

Black Mens Gathering Central
c/o Dr. William Roberts
1233 Central Street
Evanston, Illinois 60201

January 12, 2006

BMG Michigan
c/o Elders John Mangum, Oliver Thomas, Patrick Patillo,

Dearest Brothers,

You who are gathering at LouHelen Bahá'í School this weekend have the bounty of being among the first of the Gatherings to convene following the release of Messages from the Supreme Body that will influence the Bahá'í Community worldwide for the next five years. It is your privilege to embrace them and to study their contents deeply as is our custom at the Black Mens Gathering. The application to the efforts of each of you is apparent and follow the course we have determined but with refinement. Surely you will experience great joy as you internalize this vision.

Michigan and its neighboring states have a great potential and you the men of the Gathering are uniquely positioned to contribute to the advancement of the Cause in a significant way. So many brothers who live and labor in your midst are searching for a standard and lifestyle they can embrace. We look forward to hearing your plans in concert with the strategies of the Universal House of Justice.

Your Auxiliary Board member for Propagation, as an example, is charged with the mammoth task of motivating and inspiring the believers and institutions in your area to respond to the dictates of the Plan. He is one of you, an Elder of the Gathering. He is in need of your active support in the field. Should he not expect to see you, his intimate cohorts, among those in the front ranks in the teaching work? As members of the Cluster Advancement Teams, as star tutors in the Institute process, as energetic teachers of children and youth, as hosts of devotional meetings in the spirit and style of the Black Mens Gathering in homes as well as in centers? You have the wherewithal to greatly influence what is happening all around you with your special flavor making Michigan both in the metro Detroit area and beyond a true beacon of light offering learning to others across the planet.

Prayers for your success have been offered here at the Mother Temple in Wilmette. We look to you to determine this weekend actions that will lead to results. Service beyond the norm is the call the drum is beating for us. After all we are men of action!

I look forward to hearing from you and to celebrating with you your every success.

With love and high expectations,

Your brother,

Billy