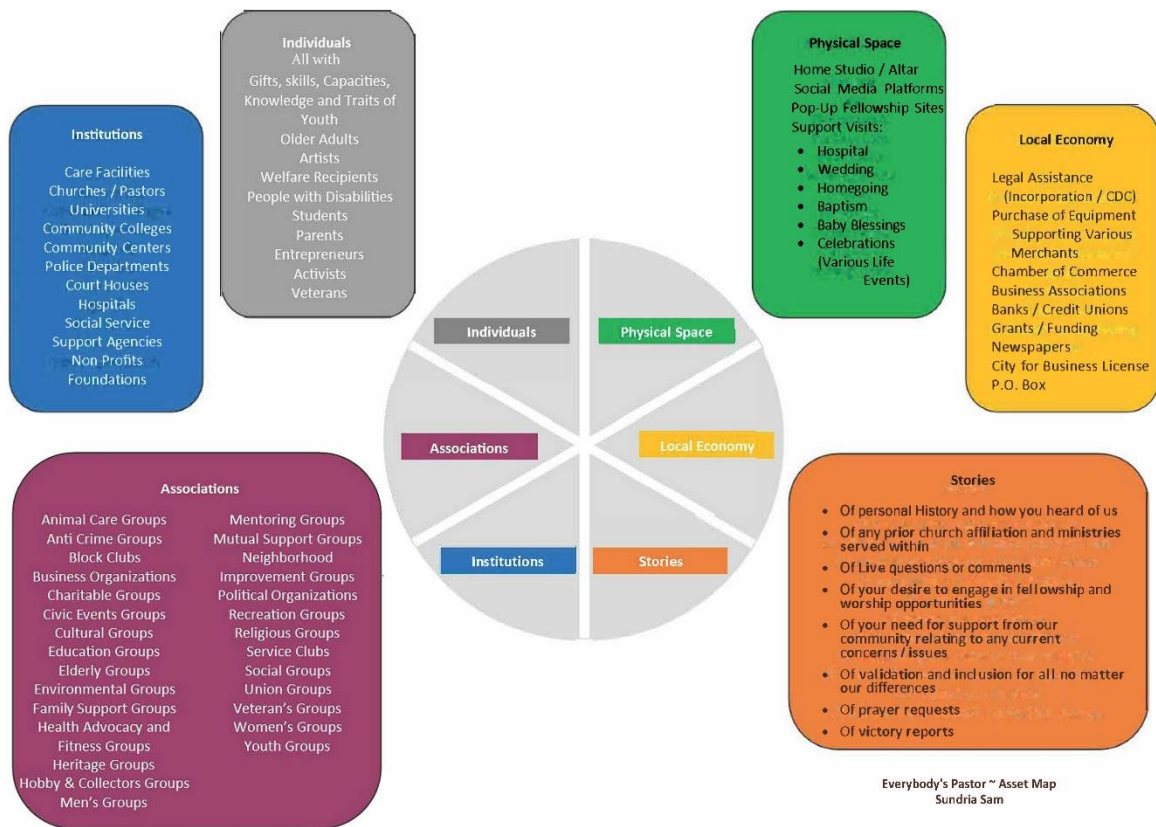


SOCIAL CHANGE FIELD WORK PROJECT OUTLINE

- Sundria Sam, MDiv w/Concentration in Chaplaincy, ssam@ses.psr.edu
- Mentors/Accountability Partners:
 - Rochele Reed, *Created Wonderfully*, beyou@createdwonderfully.org
 - Rev. Michelle Raiford, *E.V.E. International Ministries*, favoredlady3@gmail.com
- ***Everybody's Pastor Inc.*** (Incorporated July 2, 2021, in the State of California)
- Inclusion (Soul-Nurturing)
- Create a virtual non-denominational space of acceptance, validation, and inclusion for weekly gatherings in 20-minute increments to interact or replay weekly discussion groups (*Meaningful Mondays*), bible study (*Wisdom Wednesdays*), fellowship moments (*Fellowship Fridays*), and sermon experience (*Sermon Sundays*). There is no need for a building or all that goes along with occupying, managing, and maintaining it, just brief but powerful spiritual exchanges and ongoing Pastoral Support. Some feel disconnected from a physical church and are outside of the covering of a God-given Pastor. The relationship between a Pastor and member is unique and sacred. In this COVID-19 Climate, many are lacking divine connection and shepherding. ***Everybody's Pastor*** fills the void of disconnection and creates a community where Cyber Members, and our guests, can realize spiritual growth, request prayer, fellowship, and donate to support ministry work. All individuals are special, invited, accepted, and celebrated!
- Spiritual practices, such as prayer, invitation, worship music, and communion, will be shared by the Pastor. A worship script will be followed. Member correspondence will be shared weekly. Live or Zoom visits will follow member requests for pastoral care services; new member orientation, baptism, weddings, baby christenings, homecomings, and counseling sessions will be attended/performed by the Pastor, as time, means, and distance permits. Bi-Monthly member fellowships are virtually offered to get to know one another in this growing realm.
- *10 Question Survey* promoted across social media platforms to receive feedback on virtual needs, level of engagement, and spiritual support requests anticipated to support Cyber Members.
- Implementation partners have been Cohorts, family, and Mentors. I have appreciated every moment of time, thoughts, and talent shared with me to see what was once a vision, turned into a strategic plan to implement, follow-up, and guide as an ongoing evolutionary process that keeps ***Everybody's Pastor*** growing to God's glory! Working with my mentors offered great branding, oversight, and marketing advice. I weekly met with each one to ensure I stayed on task and did not overextend myself as this project resulted in a time and finance consuming being that developed legs and feet of its own and took off running in such a way that I had to keep up with it.
- I am accountable to all supporters of ***Everybody's Pastor*** and to myself for the vision that God spoke to me to labor into fruition. I am also accountable to my cohorts as they listen, encourage, and share insights with me from their perspectives.
