

ruin their reputation, profession and even lives. They could not afford to rouse the wrath of the Romans, who were already tired of maintaining the fragile peace of Jerusalem and were hyper sensitive to any perceived threat.

Then, surprise of all surprises, Judas, not an avowed enemy but trusted treasurer of Jesus' circle, became their link man. He was the perfect answer to their problem. This is so shocking and disturbing – Judas was one of the original twelve whom Jesus prayed for and selected (Luke 6:12-16). This raises two difficult questions:

1. Didn't Jesus know Judas' unseen motives? As God and man, He should have known because He knew what was in a man (John 2:25) and He could perceive people's unspoken thoughts (Matthew 9:4, 12:25). Perhaps the most revealing evidence of His foreknowledge is found in this statement after many of his disciples left Him because they couldn't accept His hard teaching about eating His body and drinking His blood – "Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him' (John 6:64).

2. Was Jesus using Him to achieve His own ends? We can't speculate beyond what is revealed to us. I don't think Jesus manipulated Judas. He was distressed by the betrayal and Judas had a choice. Besides, Satan "entered" into Judas (Luke 22:3). Of course, this doesn't absolve Judas of His crime. He wasn't a helpless pawn. He harboured sins of greed and selfishness and these provide an open opportunity for Satan to seduce him into a deep and intractable net.

We'll never be certain of all the answers to the above questions till we arrive at our Heavenly Father's home, and we must never venture beyond what is disclosed. But there's one other question which we could answer in relation to Judas' inner motives and outer behaviour.

The question is, what do people know of us? Judas was able to mask his behaviour and played his role almost undetected. John did observe that he pilfered from their money bag – whether it's from hindsight or not, we don't really know. However, he didn't know who the betrayer was until Jesus told him. That shows Judas' ability to camouflage His intentions.

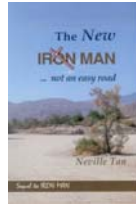
What about us? We're all capable of hiding behind a chameleon-like behaviour. We may be adept in hiding our true intentions and hideous abstractions from others, but we can't hide from the Lord. There is grave danger in pretending what we're not. We're only deceiving and betraying not only others but ourselves and God. Judas was operating within a defeatist pattern of deceit. Each of us has our own pattern of unrighteous attitudes and behaviour. But that's an old pattern. We're now renewed. Live as people of God.
Pastor Song Cheng Hock

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all guests who have come to worship with us this morning. If this is your first visit, please fill in the Visitor Form so that we can keep in touch with you.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SWITCH OFF YOUR HANDPHONES!

THE NEW IRONMAN



Pastor Neville's third book "**The New Iron Man**" is ready. They can be purchased at the fellowship hall for \$14.00pc.

The book continues Ps. Neville's story after his release from prison. The struggles he had to face, trials and also lessons he learnt as he serves for more than 35years.

The book will be officially launched at our Church's 29th Anniversary on Sunday, August 16th 2009.

CHURCH 29TH ANNIVERSARY

We will be celebrating our **29th Anniversary on August 16th 09**. There is still time for participants to make presentations - song items, short testimonies or skits.

Please inform the pastors if you wish to share a testimony, song item or skit.

We praise God that an anonymous couple from our congregation will provide lunch to celebrate the occasion.

BOWLING FELLOWSHIP

For those who are taking part in the bowling fellowship, please take note that the meeting time on Saturday, August 15th is at 6.00 pm (not 3.00 pm). Venue is unchanged. Thank you.

PRAYER ITEMS



1. **Please pray for Pastor Song**, as he brings us God's Word this morning. Pray that we will all be responsive to God's word and to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

2. Continue to pray for **Auntie Alice**, for God's peace and strength for her. Pray also for Auntie Catherine as she takes care of her sister.

3. We welcome **Brother Lam Wai Chan** from the Singapore Bible College who will be doing his Field education with us. He will be assisting us in our Youth Department. Wai Chan is from Geylang Chinese Methodist Church and has worked with the youth in Geylang Methodist Church.

Please pray for Wai Chan, for his studies and for his second-

ment to us. Please do welcome him into our family.

4. Pray for our **Church Anniversary preparations**, for the worship leader Brother Joshua, the musicians, those who will be presenting items. Pray too for Pastor Neville as he brings us the Anniversary message.

5. **Please pray for the various ministries in our congregation**, for the children's ministry, the teachers and helpers, the youth and their leaders, the young adults and for ourselves that we may be used by the Lord to serve Him and one another.

6. **Please pray for Pastor Neville and the team** that travels with him to our JB Church this afternoon.

PASTORAL PRAYER. *Should you or someone you know need prayer, please speak to the pastor or send your email to chggod@churchofgodsg.com.*

COMMITMENT

Joshua (before they crossed into the promised land): "But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15)

Pause for a while and consider your commitment to the Lord:

- Have you given Him your all?
- Or is your heart and mind divided?
- Is serving the Lord desirable to you?
- Can you praise and thank the Lord for enabling you to remain faithful?

*When God works a change in us
He can change others through us.*

CHURCH OF GOD Income and Expenditure Report Month ending: July 2009

	<u>Bldg.Fund</u>	<u>Gen.Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income	\$			
Expenditure		-10,812.95	250.00	11,062.95
Income/Exp	\$5,713.84	\$1,949.86	\$3,440.70	\$11,104.40

Memory Verse:

Last week's: Love never fails. - **1 Corinthians 13:8**

This week: This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome. - **1 John 5:3**