As I reflect on this verse from Romans, I’m reminded of the troubles we’ve all faced the last year and a half. The pandemic has affected life all over the world more than any other event I’ve seen in my lifetime. Everyone has been affected. Too many have died.

But, as usual, some people—some communities—have been hit harder. While millions of kids had to learn to attend school virtually, some didn’t have computers or access to WiFi. While many had to order groceries, others didn’t have access to food. While some had to buy products through Amazon, others lost their jobs. When tragedy strikes, those at the bottom usually get hit the hardest.

But in the midst of challenges, heroes step up. And once again, I’ve been blessed to witness many different types of heroes. For now, I’d like to highlight two different groups:

The first group is the DSM partners, the leaders who continue their heroic work loving and serving their communities. Leading an urban ministry during a normal year is incredibly challenging. Leading an under-resourced neighborhood through a pandemic is nearly impossible. But I get to watch them, walk with them, and hear their stories. Day by day, step by step, child by child, they continue to live out their difficult callings and literally embody our verse from Romans, “When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them.” Their faithfulness drives me and our team at Desire Street to do all we can to support them, to build effective and enduring ministries impacting thousands of children and families.

The second group of heroes is our community of support—you. At the beginning of the pandemic, many experts predicted donations would drop dramatically as people lost jobs and faced financial insecurity. What we have experienced is that God’s people stepped up. Donations, prayers and volunteering have stayed solid, and in many cases gone up. “When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them.” Thank you for living this out so well.

May God continue to bless us all as we try to be faithful during these difficult times.

God Bless you,

Danny
It’s a word that we all recognize when we genuinely experience it. Warm homes. Tables with food. Kindness. All of these things are gifts to us when we receive them freely from others. And yet, most of us already have homes, food, and stable community. How much more does hospitality mean to those who are living without those things?

Our ministry partners are practicing hospitality every day. By providing education, housing, food, tutoring, mentoring, and community, they are hedging their neighbors and communities in with the love, peace, grace, and kindness of Christ. They are opening their homes and their very lives to neighborhoods. As Paul exhorts us in Romans 12:12-13, we are to be “ready” to help and practice hospitality. We are grateful for partners’ examples of what it means to live out the gospel and to address the needs around them.

“We couldn’t support these amazing leaders without YOU!
Follow our partners on social media to stay connected with the work God is doing in their neighborhoods.

Sponsorships and golf/gala tickets are still available for this friendly rivalry between Bulldogs and Gators! We are excited to host our ministry partners, Becca Stanley from Blueprint 58 in Georgia and Florida-based Eric Stites from CrossTown Ministries, along with emcee, Laura Rutledge from SEC Nation and ESPN Sports. You don’t want to miss this great event for a great cause!