- This project has burdened my family and myself as they have worked tirelessly alongside me encouraging, listening, and helping in whatever ways they could. This undertaking is God-inspired, so I believe it is God-provisioned. Looking back at what arose from my response to my pastor (my friend) receiving a pastorate out of state triggering grief from the loss of my spouse and other family members several years earlier to being the answer for feeling pastorless, disconnected, isolated, and alone. I heard the Lord whisper to me to be what I needed, ***Everybody's Pastor***. *I AM now walking in my calling as Pastor Sundria ~ Everybody's Pastor!*

ASSET MAP



Three areas I would like to broaden my knowledge base within *Everybody's Pastor* Community's Assets:

1. Physical Space
2. Individuals
3. Stories

Understanding *Physical Space* for this project means understanding the medium through which engagement with people exists. It is important to be able to establish and utilize social platforms to their fullest extent as *Everybody's Pastor* is a virtual non-denominational spiritual community of inclusion, validation, and acceptance where having a more intimate relationship with God is the goal through spiritual growth experiences versus traditionally identifying with and practicing a religion filled with traditional occurrences.

I had to assess my home office turned studio space to include an altar as well as a podium. Additional equipment of a teleprompter, lights, camera, mic, and stand are immediate needs.

Identifying *Individuals* served within this community means researching data of those likely to engage consistently within the community. I promoted an online 10-Question Survey to help me understand who would most likely engage with *Everybody's Pastor* and what needs were sought from Cyber Member. Many positive responses were received regarding usage of language of inclusion, validation, invitation to worship in a safe space, and offering for Pastoral Support were popular with survey respondents.

I believe that intentional marketing will be the key to promoting *Everybody's Pastor*. I presently have a Virtual TikTok Introduction Challenge across social media platforms and a flier placed in all the identified institutions and associations nearby.

Using taglines has also caught the eyes and ears of others:

- Relationship over Religion
- Faith over Affiliation
- All are special, welcomed, accepted, and celebrated
- An environment of inclusion where all are welcomed
- Come as you are and let's grow together in spirit and in truth

Being a relational and relatable Pastor for me means to know the *Stories* of others to accept their life journeys, offer support, and share their concerns. I seek to know their history, their needs, and their why. This reveals their motivation for being a part of the community and how *Everybody's Pastor* can best support them.

