

**Eighteenth Annual Black Men's Gathering
Green Acre Baha'i School
Eliot, Maine USA**

The National Assembly of the Bahá'í of Trinidad & Tobago
P.O. Box 755
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

17 July 2004

Dearly Beloved Friends,

The Eighteenth Annual Black Men's Gathering convened with a sense of joy and exultation brought forth by the contingent of our brothers that traveled to Trinidad & Tobago. As the men recounted their moving experiences, they evoked memories that flowed as a gentle fragrant breeze across all in attendance. `Abdu'l Baha speaks to service saying:

Therefore we must also strive in the pathway of love and service, sacrificing life and possessions, passing our days in devotion, consecrating our efforts wholly to the Cause of God, so that, God willing, the ensign of universal religion may be uplifted in the world of mankind and the oneness of the world of humanity be established.

We were honored and are thankful to have had the privilege to serve The Cause of God in the midst of a community of such dedicated servants of the Blessed Beauty.

As we gathered, the presence of Trinidad & Tobago's National Spiritual Assembly member, Lawrence Coward, was a joyful addition. As we shared with Mr. Coward, we all gained a renewed dedication to continued support of the actions and progression of present and future generations of Bahá'ís in your Twin Island Republic.

In the midst of the harmonious Gathering, we are mindful of the global tumult that continues to challenge humanity. In accordance with the three core activities of the Five Year Plan, the members of the Black Men's Gathering have dedicated the next year to redouble our efforts to facilitate entry by troops. It is our firm intention to answer the pessimism and depravity of the world with an effort to reach out to the untaught and lead these souls to the Cause of God. As we embark on our journey, imbued with the desire to serve Bahá'u'llah, we will continue with steady resolve, driven by our convictions, undaunted in our efforts. We ask for your continuing prayers of support and we send you our most fervent prayers and loving affection.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

The participants of the Eighteenth Annual Black Men's Gathering

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