

Prayers.

Winifred and her family.

Agnes

Trevor; Irene.

Margaret and John.

Roy and Beryl.

Joel's work in India

Joyce and her son
Keith.

Val, Daryl and family

Blossom and her Family

Roy

Summer Lane

Milton Keynes

Those have Fallen
Away

To all our members who
are not here for one
reason or another.

That God may open
people's hearts to the
gospel and that God will
add to our number.

Study

Summerlanecoc.com
ScripturesSay.com.

Address:

Summer Lane Church
of Christ, Geach
street, Summer lane,
Newtown, Birming-
ham. West Midlands.
B19 2NN.

The Need For Brutal Honesty

Attaining heaven requires many sacrifices. The submission of our base desires, yielding control of our destinies, and the focus of our time and abilities are necessary in order to take up the cross of Christ (Mark 8:34). But, another serious casualty must be mentioned. It is one that is frequently overlooked due to its uncomfortable nature. Brutal honesty is required to enter heaven.

God demands that we submit ourselves to him in all areas of our lives. He knows what is best for us and will guide, protect, and nurture us as a perfect parent. Yet, in doing so, we must submit willingly to him in every way (1 Peter 5:6).

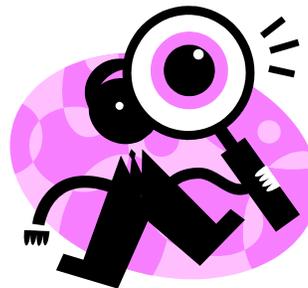
Paul wrote, "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man" (Ephesians 3:14,15, NKJV).

Submitting to God is something we must decide to do. Once the unwavering decision is made, we turn everything over to Christ and let the strength he provides arm

us to fight Satan (Ephesians 6:10-20).

First, the process of conversion requires brutal honesty so that we can see our sins as debilitating. Without Christ we will die in our sins (John 8:24). We must acknowledge our sin condition and admit that without a Savior we will perish (Isaiah 59:1,2; Romans 3:23).

Repentance will be required of us as we undergo the conversion process (Luke 13:3-5). We discard all of our sins, even the cherished heirlooms



of our sinful state. Parting with them will be painful. So, we must be brutally honest as we separate the righteous from the unrighteous.

Second, the process of discipleship requires brutal honesty. Emerson said, "Whatever games are played with us, we must play no games with ourselves, but deal in our privacy with the

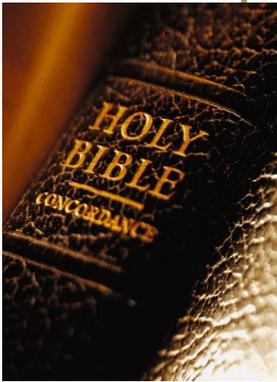
last honesty and truth." We must stare at ourselves in the mirror of Scripture and see the brutal honesty of its glare (James 1:23-25). Unflinchingly, we examine our sins and painfully excise the wounds to our souls. While these scars represent losses of will and way, they nonetheless stand as markers on the way to heaven.

"Honest hearts produce honest actions." (Brigham Young) The honesty with which we approach our sinful condition will determine the success of our endeavors. "Each time you are honest and conduct yourself with honesty, a success force will drive you toward greater success. Each time you lie, even with a little white lie, there are strong forces pushing you toward failure." (Joseph Sugarman)

Third, the condition of our personal relations requires brutal honesty. When we are in a relationship, we must be consistently evaluating ourselves. Are we being fair, patient, loving, and giving? Or, are we presenting only negative qualities? Success in our relationships means that we submit ourselves to others (Ephesians 5:21).

A man who constantly battles others needs a salient moment

Bible Studies for the Week of Dec 30th, 2007



AM Sermon..... No Details Given (Trevor)
 Scripture Reading for Sermon No Details Given
 Adult Bible Study Salvation (Ricci)
 Scripture Reading for service..... Ezekiel 1:1-21; Revelation 4
 Sunday School Class..... No Details Given
 Thursday Night Class Daniel (Trevor)
 Ladies Bible Class No Class Till Jan 9th 2008
 Men's Night Bible Class.....

“Here is an interesting quote from the story.”



Con from Page 1.
 of brutal honesty so he can see his contributions to the failures around him. God's call for unselfish love is the polar opposite of selfishness (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). Therefore, we must endure the difficult self-evaluation process so we can discover the flaws in our character and correct them.

Brutal honesty requires courage that few have. Most would rather succumb to the warm cocoon of self-deception where all is bliss. They can always be right and the best at everything as they wallow in their ignorance. Yet, they never grow and become the beautiful creation God has in mind. What a waste!

