the world.

PWRDF works with partner agencies to provide training in farming techniques as well as seeds to get small-scale farmers started in growing beans and other fruits and vegetables.

Note: Find more information on the web site

www.fredsays.ca

Great Creator of the universe, who loved our world so much You sent Your son to be one of us and redeem us for Yourself, give us eyes to see that world's needs, ears to hear its cries for help, hearts to care and hands to reach out in love and thus follow in the footsteps of Him who saw and heard and reached out to all in need, Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

- Mrs. Grace Haldenby

THE DECISION

- Continued from page 1 -

golden bread. Why not feed the hungry and gain a following? There was a restless night when you found yourself on the pinnacle of Herod's vast Temple, far below you a crowd waiting for some gesture that would make you their political saviour. Only a few nights ago you had a delirious dream of power, power like that of Rome, even greater. The temptation was chillingly seductive.

But in the last few days you have become aware of two things happening. You've realized that all the choices offered are essentially the same. All are temptations to your ego. You alone can feed people or impress people or dominate people. And with this realization has come the ability to dismiss the demons. Suddenly you found yourself shouting a "No" that echoed along the walls of the wadis, and in that instant a very different kind of voice seemed to speak deep inside you, releasing the realization that the opposites of ego are relationship, friendship, community. In that moment a new vision has begun to form in you. The demons have faded, the desert has ceased to be a place of fear. The voice of Isaiah comes to you. Since childhood you have loved his poetry...

*"The desert shall rejoice
and blossom like the rose...
And a Way will be there."*

Yesterday saw you striding out of the desert, wading across the river and turning north to the Galilee, all doubt removed, all fear gone. You know what you will do. You will go north around the lake, rent a room in Capernaum, rest there before making your moves. The day will come when you will walk down the shoreline where the boats are drawn up and the fishers doing their chores. Gradually you will develop a few friendships. Sometimes you will speak about the dream you have brought from the desert, a dream called "the Kingdom of God", a dream of a transformed world. Then one day you will turn to two of your new friends. You will say "Follow me, and we'll fish for people".

*And so it will be
generation after generation.
the dream will not die.
the community will form.
Thanks be to God.*

Herbert O'Driscoll
Lent 2014

**PLEASE PRAY WITH US
FOR NEW AFP-C LEADERS FOR
NATIONAL DIRECTOR &
NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON**

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to whom you revealed your power and might and promised your presence and blessing, be among us during this time in the life of our Church as we seek and pray for a new National Director and Chairperson for our Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. Reveal your power and might to us in our ministry, in our clergy, in our searching and in all our deliberations. Bless and guide our prayers and our labours that our mission and witness be strong in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Receive your
AFP-C newsletter
in
FULL COLOUR
by email**

**Forward your
email address**

to Win Mizon at

winken@worldline.ca

or

wimizon@hotmail.ca

OR

**Read it on the AFP-C web site
www.anglicanprayer.org**

To Contact Us
**Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Canada
P.O. Box 78084
NEPEAN, ONTARIO K2E 1B1**

Calendar and Map: Tools for Finding God

By Jane Richardson Jensen
(former DR of Calgary, and a member of St Martin's, Calgary)



As we begin a new year, I'd like to share what my husband calls a cracker of a prayer! Here it is:

Ever-present God, wherever we find ourselves, we find you. In times of trouble and confusion, in times of gratitude and joy, you accompany us.

Be with us now in our questions about our past, present, and future. Inspire us to discover ways to worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

(From the lesson plan for November 10, 2013, Seasons of the Spirit, Multiage/Ages 5-12, Woodlake Publishing, 2012)

The theme of the Sunday school class was Praising God in all circumstances. Keying off of the prayer, we used a calendar to represent the times part of the prayer and a large, multi-colored fabric map of the world for the phrase 'wherever we are.'

While flipping through the calendar, we talked about happy events in our lives – birthdays, Christmas – and sad times – wars. For the sake of Remembrance Day, I pointed out it was sad because of the deaths, but it was also happy because it marked the end of the war and the return of peace.

When you think about it, many things in life, like graduations, weddings, moves, and dare I say, sometimes death, are happy-sad occasions. We celebrate the beginning of the next stage of life (leaving home, marrying, release from pain and physical limitations and the resurrection of a beloved friend or family member), while we face emptiness or deep grief because of some dramatic change in the family. The adoption of our eight and five-year-old daughters back in 1992 was such a happy-sad day. We were thrilled to have children, and they wanted a forever family. But leaving the incredible foster family they'd had for two years was wrenching. The foster mother called it a happy-sad day. The term has stayed with me.

