

Black Men's Gathering Central
Dr. William Roberts
1233 Central Street
Evanston, Illinois 60201

December 2, 2005

BMG Chicago
c/o Willis Burris, Van Gilmer, Cam Herth, Andalib Khelghati, Pierre Pickens

Dearest Brothers,

Greetings to you as you begin this important weekend Gathering in Chicago! Brothers in Georgia, also meeting this weekend, will surely include you in their thoughts and prayers and likewise you will no doubt do the same for them. It is however, your unique privilege to convene your meeting in the shadow of the Holiest House of Worship in the Bahá'í World. Those who live and work far a field view your circumstance with awe and wonder knowing your near access to such opportunity. And everywhere brothers are looking in your direction to see what you will do during these final months of the Five Year Plan.

Your accomplishments thus far are significant. Devotional meetings in the spirit and style of the BMG are well known and celebrated. The number of you who are tutors and who are participating in study circles is growing. And those who host devotional meetings in their homes are likewise expanding. But you must ask yourselves: is this record satisfactory? Have we/ I done enough? What more will I do during this important time?

In addition to the joy of being together this weekend I urge you to search your hearts for ways that you will distinguish yourselves among all other Black Men's Gatherings in stepping up to become leaders in your clusters. Inviting Black men and others to join you in your study of the Holy Text in the Institute process, in leading classes for children, and in devotional meetings both at public venues as well as in your own homes. All this can be done in your own style and with your own flavor. Chicago land needs what you have to offer. And brothers who are searching for ways to become new men are open to explore with you your conviction of faith and vision of a world community that embraces them.

Now is not the time to tarry! Now is the time to step it up with verve! Now is the time!

We look forward with delight to hearing about your energetic embrace of these essential elements of a developing community leading all others with the powerful drum beating of your spirits. It is yours to take to a new level making inroads for the promotion of the Cause your singular priority.

Who among you will be the ones?

I salute you and promise to call out to the Blessed Beauty on your behalf in the Mother Temple beseeching the Almighty to make heroes of each one of you. It is determined action that is required. The taste of victory is close. You need only to reach for it.

With heartfelt and loving embrace,

Your brother,

Billy