

Dear Gilead Congregational Church,

September was a very busy month at HELO with continued demolition and repairs, vocational classes and back-to-school preparations. Our vocational programs were very successful -- everyone at HELO received a new backpack sewn by our own students! Ceramic tile classes were popular and we wish we could have kept the tile work in place. That will be a future class, perhaps. We will continue to offer both classes in the afternoons as they were very popular.

We received the encouraging news that all of our 9th grade students and our Philo students (13th grade) passed their state exams! Congratulations to all!! Kendy and Jean Michel have started to work on their college applications and are very excited. Kendy hopes to study film and Jean Michel would like to study law.

Our transitional home was demolished with heavy equipment due to its close proximity to the neighbor's house. It is now an empty plot of land, awaiting reconstruction. Building supplies have skyrocketed or are impossible to find, but we know with God, all things are possible, and the home will be rebuilt bigger and stronger than before. Repairs to the high school and kindergarten are complete, thanks to you, our generous donors!

Aftershocks continue, causing debris to fall in roadways, many roads are cracked and heavy rains continue to wash parts away. My heart aches for the thousands who live in make shift tents with very little to shelter them from the rain. We are so thankful to our donors, to B-Strong/Global Empowerment Mission, and Orphaned Starfish for donations to help not only our children but some of our neighbors. Some days are harder than others as so many come to ask for assistance, but I remind myself of my mantra since starting HELO, "do your best every day, and let God do the rest." I am so grateful to each of you for helping me do as much as I can in a very devastating situation. Mesi!

Blessings to you and your families,
Elisabeth

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