Community Summary

The community in which I am working for this project is an online worship community called, “*Everybody’s Pastor*.” It began as a prayer for clarity for the MAST Social Change Field Work Project and was answered as a vision shared to me in the wee morning hours. I discussed the vision one on one in a zoom meeting with the class instructor and received confirmation to pursue the project.

Everybody’s Pastor was birthed through the pain of transition. Recently, upon learning of my local church pastor being called to another congregation out-of-state, I began to experience emotions associated with grief. This grief was triggered by the transition of my spouse and other close family members in 2014. In analyzing my emotions, I realized that loss and disconnection was the cause for the triggering. In talking to others within the congregation and within communities of faith (both in person and through social media platforms), I realized I was not the only person experiencing grief from the disconnection of pastoral covering. I know that my deceased family members did not intend to abandon me, but I felt that my local pastor, though I fully understand and support his calling, was intentionally and with full knowledge leaving a large group of individuals, including myself, feeling abandoned.

How does one begin to heal wounds of abandonment, disconnection, and isolation? Where does one begin to look for healing from this type of pain? I propose to begin with a plan for connection, inclusion, and engagement that opens the mind, heart, and spirit to a space of peaceful relational engagement with spiritual growth as a foundational element.

The purpose of *Everybody’s Pastor* is to create a space of unconditional acceptance, validation, inclusion, and connection. A non-denominational space of engagement with faith believers and followers of Jesus Christ. A space where brief multiple weekly encounters form opportunities to connect with others to support, encourage, and be spiritually feed while on individual and collective journeys towards spiritual growth while learning more about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The wonderful thing about this community is that it’s virtual. That means that nearly everyone has equal access to it. What’s hard about the community is that those without an internet connection from anywhere in the world cannot access what is free, waiting, and available to them.

I have labored to see the virtual community of worship come to fruition through planning, accessing, discussing with those more versed in necessary areas of interest, and investing in incorporation paperwork, a website, writing and copywriting an introduction invitational engagement jingle called *Simple Song*, while researching other spiritual online platforms. Any barriers I have faced have for the majority been self-doubt, self-questioning, and guttural reservations. Getting pass self is often trying when we can be our own worst enemies. We have excuses for why we cannot even when God has already ordered our steps and made our way plain.

I long for this community to feel invited, freely extend invitations to others, regularly show up and consistently grow spiritually. To better understand those members *Everybody's Pastor* may serve, an online survey was boosted across various social media platforms to those with faith-based affiliations asking the following questions:

1. Did you attend a local church before the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. Does your church have an active online ministry?
3. Do you presently attend online church services?
4. Do you attend more than one church service online?
5. What is your preferred time for online worship?
6. Do you surf for engaging worship experiences outside of traditional Sunday morning services? (i.e., biblical studies, musicals, ministry fellowships and discussions, etc.)
7. Have you felt disconnected from the church body during this pandemic?
8. Have you felt pastorally unsupported during this pandemic?
9. Are you willing to try a different type of Pastoral Support and Cyber Church inclusive community?
10. You are welcome to visit *Everybody's Pastor* online for any of our three 20-minute worship experiences at www.EverybodysPastor.org for the following Pacific Time Zone:

✚ *Sunday Worship Message* at 3:00 pm

✚ *Meaningful Mondays* (Topic Discussions) at 9 am

✚ *Wednesday Bible Study* at 6:00 pm

✚ *Friday Fellowship Gathering* at 7:00 pm

Thank you for taking this survey! We hope to see you online soon!

I found it inciteful and informative to receive these responses. And did not realize the magnitude of individuals the survey would reach. I learned to use digital tools to support the virtual church platform and that one can never retrieve enough data.

