Its Monday morning and Julie has just woken up in the middle of the night in a sweat. She was sleeping away from her home and away from her boyfriend for the first time. They had been together since they were in high school and it was love at first sight. Things had gone well at first, date after date the attraction intensified. They graduated from high school and moved in together, and that is when it started happening. Once in a while when things got stressful he would hit her.

Things had gotten out of hand, but she did not leave at first. But yesterday was the last straw. He had hit her for the last time. She did not want to be a punching bag anymore and when her boyfriend went to work she packed her and her five year old Justin’s clothes and some keepsakes and left. She ran to her friends home and told them about what had been going on, and they encouraged her to go to an organization that they had heard about called the Naomi Project. They gave her the contact number and Joyce took her information and informed her that she had a spot for her and her son. Her friends went with her to the Naomi house to help with her transition.

One of the things keeping Julie up was the fact that it was her sons birthday on Thursday and she had no money to buy anything to throw her a party. Feeling troubled she went to Joyce to ask her if there was any help for her financially to throw the party. And Joyce felt excitement rise inside her because she had just the thing. Cross and Crown had donated party in a bags that she could use to throw a party for her son and his friends. Joyce went to her office and grabbed a bag and handed it over to Julie and there was a big smile on her face, a tear falling down her cheeks and a feeling of gratitude for the bag. With everything going on it was nice to have a sense of normalcy again.

Possibility. What a joy it is to provide possibilities for folks that don’t see any, to provide hope for folks that might not have any. What a joy it is to help people give thanks and praise to God. I said before and I will say it again, its all about possibilities.

As a church we come together, put together projects and programs because of their possibility to bring about a beautiful day in the neighborhood. We come to church on Sunday to hear a word from God, to receive encouragement, to charge our batteries, to receive love from one another, to praise the Lord, to receive the Lord, to reorient ourselves back toward God. And in so doing, we foster better possibilities for ourselves and our future.

We collect clothing, laundry detergent, birthday party supplies, blankets, food and so much more because we know that those can create a possibility for someone else to have a better life, and to have an encounter with God.

We partner with programs like First Friday Homelessness connect, lighthouse ministries, jobs for life, Harvest Hope foodbank, and more because we know they provide possibilities for others to have a better life and to have an encounter with God.

We put together programs like the pet blessing, trunk or treat, the Christmas play, and Lent Wednesday Services because we know that they create possibilities for people to have a good time and to have a positive experience with the church, creating an opportunity for God to be praised.

Possibility, I want you to remember that Word as we continue to talk.

When the people of God come together with a purpose there is no telling what can happen. Just look at our reading about the tower of Babel. When the people of earth come upon the plane of Shinar, they settle there and build themselves a city and a tower in order to make a name for themselves. And when the Lord comes down and views the tower the Lord is astonished by what they could do and states this is only the beginning of what they will do, nothing will be impossible for them.

Did you hear that? There is nothing that is impossible for them, and I want to view this through rosy glasses because the way we are different from the folks in the story is that they did it for themselves and that’s why it was looked at as wrong. We on the other hand do this for the glory of God, and when we come together for a common mission there is no telling what we can do. Now let me rephrase that. When the church lives into its calling there is no telling what we can do because just as those in the reading who built the tower, we too can come together and be in a common language which is love and unit under the banner of Christ, and build a beautiful neighborhood full of possibilities. And that my friends is what I believe we are working towards. And just to show you, let me tell you another story.

Everyday John wakes up in the same spot behind Julia’s movie theater. He is surrounded by many other people in the same predicament that he is in, homeless, in need of a job, in need of a doctor’s appointment, glasses, and a dentist. He has had the same pain in his tooth for a couple months but has not healthcare coverage and no job. How could he get the tooth removed if he can’t even afford to have some breakfast or a roof over his head? He spends some of the day looking for a job but no one would hire him when he shows up to an interview in his clothing, so he has to spend some of his day rotating with several other homeless people by the Wendy’s asking for money and food, hoping for someone to help him stop his stomach from growling.

He had been talking with his friend who told him about a program that he had went to last month called the First Friday Homeless Connect and how it had helped him and it was again the first Friday of the month and he planned on going to see what it was all about. As soon as the Sun rose in the sky John went to the First Friday event and when he got in, he was amazed. He walked in was introduced to a lady named heather who helped him sign in and walked him to Judy who helped him fill out his paperwork checking off that he wanted to see ECHO, SC Works, Mercy Medicine, Lighthouse Ministries, and a pastor.

Jon was introduced to Josh his guide for the event who helped him navigate the organizations so that he was able to get a doctors appointment and a dentist appointment along with a bus pass to help him get to each person, he was able to enter into the shelter and then walked over to a pastor named Steven who was able to listen to him, pray with him, and tell him about an organization called Jobs For Life who would train him and help him get interview clothing. He got everything he was looking for. His day was bright and he had hope again.

These are possibilities that come about because of you, your generosity, and above all because of your compassion and love. This is what we do here at Cross and Crown and I am so proud of that. It reminds me of Acts chapter 3 where Peter meets a gentleman who cannot walk who is begging and says Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. This is why we give of what we have, so that the Lord may be glorified.

So when you give to God through Cross and Crown, remember you are giving so that possibilities can arise in the lives of those who need them, inside and outside of our church family. Thank you for giving to the ministries of Cross and Crown, thank you for your faithfulness, thank you for your compassion, thank you for your love. Together there is no telling what we can do, no telling what possibilities you may create in our beautiful neighborhood.