The map helped us to locate where we are now, where Jesus was born way back then, and where the events of the Bible stories took place, in this case (Haggai 1:15b - 2:9) where Kings Cyrus and Darius lived (Persia, now Iran). Haggai's message was not to dwell on the past, no matter how glorious. He claimed God is with the

returning exiles in their despair over King Solomon's destroyed temple and their stalled re-building program, and encouraged them to look to the future with hope. This is a good message for anyone involved in re-building, whether they're rebuilding a broken relationship, replacing a home or business lost in the floods, or looking forward to building something entirely new, like a church home!

The next time you look at a calendar or a map in whatever form, remember, "*Ever-present God, wherever we find ourselves, we find you.*"

Repentance

Paul Dumbrille



Repentance as taught in the Bible is a call to persons to make a radical turn from one way of life to another. The repentance called for throughout the Bible is a summons to surrender to God

as Sovereign. Though it most often includes sorrow and regret, it is more than that. It is a call to change from self-love, self-trust, and self-assertion to trust and self-commitment to God. It is a change of mind that involves a conscious turning away from wrong actions, attitudes and thoughts that conflict with a Godly lifestyle and biblical commands, and an intentional turning toward doing that which the Bible says pleases God. In repenting, one makes a complete change of direction (180° turn) toward God. The words "repent," "repentance," and "repented" are mentioned over 100 times in the Bible.

Repentance typically includes an admission of committing a wrong or for omission of doing the right thing; a promise or resolve not to repeat the offense; an attempt to make restitution for the wrong, or in some way to reverse the harmful effects of the wrong or the omission where possible.

One of many examples of repentance in the New Testament can be found in the parable of the prodigal son where the prodigal son turns his life around and comes home to his father, who represents the forgiving accepting God.

In our prayers as we connect with God, we can look at what we have done and what we have not done, and discern where we need to repent.



Diocese of Rupert's Land Prayer in Action in Morden

Rev. Diane Guilford

St. Thomas Anglican Church in Morden has made an intentional commitment to make prayer a priority in their parish.

They have a Prayer Group made up of 12 men and women in their parish who are working hard at providing opportunities for the parish to be engaged in prayer and to raise awareness of when prayers have been answered. Reta Young is committed to the Alongsider Ministry. It has been an exciting experience for many of them as they see the positive results of their prayers with individuals who are suffering, as well as to the community life of their congregation. They have been led to do significant outreach ministry including supporting the West End Commons Ministry at St. Matthew's Anglican Church.

A Prayer Chain that responds to immediate prayers has been extremely gratifying for people who have a crisis happening and want to be in touch with people who can be responding in prayer immediately.

At Sunday worship members are invited to participate in the prayers of the people, but also to write prayers which are placed in a box at the back of the church and brought forward during Communion. They are later burned and the ashes are like incense. Sometimes we find it easier to write down our prayer requests, and we may also prefer to keep them confidential.

On Sunday, November 17th St. Thomas changed their morning worship to 3:00 pm and invited the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer to lead them in a prayer service. There were 45 people gathering to spend time in worship and prayer. The AFP Music Team of Nancy Aasland and Bev Sheridan created a beautiful space of peace and holiness filling the temple with beautiful music with the congregation joining in. The worship, led by Diane Guilford and Heather Birtles is adapted from the Iona Community, allowing time for silence, scripture, song and prayers. During the prayers the congregation was invited to gather around their spiritual leader, the Rev. Grahme Spear and his wife Shirley, to pray for strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit in their journey. This is a meaningful time for parishioners to prayerfully support their clergy as well as other leaders in the parish. There is also an opportunity for people to light candles for petitions and/or thanksgiving and to receive anointing and prayers themselves if they wish.

AFP has been to many of the rural parishes, some of them more than once, to lead this prayer service. We are pleased to offer it to any parishes who would like to receive this kind of prayer support for their clergy and leaders, as well as the whole congregation.

St. Thomas, Morden has seen the results of their intentional focus on prayer. We give thanks for the ways in which God is working through them to serve God's people.



