

**19th Annual Black Men's Gathering
Green Acre Baha'i School
Eliot, Maine
United States of America**

July 16, 2005

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Bermuda
Cedar Avenue
Hamilton
Bermuda

Beloved Friends,

With prayerful thoughts, we the participants of the 19th Annual Baha'i Black Men's Gathering send you loving greetings from the peace and tranquility of this graced Spot.

Once again men of African descent gathered to pray consult and share processes that will lead them to better serve the Cause of God. The weeklong program was lead by Dr. William Roberts who organized and has led this effort for nearly twenty years.

This year 123 participants from across the United States, Canada, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Honduras, France, Australia and the Virgin Islands met in joyous fellowship. Bermuda was represented as well by Oswald Hinds whose contributions were outstanding.

In light of the aims of the Five Year Plan, those gathered determined to expand the influence of the Gathering to some 22 local Black Men's Gatherings to be held across the United States as well as in Trinidad and Tobago. This marks a new stage in its development making the experience widely available to a broader audience.

The men who reside in island countries met and agreed to have similar events in their respective areas. The first of these is planned for the weekend 11th through 13th of November 2005, to coincide with the commemoration of the Birth of Baha'u'llah. Indeed it is our desire to have a BMG in Bermuda as well.

The focal point of this year's deepening was the Ridvan 2005 message from the Universal House of Justice, and the letter of November 28, 2004, from the International Teaching Center to Continental Counsellors. These inspiring documents call the Baha'i world to

intensify their efforts and to bend their energies towards the completion of the goals of the Five Year Plan, to affect the process entry by troops. We embrace this instruction wholeheartedly.

The consultation called the men to accelerate their efforts in the final months of the plan adding their share to the victories in their communities.

We leave the Gathering with greater clarity and an invigorated will to commit to this challenge and make a difference in our communities in the coming months. Dr. Roberts emphasized that this entire exercise is and should be seen as a process and should be done systematically and sequentially as set out by the Five Year Plan itself.

A presentation by Counsellor Eugene Andrews added purpose, direction, and inspiration to the Gathering. He emphasized the importance and uniqueness of this Gathering to the Faith and called all the men present to urgent and continued action.

In conclusion, after a week of fellowship, prayers, deepening, and sharing, the BMG, in a spirit of emboldened unity and purpose have prayed for the success of the Five Year Plan in Bermuda and asks for your prayers for our success.

With loving Baha'i regards,

Participant of the 19th Annual Black Men's Gathering