

International Mission Board Timeline

May 10, 1845 – The Southern Baptist Convention established the Board of Foreign Missions and established its headquarters in Richmond, Virginia.

May 20, 1845 – Jeremiah Bell Jeter called the first meeting of the Board of Managers. The members gathered in the library of Second Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia. Their primary concern was to secure a permanent Corresponding Secretary.

June 30, 1845 – China was chosen as the first mission field.

September 1, 1845 – The board appointed the first missionary, Samuel C. Clopton.

January 5, 1846 -- James B. Taylor (1846-1871) was appointed the first Corresponding Secretary of Foreign Mission Board.

September 7, 1846 – The board appointed two African-Americans to serve in Liberia. Brother John Day occupied a mission station at Grand Bassa and Brother A. L. Jones at Cape Palmas on the west coast of Africa.

November 16, 1846 – The board appointed the first medical missionary, Dr. J. Sexton James, to serve in China.

June 10, 1846 – The monthly publication, *Southern Baptist Missionary Journal*, began.

January 15, 1849 – The board began publication of *The Commission*. Monthly circulation of the periodical reached 7,000 by April 1850.

March 5, 1849 – The board's first single woman, Miss Harriet A. Baker of Powhatan County, Virginia, was appointed to China.

October 6, 1861 – Tai Ping rebels in Yentai, Shantung Province, China, murdered Missionary J. Landrum Holmes.

1861-1865 – Throughout the Civil War the Foreign Mission Board continued limited operations in China and Africa. Most missionaries were self-supporting.

April 3, 1865 – The Foreign Mission Board had no available funds so the Treasurer was authorized to charge to profit and loss the Confederate bonds so as to balance his books.

December 23, 1871 – James B. Taylor died.

January 16, 1872 – Henry A. Tupper (1872-1892) was elected the second Corresponding Secretary by a unanimous vote of the Board.

July 7, 1873 – The board appointed Charlotte D. “Lottie” Moon to China.

October 10, 1881 – The board appointed the first female physician, Dr. Ruth McCowan, to serve in Shanghai, China.

May 11, 1888 – The Woman’s Missionary Union (auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention) is organized in Richmond, Virginia.

July 23, 1893 – Robert Josiah Willingham (1893-1913) was elected the third Corresponding Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board.

July 23, 1893 – The Board of Managers authorized the purchase of the board’s first typewriter.

May 12, 1899 – The South China Mission established the Chinese Baptist Publication Society with Dr. R. H. Graves as president and R. E. Chambers as its corresponding secretary.

March 13, 1900 – The Bell Telephone Company offered to install a phone in the Foreign Mission Board office at a reduced rate and the Board of Managers directed the Corresponding Secretary to accept their offer.

August 5, 1901 – The board appointed the first nurse, Jessie L. Pettigrew, to work in Hwanghien, China, with Dr. Thomas W. Ayers.

March 27, 1902 – Henry A. Tupper died.

May 1, 1903 – The Board of Managers recognized the contribution of the First Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia, to erect a hospital at Hwanghien, China, to be used by Dr. T. W. Ayers. By request of the church, the Hospital was named the Warren Memorial Hospital, in honor of Dr. E. W. Warren, who was pastor of that church for 24 years.

May 2, 1907 – The board recommended that Dr. R. J. Willingham make a tour of all of the mission stations.

June 4, 1912 – To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sailing of Adoniram Judson, the first American foreign missionary, the Southern Baptist

Convention launched the Judson Centennial Movement. The Foreign Mission Board trustees appointed T. B. Ray to take the leadership in raising the special funds of \$1,250,000 to be used for educational missions.

June 28, 1914 – A Serbian terrorist assassinated Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austria-Hungarian throne, and his wife, Sofia. This action precipitated World War I.

December 20, 1914 – R. J. Willingham died.

June 16, 1915 – James Franklin Love (1915-1928) is elected the fourth Corresponding Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board.

June 11, 1919 – The board recommended that all missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention read carefully and subscribe to the Statement of Belief before their appointment to missionary service.

June 11, 1919 – The board pledged its supports of the convention's plan to raise \$75,000,000 for the organized work of Southern Baptists. The board's allocation from the 75 Million Campaign was \$20,000,000.