Community Problem

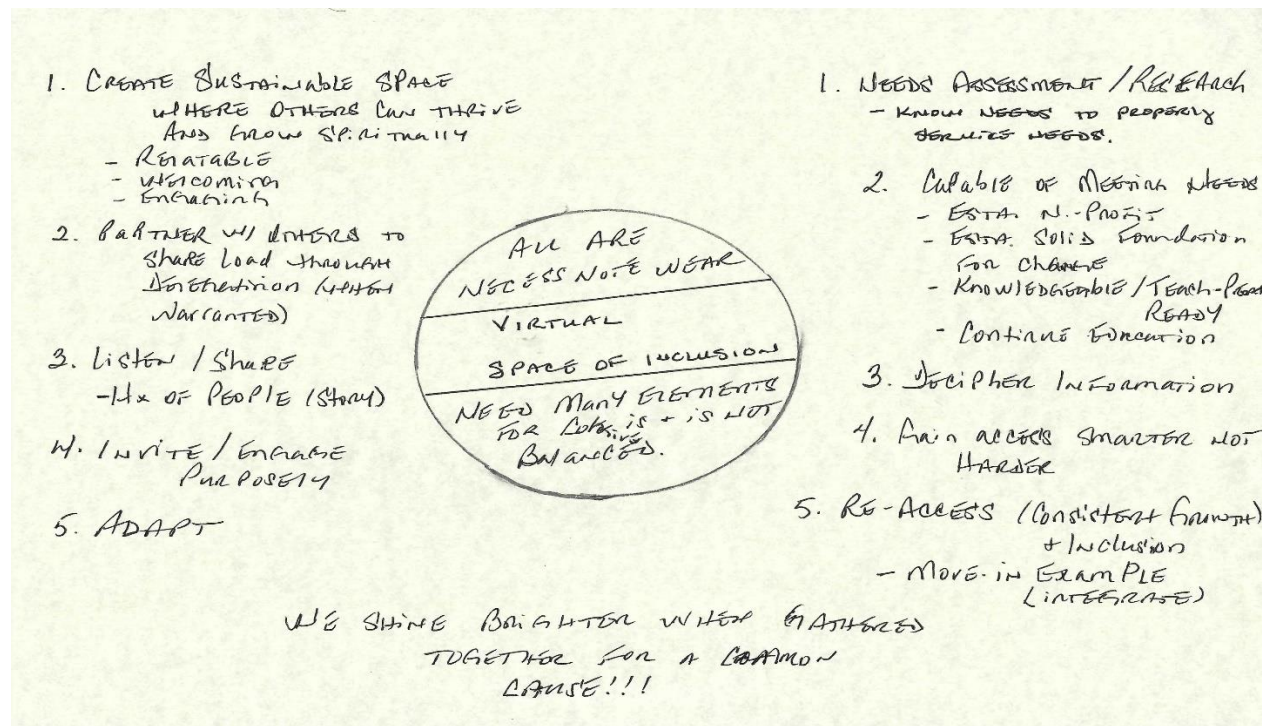
The primary community problem my project tackles is that of inclusion within the spiritual community. *Everybody's Pastor* is created to host a safer virtual space where all are welcomed to worship, fellowship, and grow spiritually. *Relationship over religion* is tag line that refers to traditional church spaces, within four walls, full of cliques and preferred sets of individuals. This preferential existence versus an openly inclusive existence is not warranted in *Everybody's Pastor's* virtual realm. No matter your wardrobe, giving level, ministry service, familial affiliation, educational level, skillset, etc. no preconceived judgments of rumor-mill dis will be the norm in this setting.

Everyone matters and everyone has access to the God-given Pastor, *Everybody's Pastor*. There is no need to hassle over who sits where and whether you can see or can be seen, a parking space close to the entrance, getting up early to tackle your hair or battle the weather to get to church on time. All you have to do is have stable internet connection to log on and enter the room for a front row seat where you can see well and hear even better.

Many have been harmed by past hurts experienced within the traditional church setting. Most times these wound take longer to heal as they were more deeply infected due to the vulnerable state one found themselves in having their guard down by thinking the security of the church would protect or shield them. They found wolves in sheep clothing. These wolves called themselves, Deacon, Mother, Usher, Ministry Workers, Servant Leaders, Choir Director, Sunday School Teacher, First Lady, and even Pastor. When church hurt is experienced relational hurt is experienced on multiple levels. There is a power dynamic involved, relational dynamics involved and more importantly, a religious dynamic experienced that for those young in faith may result in a strained, not severed relationship with God. Educating all on healthier exchanges is a great place to begin. We cannot think that we think the way others think and we cannot assume those doing the hurting are always aware of the lasting impact of their action. Sensitivity Training from the Word of God is a great place to begin.

