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**SBC President Hosts Dinner
For Black Baptist Leaders**

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--It's not usually newsworthy when one Mississippian hosts a dinner for another native Mississippian--except when one is black and the other white and both serve as presidents of nationwide Baptist conventions.

"Twenty years ago, I wouldn't have had a part in this," Southern Baptist Convention President Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., said at a dinner he hosted for L. Venchael Booth, a native Mississippian and president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, during the PNBC's annual convention here.

"If I can change anybody can change," Cooper told 30 PNBC officials and leaders of the Mississippi (Southern) Baptist Convention at the dinner. He credited "the grace of God, the changes of time and my family" with influencing his change.

It was the first time an SBC president ever hosted a dinner for the leadership of a national (black) Baptist convention, said Emmanuel McCall, of the Home Mission Board's department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists.

Booth, who also serves alongside Cooper as a vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, told the group that through Cooper, "We have been brought closer together than perhaps ever before."

"In your concern for giving us the tools to carry on the Lord's work, you have been too timid in the past," Booth told the Southern Baptists.

"You must continue to use your peculiar endowment of money and faith to do good," said Booth, who is listed by Ebony magazine as one of the 100 most influential blacks in the United States.

Cooper told the leaders and later told the assembled PNBC messengers in an address of "greetings" that "We (the SBC) can't get any new missionaries into Nigeria, but I think you can. And if a door is closed to one Christian group and open to another Christian group, the mantle of responsibility falls on your shoulders."

After his remarks to the PNBC, which has some churches also aligned with the SBC, Mr. & Mrs. Cooper flew to bring greetings to the other two major black Baptist conventions: the National Baptist Convention, Inc. meeting in Los Angeles and the National Baptist Convention of America meeting in Chicago, concurrently.

-30-

**Mars Hill Gets Federal
Grant for Job Training**

Baptist Press

MARS HILL, N.C. (BP)--Mars Hill College, a Southern Baptist school here, has received a \$40,000 federal grant to develop a cooperative education program designed to give students on-the-job experience before graduation.

President Nixon individually approved and signed the grant under the educational development act of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, a college spokesman said.

The program will allow students three semesters of off-campus work in whatever business

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or industry they desire, with pay. Academic credit will be given and students can graduate in the normal four years.

"Under this new program, students will be able to chose work experience and gain insight into that work before deciding that this or that profession is really what they want to do for the rest of their lives," said Glenn C. Trantham, the program's newly appointed director.

"We also hope that the program will assist in motivating minority group and Appalachian-area students to succeed in their college career and help them toward remedying the ills of their areas," said Trantham.