

The Last

by Wayne Goff

My mother passed away *unexpectedly* at the age of 42 from an aneurysm in the brain. I was newly married and 20 at the time of her death. So many years later, I still remember fondly some of her sayings, mannerisms, and expressions. One of her favorite statements was at the conclusion of dinner when we had reached the bottom of the bowl or plate. *"Well children, that's the last. That's what the shoemaker killed his wife with."*

What? As a teenager, I had no idea what she meant by that saying, so I asked her one day. I don't remember if she told me the meaning of the word "*last*" in that context, or if she told me to look it up. Regardless, I learned what it meant. The *obscure* definition of last is "*a shoemaker's model for shaping or repairing a boot or shoe.*" It was a play on words. By substituting a common meaning for the word "*last*" which is "final person or thing" and replacing it by the more obscure one, you could have such an expression and put a wry smile on someone's face. You could also temporarily disarm a hungry teenager so that he forgot briefly that he was still hungry. (*Teenagers are always hungry!*)

Well, this is the ***last*** bulletin for 2011. The final one -- the end -- the finale -- **kaput!** Every year I thank God for the past 365 days and for the privilege of being a Christian, a gospel preacher, and a friend to those who love the Lord and are trying their best to go to heaven. One never knows at year's end if this is the *last one* or not. Oh, we may see another year of life, but not necessarily its end. People don't generally **plan** on dying at a given time. So always be prepared for man's inevitable end by being a faithful Christian.

- **"*Last* of all the woman died also."**
- **"And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His *last*."**
- **"Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his *last*. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things."**

Be sure you're ready when you breathe your *last*.

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