

GROUP 2 There is a Balm in Africa

Reading Primary Source Guide

Document Creator/Source	Who wrote it? When? Why? Is it a plausibly reliable source?
Audience	Who was the intended audience? Was there more than one audience/purpose?
Historical Background	When and where was the document created? What was different then? How did circumstances at that time affect the content?
Close Reading	What language (words, ideas, phrases, images) does the document use to persuade the audience(s)? How does the language reveal the author's perspective?

1. What are annual reports by non-profit organizations? Who creates them? What is their purpose? Who is their audience? Are these documents intended to be informative or persuasive?
2. The Balm of Gilead expanded its work to Africa. What could be their reasons? Build a case for your answer from the evidence/documents.

REPORT OUT: One of the major non-profit organizations fighting AIDS used a Biblical expression for its name. Why would they?

They expanded their outreach to Africa. How did they?

Document C The Victory Shall Be Ours

ayer.
Service

15

8

24

25

27

3

1

4

2

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

THE VICTORY SHALL BE OURS!

My Dear Family:

This year, The Balm In Gilead acknowledges the extraordinary work that churches are doing in Black communities everywhere to address the devastation of HIV/AIDS. We celebrate the outpouring of compassion, care and services that churches in the United States, the Caribbean and Africa are providing as they embrace their Christian responsibility to address the suffering in Black communities worldwide due to HIV/AIDS.

The Balm In Gilead invites all congregations that have not joined the crusade for AIDS education, prevention, service and compassion, to please do so now! The epidemic is worsening in our communities, because we have not yet fully organized ourselves to survive! The HIV virus is attacking our youth, our seniors, our women and our men because of our ignorance of the facts, hatred toward others and our general "don't care" attitude about the future of Black people.

In this urgent moment in Black history, we are calling on every pulpit throughout the Black Diaspora, to speak out against the stigma of AIDS; to educate their congregation about AIDS and to support all people living with and affected by HIV. Urgently, we are asking you to set aside all bias and emotions that have allowed your pulpit to be silent as the AIDS epidemic swept through our lives over these past 21 years.

I am asking you to begin your walk in the footsteps of Jesus as He carries those who suffer in silence from HIV/AIDS; as He consoles the grieving family at the graveside; as He rocks the motherless, hungry child to sleep; as He brings joy to those who praise His name for another day of living with HIV; as He speaks to His church to judge not and to love unconditionally.

On Sunday, March 2, 2003, let us open our church doors and hearts to the outpouring of God's love. The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is a powerful witness to the collective power of prayer and a testimony of our faith that prayer is always an agent for change!

Lastly, to the countless individuals and congregations that support The Balm In Gilead with your prayers and donations, I sincerely thank you. I am certain it is because of your prayers that the work of The Balm In Gilead continues to be honored with God's favor. As we approach this Easter season, it is my prayer that the redeeming power of Jesus Christ will anoint every heart to love.

As Always, I AM yours in the Consciousness of Abiding Love

Pernessa C. Seele

Week of Prayer 2003

Photo by Gary Spector

Pernessa C. Seele
Founder/CEO,
The Balm In Gilead

An introductory message from the founder of The Balm in Gilead, Pernessa Seele, in the organization's 2003 annual report. Seele implored all Black religious traditions to combat stigma around AIDS and to aid the afflicted. **Citation:** "The Victory Shall Be Ours," *Balm of Gilead, Inc. Annual Report*, Susan M. Chambré Research Files on Volunteer AIDS Organizations, Yale University Manuscripts and Archives MS 2054 Box 9 Folder 4.

Document D There is a Balm in Africa



In The Balm of Gilead's 2003 annual report, the organization detailed its AIDS work in Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire, Tanzania and Kenya. The organization created and used interfaith networks to engender systems of support.

Citation: "There is a Balm in Africa," *Balm of Gilead, Inc. Annual Report*, Susan M. Chambré Research Files on Volunteer AIDS Organizations, Yale University Manuscripts and Archives MS 2054 Box 9 Folder 4.