

18th Annual Black Men's Gathering
Green Acre Bahá'í School
Eliot, Maine

July 17, 2004

Dr. Eugene Andrews
12 Arthur's Court
Monroe, CT 06470

Dear Counselor Gene Andrews,

The men of the Eighteenth Annual Bahá'í Black Men's Gathering, July 10, 2004 through July 17, 2004 extend our deepest gratitude for your visit to the Green Acre Bahá'í School on the morning of July 12, 2004 to address the Gathering. We appreciate your sacrifice of time and energy to participate in this spiritual occasion. You provided encouragement and perspective on the issues of how the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh can be served. As a result, we are mindful that, as devoted servants of His Divine Being, our Bahá'í consciousness must change in order to face the current impending challenges awaiting us. The BMG overwhelmingly accepts that challenge. The idea resounded through the Gathering that "we will never get to where we are supposed to be, if we stay where we are".

With a fresh perspective, the men are increasing their role in the Institute process. With fearlessness we shall double our teaching and consolidation results. The Brothers made sincere commitments to complete the Ruhi sequence and produce 80 qualified tutors by July of 2005, increase BMG-style devotional meetings, participate in 60 children's classes with non-Bahá'í children included. During July 2004 to July 2005, the BMG will expand the number of mini-BMG's to include New York City, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, and other cities. In addition, the Brothers in Trinidad and Tobago will host a mini-BMG in the spring of 2005. These activities will further the momentum for a mass entry of new believers into the surging ocean of the Blessed Beauty's love.

The shoulders upon which these activities rest will be each individual's renewed promise to Bahá'u'lláh. We have resolved to transform our inner characters to vibrantly reflect the Bahá'í life. As the song says, "Please God we may achieve it; we shall not fail."

Once again, we thank you. May God descend angelic blessings upon you.

With the greatest regard,

Your Bahá'í Brothers of the Black Men's Gathering

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c/o William Roberts
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