Standing L. To R.: Ven. Grahme Spear, Dr. Jeff Ivey, Nancy Aasland, Elaine Ivey, Shirley Jones, Shirley Spear, Bob Jones, Catherine Evenson, Heather Birtles, Bev Sheridan.

Sitting: Reta Young *Squatting:* Rev. Diane Guilford



Lenten Quiet Day



Give yourself the gift of a day to be still,
to be present to one's self and to God,
to be aware of the movement of God within us.
Both individual silence and gentle, group participation.

Saturday, March 22, 2014

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church

3 St. Vital Road, Winnipeg

**Leaders: The Rev. Aubrey Hemminger and
Ms. Nancy Aasland**

Cost: \$20.00 (includes lunch and refreshments)

Registration to: Mrs. Margaret Jones, St. Mary Magdalene Church
3 St. Vital Road, Winnipeg, MB R2M 1Z2

Enquiries: The Rev. Diane Guilford, 661-2432 or
dguilford12@hotmail.com

Please make cheques payable to Anglican Fellowship of Prayer by
Friday, March 14, 2014

Diocese of Huron

When Praying is a Challenge

Rev. Valerie Kenyon



On Saturday, October 5, the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Huron) together with the Associates of St. John the Divine, gathered to hear Sister Sue speak on the topic of 'When Praying Is A Challenge'.

For some the challenges were a question of time, for others a matter of focus, and for others a perceived lack of skill in their prayer life. Sister Sue addressed these questions in her usual honest, open and engaging manner, while giving us time to reflect on our own and with one another. It was a very pleasant event of learning and fellowship, with participants leaving feeling inspired and not quite so alone in their struggles.

The Primate's

World Relief and Development Fund

2014 Lent Resource

PWRDF has produced a Lenten booklet which can be found on the following site:

www.pwrdf.org/uploads/214/pwrdf_lentbook_2013_final



This Lent PWRDF invites you to reflect on food security as we journey together through the holy season. Our Sundays will focus on our mission of Christian initiation, connecting the work of PWRDF in food security to one of our baptismal vows. Under the framework of that baptismal vow, each day for the remainder of the week will focus on a theme that impacts food security and invites us to **pray, act and give**. Our **prayers** will focus on celebrating our own privileged situation, acknowledging our ignorance about our less fortunate neighbours and expressing gratitude for the food security work of PWRDF. Our **actions** will focus on learning more about our own relationship with food as an expression of our faith. Our **giving** will invite us into financial commitment, as we are able, to support the ongoing food security efforts of PWRDF partners.

In the resource you will find opportunities to donate to PWRDF programs and partners. At the celebration of Easter, we invite you to take your donation to your parish and ask them to send a cheque marked "Lent 2014" to PWRDF for the amount you have collected.

"Sometimes Prayers don't change situations, but they change our attitude towards situations and give us hope which changes our entire life."

Bishop's Conference on Prayer (Huron)

Developing and Sustaining

Praying Communities

Saturday, May 3, 2014

St. Aidan's Church

1246 Oxford St. W., London, ON



Speaker: Rev. Canon Dr. Todd Townshend
Dean of Theology at Huron University College
Canon Theologian of the Diocese of Huron
Served in several parishes over 21 years
Learned the central importance of prayer
for the life of the church.

Cost: \$20 (lunch included)

Registration: Rev. Kim Metelka, Registrar
519-869-2403
kamelka@gmail.com

Online Information and brochure:
www.diohuron.org/what/liturgy_prayer/AFP.php

*Prayer is the way human beings tune-in to
the most powerful force in the universe.*

Praying individuals enter into communion with God.

Praying communities change the world.

*Christians are called to live their lives
so that they become prayer.*

During our time together these statements will begin our considerations and conversations about prayer so that our practice of prayer can develop in new, fresh and sustainable ways.

Mishamikweesh

Last July, General Synod approved the request of the area mission of northern Ontario to become an indigenous diocese. The new diocese will be known as the **Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikweesh**, a tribute to the old settlement of Big Beaver House, a few miles from the Kingfisher Lake First Nation community where the first native archdeacon of Keewatin, the late Dr. William Winter, began his ministry in 1965. The new diocese will cover 16 First Nations communities belonging to Treaty 9 around Kingfisher Lake, north of Sioux Lookout.

The new diocese will become official on the fourth of June, 2014, Dr. Winter's birthday. Bishop Lydia Mamakwa, the current area bishop of northern Ontario, will become the first diocesan bishop of Mishamikweesh. Dr. William Winter was her uncle.