The best way to measure if the virtual worship space of *Everybody's Pastor* is meeting the needs of others to be connected. I would simply ask in a brief survey. The results from this survey would help me to curb what is not working and place in motion more of what is working.

Participatory Action Research Plan



PAR Drawing Depicts incorporation of online community within organization's needs assessment. Would initially survey to gain knowledge about what their particular needs are and how best to decipher how to meet them as the organization is capable. Allow for skillsets and strengths of others to permit them to work alongside *Everybody's Pastor* to benefit the Virtual Church Community. Ensure church is consistent with worship, bible study, and fellowship schedule, prayer requests, and any visit requests. Promote and encourage others to edify the church services through testimony. Continue personal spiritual growth courses and offering the congregation. Remind all that our light shines brighter together as we grow spiritually doing kingdom work and caring for one another in sincerity. Cast the vision for our future and put together a strategic planning and implementation team to assist. Listen to members to re-evaluate the needs of the congregants as well as discussions to grow the church in the healthiest way possible.

Spirituality and Community Change

One thing that has shifted over the course of the Summer semester is my commitment to press on despite my unexpected partial desire to flee from the responsibility of being *Everybody's Pastor*. The more I attained knowledge of my next steps in the incorporation process and launching a virtual church, the deeper I began to doubt myself. I realized that if I gave in to self-doubt, I would accomplish nothing great for the Kingdom of God. Someone out there far away somewhere would be robbed of their present opportunity to become connected with others of the believing faith. Prayerfully they would still have the opportunity to hear about Jesus just not in the manner in which I would have invited them, welcomed them, presented then offered Christ to them.

It is my sincerest desire for Everybody's Pastor to become well known as a source of inclusion and validation where the love of God can be felt at all times and through each situation.

Kairos Moment

Problem

Self-doubt, did God really speak this to you and why do you think you are the one intended for this GREAT task.

Lie

You will get nowhere. You will embarrass yourself and be a mockery. You are misinterpreting God's intentions. You are going too far too quick! You are headed in the wrong direction. Stop and wait on further instructions so that you don't mess this up! You can't guide hearts to Christ. Who do you think you are! Why you? Do you even know enough of the word of God to share it effectively?

Truth

I was created to worship God in spirit and in truth shining light in dark spaces. No weapon formed against me shall prosper not even my own weapons of discouraging words. I WILL believe the report of the Lord! I have greatness in me and I can do great things! God trusts me with this ministry! God will provide when I'd rather hide! Just study, stand, and speak...God can and will do the rest.

Sacred Text

[Jeremiah 3:15](#), *"I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."* In the scripture, I learn that I do not want to be disobedient like Judah. I desire to continue to attain knowledge and understanding so that with pure intentions I can feed the Lord's people with God's own words. I am not naïve enough to believe everyone will listen to or support *Everybody's Pastor*. If I could just reach one soul that wants to connect and grow spiritually then it will all be worth it!

Self-Care and Community Strategy

I plan to practice healthy forms of **self-care** moving forward aimed at honoring my body by giving it the following basics:

- Proper Rest
- Frequent Balanced Meals
- Exercise
- Planned Time Management
 - Family
 - Self-Care
 - Work
 - Studying
 - Church
- Adequate Prep Time
 - Studying
 - Bible Lessons & Sermons

I plan to implement the following community strategies moving forward:

- Weekly ministry promotions
 - Across social media platforms
 - Hand delivered fliers to Institutions & Associations
 - Reach out to one news or media station per week to share *Everybody's Pastor* press release
 - Invite others to like and share *Everybody's Pastor* social media page each ministry online experience
 - Accept more preaching engagements to broaden platforms where others can be made aware of *Everybody's Pastor*
 - Mail out new member's packets with ministry promo goodies and tithe envelopes
 - Create a Newsletter to help keep everyone in the know and engaged in upcoming events

Very little was changed in the Final version of this ongoing project. The verb tense and engagement ideas were revised.