

Interview with Mrs. Milord Wilner born Louijean Marie Venite : Beneficiary of Haiti Orthodox Family Relief Program (HOFR), March, 2014.

My name is Marie Venite Louijean. I live in Leogane on the south side of Haiti and I am thirty-nine years old. I live with my husband Milord Wilner. We have seven children together. I am a parishioner of the St. Peter and Paul Parish, baptized in 1997. My husband Milord Wilner and my children are all baptized members of the church of St. Peter and Paul. We live not far from the church. We live not far from the church in two small rooms. One is a corridor where the children sleep and another is the front room. Two other small compartments are for the harvest. I do not work. My husband is a home farmer. We live from the harvest of his garden. Our situation is never easy, we are always in great difficulty trying to feed our children, send them to school, or clothe them. We are always waiting for the harvests, which are often late in coming. They are often lost depending on the seasons when there is a lot of wind or rain or lack of rain, causing us great problems. During the hurricane season, we have great misery. We live always in great worry. What my husband brings home even when the harvest is successful is always little. We always have debts that poison our lives. Our worst moment is when we do not have the means to cultivate the land. We don't have the means to buy the tools and also other things for the garden, which delays harvests. Life was a combat for each day and we depend on the harvests that are often very meager. When we cannot care for our children, when food for our family is rare in the house, when we look at our children's sadness, they cannot go to school and we do not live. And often then I put my little ones on my back to go and help my husband in the garden.

When the earthquake that hit Haiti and especially our city of Leogane, it was terrible where we live. All the houses of this zone fell and we passed almost two months in fear and great deprivation.

With this aid (HOFR) I pay a part of the education of my children who can now attend school. I give more care to my seven children that used to fall ill very often. I now pay the debts that I made for food before. Before, the store in my neighborhood would not want to sell me food on credit. Now they do not anger when they sell me something because they know I can pay them easily. My children eat now a little to their content. I can buy clothing for them. This also permits us to buy several bags of fertilizer for the soil of the gardens and to pay someone for two or three days of helping us with planting. We actually have better harvests! This aid has changed the life of our family. My children play and are recovering their health.

I wish to thank all those who support the orthodox mission in Haiti. The very poor families of the church such as I. I have the desire to work but work is not a thing that is easy here in Haiti. This aid eases our misery. We thank everyone from the depth of my heart. You have shared with us that which you have earned by working very hard. We are very grateful. Thanks to this support my family and I have respect from our community where we live. Thank you again. God will reward

you. You have made happy people. These are things that are extraordinary. You are always in our daily prayers. May God keep you, thank you.

I will send you photos later, thank you.