

JERRY A. RANKIN
President
Foreign Mission Board

- Born:** March 16, 1942, in Tupelo, Miss.; also lived in Clinton, Miss.
- Education:** Received the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College, Clinton; the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Mississippi College.
- Married:** Bobbye Simmons of Brookhaven, Miss.
- Children:** Lori was born in 1968 and Russell, 1970.
- Pre-career missionary experience:** Pastor of Sadler (Texas) Baptist Church; youth director and associate pastor at Sagamore Hill Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas; Baptist Student Union director and Bible instructor at Grayson County Junior College, Denison, Texas; and summer (1962) missionary to New York and Vermont for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.
- Special Honors:** Mississippi College Hall of Fame; Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities; 1972 Outstanding Young Men of America; and Mississippi College Service to Humanity Award, 1976.
- Previous Foreign Mission Board assignments:** Summer (1963) missionary to the Philippines. Appointed as a career missionary in June 1970. Language study, Bandung, Indonesia. General evangelist, Jember, East Java, Indonesia. Served in a special assignment in Bangalore India, from April to June 1979. General evangelist in Surabaya, Indonesia, 1979-81. Also served as part-time advisor to India since 1980 and assisted in church growth surveys in Bangladesh. Associate to the area director for South and Southeast Asia, Jan. 1, 1982-July 31, 1986. He served as a liaison between the board and missionaries in India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Brunei. He was stationed in Bangkok, Thailand. Administrator for Southern Baptist mission work in India, Aug. 1986-May 1987. Resigned missionary service to join the FMB staff as an Area Director for Southern Asia and the Pacific, May 31, 1987-June 14, 1993. From a base in Singapore, he oversaw the work of 480 missionaries in 15 nations.
- Current FMB assignment:** President of the FMB, June 14, 1993-present, succeeding R. Keith Parks, who retired Oct. 31, 1992. Executive Vice President Donald R. Kammerdiener served as interim president.