

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

April 12, 2006

BMG New England  
c/o Elders Kevin Andrews, Philippe Copeland and Bernard Streets

Dear Brothers,

Your Gathering this weekend is welcomed with a thunderous applause. The effort you have exerted to bring together men of African descent in an area where there are too few men like yourselves in the Bahá'í community is significant. That done and done well we must now turn our attention to the purpose of this important experience.

It is no less than the awesome opportunity to strive to become star servants welcoming Black men and others to join in the work of making this world a better place.

The study of the 27 December 2005 message of the Universal House of Justice provides a roadmap that must be your primary concern this weekend. Study it with a sense of urgency and with an eye toward what actions will follow. In this essential document you will discover a revolutionary approach and multiple solutions to the many challenges that beset our people. You will find a pathway of service that you can walk with dignity and purpose. You will find within it your own higher calling.

Ours is the opportunity to be in the front ranks of service during the upcoming Five Year Plan with a new appreciation of who we are and what we have to offer. Leadership, servant leadership is yours for the taking. We can set the New England states afire with this new vision.

Will you step forward into the field of action? Will you become a tutor of study circles or a teacher of children's classes or host devotional meetings in the spirit and style of the BMG or become a champion of junior youth

mentoring them and offering them an example of morality and vitality so important to men of African descent? Will you welcome men of African descent to explore what the revelation of Bahá'u'lláh has to offer inviting them to join in and become members of this army of soldiers committed to redefining the possibilities for our people and for all of humanity?

The time to decide is now. We await news from you who reside in New England that men of the Gathering are stepping it up and are making a distinctive contribution to the advancement of the community and therefore the Faith we hold dear.

We send you our heartiest greetings and look forward to hearing concrete results from your deliberations.

All eyes are looking in your direction.

With much love and full of expectation,

Your brother,

Billy