The creation of this new northern Ontario diocese does not add to the current number of Anglican dioceses or bishops since, on September 30, 2015, Archbishop David Ashdown, currently bishop of Keewatin and metropolitan of Rupert's Land, will retire. The diocese of Keewatin will cease to function on December 31, 2014, but will exist for legal purposes. The remaining portions of Keewatin will be realigned with other jurisdictions. This will require boundary changes to the dioceses of Rupert's Land and Brandon.

The parishes in the southern region of the diocese of Keewatin will become part of the diocese of Rupert's Land. The Parish of St. James the Apostle in Thompson, Manitoba will become part of the diocese of Brandon.

National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald has become the new area bishop for the northern Manitoba region. Archbishop Ashdown and Bishop MacDonald will share responsibilities for this region. Bishop MacDonald's role will be a transitional one. He will work with Bishop Mamakwa until the northern Manitoba region selects their own area bishop. After June 4, 2014, the region will be a part of the newly created Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikweesh, of which Lydia Mamakwa is bishop.

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer requests prayers for the bishops, clergy and the people in these regions as they journey in this new adventure in witness and ministry.



Diocese of New Westminster Bishop-Elect Rev. Canon Melissa Skelton

On Saturday, November 30, 2013, New Westminster elected Rev. Canon Melissa Skelton, the first woman to be Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster, succeeding Bishop Michael Ingham who retired August 31st, 2013, after 20 years as the spiritual leader of Anglicans in this diocese.



The Ordination and Installation of Canon Skelton as the 9th Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster is scheduled for St. David's Day, March 1st, 2014.

Currently, Canon Skelton is Canon for Congregational Development and Leadership; and Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Seattle in the Diocese of Olympia (The Episcopal Church [TEC])

The Rev. Susan Foley-Currie is the AFP Diocesan Representative for New Westminster

Trust in the Slow Work of God

A quote by

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S. J. (1881 – 1955)

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
To reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to
something unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through
some stages of instability-
and that it may take a very long time.
And so I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually – let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances
acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.
Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.

Mother Teresa, an Authorized Biography

By Kathryn Spink
(Harper Collins, 1998, 2011)

Book Review by Rev. Carol Langley



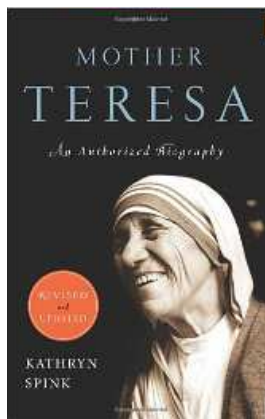
This is the story of a remarkable woman who was the founder of the Missionaries of Charity and the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. As remarkable as these accomplishments were, however, it is her extraordinary faith that inspires the reader.

This woman, who saw Jesus in the poorest of the poor and thus loved them passionately, had a life-long love affair with Jesus. It was a love affair that gave her great joy and at the same time left her on the edge of inner despair as she suffered, “the profound pain of God’s apparent absence despite her great thirst for him.” (Pg.300)

While her days of dryness and inner darkness never left her, she yet radiated an intense joy that was no doubt the fruit of her prayer life. Lonely and thirsty for God she would pray for several hours at a time coming forth from her prayer closet energized and refreshed although seemingly no closer to God. Rather than discouraging her from prayer, this sense of loneliness for God just drove her to pray more. “If we really want to pray,” she would write, “we must first learn to listen, for in the silence of the heart God speaks.” (p.172)

Obviously Mother Teresa listened well for she never doubted that she was following God’s will and in doing so she established an international network of foundations. Her legacy was “some four thousand sisters, over four hundred brothers, and countless Missionaries of charity Fathers, Lay Missionaries of Charity, Co-Workers and other volunteers...” (p.284) Concerning these achievements she would say “with wonder in her voice, was not her work but God’s work. She and those who labored with her were but channels, instruments of his love.” (p.xii)

This book is not an easy or a quick read, for it is deep and dense. It is, however, worth the time and the effort for in it the reader will have a glimpse of the God who is faithful even when we are more aware of God’s absence than his presence.



