Devastation proves hope:

"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus Christ" is a well known hymn, sung throughout thousands and thousands of churches regularly! It is easy and beautiful to sing, but something else to live. It is easy to claim hope in faith when all goes well. But when things go not as planned? Which brings me to Tacloban: Tacloban churches in the Philippines were going just fine until Typhoon Haiyan hit. Devastation was brought by the fury of nature. We were inundated with plenty of footage of the devastation and desperation that has been left by the Typhoon.

But, among these reports my attention was drawn to the report of a journalist writing about the hope he has experienced among many of these people! As he was moving around in Tacloban he passed a group crammed together under a makeshift shelter and they were happy! How can anyone look happy, let alone be happy in the face of such pain and disaster?! Don't get me wrong – they were not celebrating the disaster, but it proved that their happiness was not linked to their circumstances! In another article Virjilio explained that it was not the Filipino way to expect God to reach down and give them a hand. He said God expected them to get on with it. This question will baffle the Western world long after Tacloban is forgotten. [1]

Their hope it turns out was truly built on nothing less than Jesus Christ and his righteousness! Their hope proved stronger and longer lasting than the devastation they face. Yes, it does not diminish their circumstances or make it better but their faith in Christ Jesus provides a perspective that cannot be made undone by circumstance. In fact, it makes them stronger!

Their faith is being sure of what they hope for and certain of what they do not see. They hold unswervingly to the hope they profess for He is promised is faithful" Their hope and trust in God's promise of "more than this" enables them to demonstrate true hope in the face of devastation.

1. http://www.news.com.au/world/catholic-filipinos-in-tacloban-renew-faith-in-god-after-typhoon-haiyan/story-fndir2ev-1226761725207

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