

April 18, 2006

Dear Dr. Roberts,

We are happy to report that we have successfully held the first ever Black Men's Gathering for the New England region. We had in attendance nineteen brothers from at least six countries and four states. We were immensely pleased to have you present for the opening session of this historic gathering. Your presence motivated us further to successfully conclude the first five year plan and to look forward to the opening of the next five year plan. Both in our introductions and in consultation about setting personal goals, we were acutely aware of the need to take the healing message of Bahá'u'lláh to the waiting African American souls. A brief overview of the Ruhi 4 book along with a viewing of the race unity conference initiatives further enhanced our knowledge and skills in this regard.

We had an animated consultation on each paragraph of the Universal House of Justice's December 27th 2005 letter. We might remark that one of our guests who is a friend of the Baha'is was an active participant in the consultation. We drew attention on several occasions to the Universal House of Justice's list of attributes which included a sense of initiative, resourcefulness, courage and audacity as well as the need for "qualities such as consecration, zeal, confidence and tenacity" that will "attest to the enhanced vitality" of our faith. We also had a very lively discussion led by the youth on the March 14th 2000 letter from the Universal House of Justice addressing the relevance of the Black Men's Gathering and what it meant to be the 'pupil of the eye'.

Highlights of the consultation regarding commitments to be met by Ridvan 2007 include the following: completion of the Ruhi sequence by four members, two children's classes, at least thirty home visits, a prayer vigil toward fulfillment of the goals, pledges to bring in at least five brothers into the faith, ten BMG style devotions and a commitment to hold another BMG New England gathering next year.

Our program concluded with a joyous devotional gathering with Baha'is from the Boston area and their friends.

With loving Baha'i greetings,
Black Men's Gathering of New England

Summary of goals

Ruhi – (6 ruhi commitments 4 tutors)
Children's classes – (2 classes, Cambridge and maine)
Introduce to the faith – (8 introductions, 3 people will be offered to join the faith per week)
Bring brother's to the faith – (5 brothers)
Home visits – 30
Youth classes – 2 (Newton and Nashua)
Prayer – 365 tablets of Ahmad for the cause of the BMG
Commitment to investigate the faith (1)
Commitment to hold another BMG gathering next year.
BMG style devotions (10)

Breakdown of goals

Aaron will, before the end of 2006 finish the Ruhi books
Val will have finished book 7 before Ridvan 2007
Benjamin will have finished book 7 before Ridvan 2007
Jerry will be a tutor (all books) and will be available to be a tutor
Kevin Andrews will have finished all books and will be a tutor by Ridvan 2007
Louis will have a book three done by Ridvan 2007
 A children's class will be started by Ridvan and at least 30 home visits by
 Ridvan of 2007. (Bernie)
 Phillipe will recite the tablet of Ahmad for 365 days to attract people of African
 descent
Introducing the faith to five people that have not been talked to (Hansel)
 Youth tutor for reading and mathematics (Reading to the children in the
 neighbourhood -- Aaron)
Vahid (introduce the faith to three people back at home)
Melbourne (offer a card to three people a week)
Kevin will bring two African American brothers into the faith by Ridvan.
Kevin will open his house to junior youth activities in Newton
 Larry (wants to see the truth in the Baha'i faith. He needs to read about the
 structure of the faith and realize what it's about)
Two African American brothers will be brought in by Aaron
 John will bring in another brother by Ridvan 2007 will receive prayers from
 Phillipe.
Andrew commits to finish books 2,3,4 by Ridvan 2007.
 We commit to hold another gathering next year and to evaluate what progress
 has be done by that time.
Starting a children's class in Cambridge (Benjamin)
BMG style devotions

Devotion Newton (Kevin)
Devotion Boston Bahai center (Phillipe)
Devotion green acre (fireside with students)
Devotion NH (Nashua)
Devotion (individual devotion in Nashua by Aaron).
Devotion Maine (next year. Third Sunday of a month Lewiston
Maine.)
Devotion Brockton Vermont
Devotion Worcester (no specific date put down but probably with a
year) (Richard)
Devotion Cambridge (Benjamin)
Devotion Newbedford with support from Boston (boy's and girl's
club?)