Lenten Learnings: Personal Reflection on Faith by Rev. Carol Langley

Faith: Oxford Dictionary – complete trust or confidence

Scripture says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." False gods offer no fear. If that which we call "God" is only a projection of our own selfish, deceitful aspirations, then what is there to fear in that? But our God, the God who comes to us in Jesus Christ, is a living God. And to see in a moment that loving but demanding face, to sense the perilous journey that lies ahead when we follow him, that is to feel fear. But such fear surely can only be experienced if we have faith: faith that God exists, faith that God is God!

Encounters with the living God cannot only be deeply moving, but also threateningly fearful, as well as life-transforming.

Faith seems to me to be a troubling concept. I say that I have faith, but what does it mean? For me it should mean that I believe that God is God and I do and that Jesus is who he says he is in the New Testament and I do, at least most of the time. And yet I don’t think I live as if I believe this. I don’t live a life that is a non-anxious existence; a life that is based on trust and fellowship with the Lord. If I did then surely I would not be worried about what I believe; I would not be worried about what people think; I would not be worried about all the little things that confront each and every one of us every day. Faith would make a difference to how I experience life especially as it relates to other people.

And so do I have faith? Well, perhaps!

For me faith is a source of hope; hope for tomorrow; hope that eternity is real and that what we experience here is not all that there is. But faith is so much more than a belief in heaven and hell; faith gives me a reason to go from one moment to another. Faith kept me living on tip toe when I was single. It encouraged me never to give up hope when the odds seemed totally against any possibility of meeting someone who would fulfill my expectations of a life partner. Faith gave me courage; courage to find a church community and to begin to explore new friendships and activities in a world where I was constrained by fear and self-doubt. Faith made me believe that I could rather than I shouldn’t or I couldn’t. Faith, then gave me a new language: a language filled with laughter and possibilities.

Why then do I say that faith is a troubling concept? Scripture says that faith is both a gift and a fruit of the

- continued on page 8 -

Spirit. In other words my will has little to do with how my faith manifests itself. I can, of course, choose to use it any way I want but I cannot choose how it will be experienced initially. In other words, it's not mine to decide whether faith is a feeling or an experience; it's not mine to decide whether or not it's bubbling up all over the place or a weenie word somewhere deep inside of me. It's God's to do with as he wills for me as he knows what I need and when I need it. I can, though, decide that I will trust my Lord more than I trust my faith. Now there's an idea!

Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief!

Prayer of St. Richard

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given us; for all the pain and insults You have borne for us. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may we know You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow you more nearly day by day.

This Ash Wednesday, Lord, we wear the sign of the cross on our foreheads for the world to see, to remind us that we are mortal and will return to the earth. We pray for the inhabitants of the earth, many of whom experience food scarcity due to human induced climate change. We pray that our choices this Lent will reflect a faithful desire for sustainable food security for all of God's children.

Holy God, on this dark Good Friday let us cede control. Let us realize that we do not own the Earth, that we cannot own people, that we have no right to own food systems. May we cease our erroneous use of food as a weapon, learning that no one has the right to deny access to life giving seed and land, that by doing so we are condemning our brothers and sisters to a painful death. May we support those whose goal it is to use stewardship of food systems to provide food for all.

AFP-C Newsletter Editor

Winnifred (Win) Mizon

519-433-7485

winken@worldline.ca

or

wlmizon@hotmail.ca



Motorcycle Meditation 2

(From the book "On a Wing and a Prayer"
by the late Bishop Gary Woolsey)

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! (Hebrews 5:12 NIV)

As the church began to grow there was a need for teachers who were grounded in faith and could model Christian life in word and deed. My thoughts went back to my Sunday School days and those simple Bible stories without much thought of applying them to my life. Would this be classified as the milk of the Gospel?

The milk of biking might be mastering your starting and stopping technique as well as learning to navigate curves properly. In my biking life I have learned the basics from two main sources: from articles and books on biking and from the great leaders in our motorcycle club who teach us about riding safely and skillfully. They do this in their words and actions. I have learned so much about biking from great mentors. I've even had the opportunity to mentor some in the biking community as well. It's when you are put in the position of mentor that you soon realize how little you know! But if you start teaching someone else the basics (the milk), you yourself will become a better biker.



In my spiritual life I have often gone back to basics by reading books on Prayer, Healing, and Faith. This was never a waste of time as I hopefully became a better teacher.

PRAYER: *Lord, grant me the humility to never be afraid to go back to basics in my life.*

For book orders, please contact

MARIE WOOLSEY

email: mewoolsey42@gmail.com

phone: 403-251-9569

