

The Vine This Month
Editor:
Alicia Wong

Writers this issue:
John Lee
Peggy Tan
Joyce Tan

Photos:
Martin Cheah

Cover Photo:
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HOM Editorial

News Report:

Strange waves rippled around the world, and nobody knows why.

Instruments picked up the seismic waves more than 10,000 miles away—but bizarrely, nobody felt them. On the morning of November 11, just before 9:30 UT, a mysterious rumble rolled around the world. - *National Geographic website.*

Luke 21:25 (NIV)

*“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and **perplexity** at the roaring and tossing of the sea.”*

Matthew 24:6-7

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.”

Romans 12:17

“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

This is the time of year when we think of peace and goodwill to man. However the world around us does not seem to be at peace. There were about 40 earthquakes of above 6.0 magnitude (World Earthquakes Live) and many hurricanes, cyclones or typhoons in the news in 2018, which should deter overseas travel, but it doesn't. People seem to head towards danger for an exciting holiday.

Sometimes we think we are fairer than God when we say that it is unfair for people who have not heard to go to Hell. Romans 3:23 says: *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* and Romans 6:23 says: *“the wages of sin is death”*. So it is not hearing about Jesus that sends a person to Hell, but sin. It is hearing about Jesus that saves a person if he repents and believes.

Despite all the bad news around us, this is still indeed the time of year when we rejoice because Jesus came into this world over 2000 years ago to save us. This is the Good News which we celebrate and share to the world around us, family, friends, colleagues and neighbours.

Luke 2:10-11

*“The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you **good news** that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David **a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.**”*

May the gift of Christmas be shared with everyone.

Martin Cheah