

June 24, 2005

To The family of Mr. Larry Strickland

Beloved friends,

Our hearts are weighted with the loss of your loved one. We join you at this time of grief recognizing that our brother Larry who fought with such dignity for life now is in the powerful embrace of the Almighty and eternal life in the worlds beyond.

We who knew him and served with him cannot mourn for long when we reflect on his life and legacy. A life filled with zest and enthusiasm. A life consumed with love for mankind. A life vested with a desire for service. A life devoted to high-minded principle. A life filled with purpose. A legacy of trust and friendship.

The brothers of the Black Men's Gathering know him as an international personality who contributed manfully to the aims and activities we undertake. His insightful encouragement to us in the advancement of the expansion work of the Baha'i Faith, at home and abroad, will remain a standard to emulate. We recall his brilliant smile in the midst of challenging travel in remote parts of Africa and his enthusiastic support of activities across the United States. These are hallmarks of his dedication.

We who journey to the BMG each year called him "Big Strick" and perceived him as a gentle giant, a quiet but strong man who was open to new ideas and always demonstrated a desire for learning. Seldom did we hear about his struggles in life. His humility led him to resist calling attention to himself even at the most difficult times. We honor him for these qualities and appreciate his desire to praise others for their accomplishments moving quickly away when praise was heaped upon him for his many achievements.

A ready smile and shy chuckle endeared him to all. His spirit is conjoined with ours and we will ever celebrate his example of determination and resilience.

Men of the Gathering across the globe are offering prayers for the progress of his noble soul and for you the dear members of his family, especially his parents and son.

May the beauty of his radiant spirit continue to inspire in each of us a desire to contribute to the betterment of mankind and to the world in which we live.

We offer you our heartfelt condolences.

With loving embrace,

Dr. William Roberts

On behalf of
The Brothers of the Baha'i Black Men's Gathering