June 10, 1925 – The Foreign Mission Board trustees acknowledged that the board was in deep financial distress. They recommended "a call to prayer that Southern Baptists may realize the emergency and be faithful with their money and that the pastors and people spread the information of the urgent need of the board." They reiterated their loyalty to the Cooperative Program.

May 3, 1928 – James F. Love died.

October 10, 1928 – The board of trustees elected T. Bronson Ray (1928-1932) as Executive Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board.

October 29, 1929 – Stock Market crashed.

October 12, 1932 – The Board of trustees elected Charles E. Maddy (1932-1945) as Executive Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board.

January 15, 1934 – T. B. Ray died.

September 1, 1939 – With the German invasion of Poland, World War II began.

December 7, 1941 – Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

April 14, 1943 – Dr. C. E. Maddy announced that the board was debt free for the first time in more than a generation.

December 9, 1943 – M. T. Rankin reported that 40 missionaries from war-ravished China arrived in New York aboard the *S. S. Gripsholm*.

June 6, 1944 – The board of trustees elected Milledge Theron Rankin (1945-1953) as Executive Secretary.

May 20, 1948 – In the Foreign Mission Board report to the Southern Baptist Convention, M. T. Rankin introduced the Program of Advance.

December 1950 – The Foreign Mission Board appointed a record breaking 111 missionaries.

June 28, 1953 – M. Theron Rankin died.

October 13, 1953 – The Board of trustees in executive session elected Baker James Cauthen (1954-1979) the eighth Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board.

October 11, 1955 – With the appointment of 16 candidates at the October board meeting, the missionary count exceeded 1,000 [exact number was 1,022].

April 12, 1959 – The Foreign Mission Board moved into its newly built headquarters at 3806 Monument Avenue.

October 10, 1961 – The Foreign Mission Board established the Missionary Associate category to employ personnel who normally could not be appointed because of age or educational requirements but who because of specialized training and experience are qualified to meet urgent, specific needs on the field.

July 16, 1964 – The board authorized a new short-term program for single young people, Journeyman Program.

September 8, 1966 – The board of trustees voted to accept the recommendation to order a 9200 Univac card computer system with the projected delivery date of October 1967.

June 1976 -- the Southern Baptist Convention adopted Bold Mission Thrust.

August 6, 1979 – The board of trustees elected R. Keith Parks (1980-1992) Executive Director of the Foreign Mission Board, effective January 1, 1980.

March 10, 1981 – The concept of *unreached peoples*, people with less than 20% Christian population, was introduced.

April 9, 1984 – The first career orientation session began at the Eloise and Baker James Cauthen Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Virginia.

April 15, 1985 – Baker J. Cauthen died.

April 15, 1985 – The board created the Cooperative Services International office, to focus on China and other countries where traditional missionary presence was not possible.

December 7, 1987 – Dr. R. Keith Parks introduced the strategy of the non-residential missionary, a non-traditional missionary approach that focused on the world's least evangelized peoples.

January 1988 – The board's Audiovisual Department produced and distributed the video program, "Foreign Missions Update."

October 1, 1988 – The INGRES IHR/MNS (Missionaries iN Service) application went live.

February 13, 1989 – The board authorized a new category of short-term service called the International Service Corps. ISC personnel would serve from four to 24 months with a possible 12-month extension.

October 31, 1992 – R. Keith Parks retired from the Foreign Mission Board.

October 10, 1993 – Jerry Allen Rankin was installed as the 10th president of the Foreign Mission Board.

October 13-14, 1993 – The board in Richmond hosted the first Creative Access Conference.

May 1995 – The board celebrated its 150th anniversary.

June 1996 – The Electronic Media Department introduced its new video program called "On Mission with God."

June 18, 1997 –The Southern Baptist Convention’s study, *Covenant for a New Century*, recommended that the Foreign Mission Board change its name to International Mission Board.

March 22, 1999 – The board established the Masters Program, a new channel of service for Southern Baptists 50 years and older willing to make a two to three year commitment.

September 10, 2001 – The missionary count exceeded 5,000 [exact number was 5,097].