

Bits of Home Chat: Relief! All the canning is done! The men have to dig the potatoes. We tried a few the other day and they were really good! I was thinking about the ability to raise a good supply of produce in Alaska and wondered if they grow potatoes, so I went online and found an article that answered my questions. I thought you all would also enjoy it. { *Foods that Grow in Alaska* : Agriculture might not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Alaska. Home to frozen landscapes, snow-covered mountains, glaciers and months of darkness, it's not exactly the kind of place you would expect to find a lot of productive farmlands. Despite the state's harsh climate in the winter months, however, there are 762 farms and over 800,000



acres of farmland in the state. And while farming in Alaska is often a challenge, the short but intense growing season in the summer can actually yield world-record-size produce. Potatoes are one of the most valuable crops grown in Alaska, contributing a net value of over \$3 million to the state's economy annually, Planting usually begins in the middle of May, when the day length reaches about 17 hours, and the growing season continues through September. The continuous sunlight during the summer creates favorable conditions for crop production, particularly in the Matanuska Valley where the sun barely falls below the horizon from mid-May to mid-August. Common potato varieties grown in the state include Yukon Gold, Russet Norkotah and Green Mountain.}

Sounds great, and if we were younger, I think we would do well to go to Alaska for those sunny months, grow produce, sell it, and then come back to the other states for the dark months there. Since that's not gonna happen for us, maybe someone else can take the idea and run with it!Carl's arm is more agile but still very touchy when he moves it. It swells sometimes and then we get the ice on it and get him ibuprofen. That usually works after a while. It is still a chore for him to shower, put on his own clothes, work in the office, mow or anything else, for that matter. I am glad he is toughing it out and doing it on his own, except for getting Brylcream in his hair, and socks on his feet, and his brace on his arm. He's trying to do what he can, and that's great!

Last night we had prayer meeting and Bible study at church. The whole message was on loving God the way we ought to. It led me to see how that He loved us so much that even though man stepped away from Him to listen to the devil, He still loved man. I also saw the cycles of what happens when we unquestioningly follow God and when we unquestioningly follow the devil. God means His words to be followed because their natural outcome is life and peace and joy in Him. Following Satan's lead always ends in sorrow, loss, even premature death. Pastor rose gave us time to go to the altar and pray. I have been through a lot in the past couple of months and couldn't even pray like I wish I could have, so I sat right back down on my pew and prayed till I had peace to stand back up and sing the rest of the invitation song. What peace I knew after that. Let me extend Pastor's call to do a check on your heart of hearts. Is there a need anywhere to draw closer to God, to love him and to avoid the devil's deceptive wooing to what seems OK but starts a cycle of loss, not good. In Jesus' Name, The Earley duo! Cal & Kay

Verses to Ponder: Jeremiah 31:3; John 15:19; James 2:5; 1 John 2:15; 1 John 3:1; Proverbs 10:12; II Corinthians 13:11-14; Ephesians 3:19

**Memory Verse: We love him, because he first loved us. 1John
4:19**