Execution

As perhaps you have not realized, its been a year since Saddam Hussein was executed for crimes against the Iraqi people and humanity. There have been various responses throughout society to this execution. Some have expressed elation that a brutal dictator was finally silenced and ultimately deposed. Some have expressed a satisfaction that justice was done. There are some, no doubt, who are upset that he was executed and will cause problems for many years as a result of it.

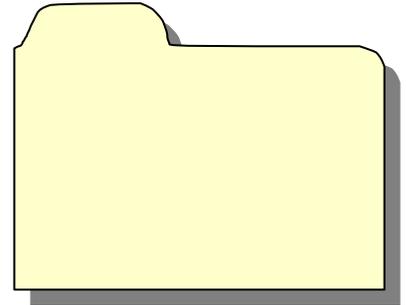
While I am certainly glad that the world rose up and terminated Saddam's form of leadership, I am also sad that here is a soul that has entered eternity without being properly prepared. Saddam Hussein stood before the court of humanity;

now he must stand before the court of Divinity. Not just a few of his actions will be judged, but his entire life and he will answer for every single sin that he committed in his lifetime, not just those for which we humans, as a race, consider worthy of punishment, but those which God considers worthy.

The sad truth is that many who applauded Saddam's execution will join him in eternity due to their own sins. What a sad thought to have removed a dictator on earth only to rejoin him in eternity. What can we do about that? We can believe and obey the gospel and live according to the truths found therein. The gospel is God's power to save (Romans 1:16). Let's heed it so that by it we may be saved.

For The Files: Week Beginning December 23rd 2007

Sunday Bible Class.....	12
Sunday AM Worship.....	31
Sunday School.....	5
Sunday Prayer Time	12.
Men's Night Study - Once in the Month	9
Sunday Evening Study.....	
Contribution.....	£170.00
Budget	£100.00



Ricci's Corner.

A Sluggish Church

We should have considered it a tremendous blessing to have sat down at the Christmas Day dinner table with family and friends to enjoy a bountiful feast with turkey, dressing and all the fixings.

God has been so good to us and we need to impress upon him that we are truly grateful.

But what about that heavy feeling about 30 minutes to an hour following that meal. Maybe you sat in your arm chair trying to watch a film, but you found yourself saying, "For the life of me, I just can't stay awake." "Good night." "Oh, but it's just 1:30 p.m." "Zzzzzz."

Could it be that this is the current state of the church in today's world? We are full and satisfied. We are content and complacent. We are sleepy, lifeless, without the energy to accomplish anything productive for our Master.

Admittedly, there are times when one has to catch one's breath. That's OK. Jesus, our busy Lord, took occasional breaks from his pressing work. However, we have not been called of Jesus to be "sleepers."

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand" (Romans 13:11,12).

Are you still in your spiritual p.j.'s? How long have you been resting? Haven't we had enough rest? Is there not a cause?

Some of us could use an old fashioned dose of work and exercise in the kingdom. Let's exercise our faith and see it grow. On the other hand, if we don't get up and work for the Master, we are going to die an early death.

Brethren yet another year has passed us by.

Many positives have happened here at Summer Lane this past year. Of course many things have happened which have had the opposite effect.

The Devil is about brethren and we should never leave the loving arms of our Lord.

I pray this year will be one where we can not only increase our own faith and love for the Lord, but we can also show those around us how much they need the Lord.

Let us keep our focus on him who offers eternal life.

Have a great new year.

Ricci

Outreach

Community outreach project will now take place in the summer at an earlier/ warmer time.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."



IMPORTANT INFO

We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!

Phone:
0121 603 0296

0121 4433 145

E-mail:

ricci.gambino@blueyonder.co.uk

trevor.ralph@skv.com

Men's Class, 08.01.08

Ladies Class, 09.01.08

Congregational Meeting, 27.01.08

Need ALL new details for
Church Directory

Birthday: Eric.

Ask A Bible Question, Log onto;

ScripturesSay.com

God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

Welcome!

Visit our web site: www.SummerLanecoc.com

Times for Worship and Study.

Sunday Morning Worship.....	11:00 AM
Sunday Morning Bible Study.....	10:00 AM
Sunday School.....	10:00 AM
Ladies Bible Class	Every Second Monday 12:30 PM
Thursday Evening Bible Class.....	7:30 PM
Men's Bible Study Class.....	First Tuesday in the Month 7:30 PM

Serving Each Other

December 30th 2007

January 6th 2008

Sunday Morning

President

Norman

Trevor

Preaching:

Trevor

Ricci

Opening Prayer:

Scripture Reading:

Trevor

Eric

Eric

Philip

Lord's Table

Philip

Roy

Norman

Closing Prayer

Sunday Evening

Flowers

Irene

Sue

Tea

Sue

Sue

Building clean for Jan : 08

ALL PLEASE

ALL PLEASE