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Thank you for your prayers which cover us in our work!

Please pray in the future for:

1. Protection and stability of the work of the store and current or better levels of profit with which we will be able to increase the number of participants in the social project or similar projects.
2. Blessing over our donors Erikshelpen, Jonkoping Sweden, Human Bridge, Sweden
3. For a greater number of volunteers to get involved in the work of the store
4. For the participants in the social project that God would lead them in their goals

Ihtus d.o.o. is a business of the Sarajevo Evangelical Church. The business was started with the vision of generating material resources for use in the social and community projects of the church. A secondary purpose of this business was to provide employment for members of the church and community in a time of economic crisis in our world. It is a particularly large need in the country of Bosnia-Herzegovina, as our unemployment rate is currently more than 40%. Our desire is to invest in the youth of this city and this country and to help children and students get their diplomas more easily and become useful members of the society in which we live.

Since our last newsletter many wonderful things have been happening at the Ihtus company. Our vision and desire was for Ihtus to begin a retail shop with the profits being used for social projects of the church.

With God's help, the brothers and sisters from the Pentecostal church of Jonkoping gave us a loan to begin the work of preparing to open the shop. They also committed themselves to be our partner over the next two years, sending four truckloads of used clothing, household goods and furniture. As second-hand store owners themselves in Jonkoping, their experience and advice are an invaluable part of this help that they have committed themselves to.

Preparations lasted about two months, and when all conditions were met, 22 December, 2008 Ihtus began its retail business. The store is in a high-traffic location in the center of Ilidza. Considering the type of goods being sold, we have very quickly become one of the top second-hand stores in the area even though we are surrounded by four stores of the same type. Many shoppers stop in every day and sales are going well.

In the past six months, which is the amount of time we have been working, we have received two truckloads of good quality inventory.

We have also visited our partners in Sweden – Jonkoping, where we were able to see how their shop works, exchange experiences and receive lots of advice with has had a very positive influence and helped improve the way our store works. We were also able to visit some former and current donors and we want to especially mention our visit to the Human Bridge organization with whom we have good cooperation and who in the early days sent us two shipments of used clothing each year.

Today Ihtus has four paid workers (two full-time and two half-time), of which three are members of the Evangelical Church of Sarajevo. We have a solid number of church volunteers who together with us contribute so that the job is well done.

To the glory of God, Ihtus has been able to give about 3000,00 Euro from last year's profits for the social projects of the Evangelical Church of Sarajevo. Through this project, the church helps three college students with a total of 1.200,00 Euro and four school children with English, computer and guitar courses costing 920,00 Euro so far.

We will include below some pictures and testimonies from some of the above mentioned students.



Saša, Mirsel and Mak are elementary school students who have great wishes and ambitions to learn outside of their regular school courses. They are taking extra-curricular classes in guitar, English and computers. Their parents are



extremely thankful to be able to pay for these courses, for which they would normally have to take money from the household budget which is already very limited.

My name is Albin. I have grown up mostly with my mother and two brothers. My parents were divorced when I was 5 years old. When I was 15 my dad passed away. When I finished primary school I went to the camp organized by



the Evangelical Church of Sarajevo. At camp I experienced God more than ever before. He was so real to me so I surrendered my life to Him. From that moment I have been in church, and I am a part of Jesus' community. I have been on this journey with Christ 7 years, and I have never regretted it but am looking forward to seeing new things that God will show me and surprise me with. At the moment I am a student at the Theological Seminary in Osijek, Croatia. More and more I see that this is the place for me. I want to have a wider understanding of Christianity and be well grounded in what I believe and in what other people might believe. I see this education as a tool that will help me come to a better understanding of who God is and also a helpful tool for future ministry. The scholarship that I receive from my church is a great help to me. It covers the majority of my tuition and other fees. I am very grateful to God for always providing in my life in so many ways.

My name is Vedrana. I was born in Sarajevo. I live with my mom and brother. During the war we lived in Serbia, Novi Sad and at that



time we lost our father. In 1996 we came back to Sarajevo and we started to go to the Evangelical Church. 2003 was the year when I accepted Christ and got baptized. I have been with Him ever since. Today I am studying Social Work at the Political Science College. This support means a lot to me because it helps me to get books, to pay my monthly transport ticket, and to buy something for myself. It is a blessing to me and I am thankful to God because He provides for me in many different ways.



My name is Milan. I live with my mom and my sister Vedrana. We live in Sarajevo. When I was 2 years old, I lost my father in the war. I got saved in 2005 and I am walking on a journey with Christ. I am a student of Political Science. This support means a lot to me because it is a blessing and God's provision. It helps me to get books for a school and pay other monthly fees as well.

