

Obituary: Levi Weldon Price

February 24, 2025

Levi Weldon Price Jr., Baptist missionary, pastor and seminary professor, died Feb. 19. He was 83. He was born on Christmas Day 1941 in Gorman and grew up in a pastor's home, moving to several places throughout his childhood. He graduated from high school in Monahans in 1960 and married the love of his life, Luethyl Dawkins, on May 28, 1962. He earned his undergraduate degree from Baylor University in 1964 before serving in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1964 to 1968. As a combat engineer in Vietnam, he achieved the rank of captain and received a battlefield commendation for his service. In 1976, he earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Golden Gate Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. He was pastor of churches in Richmond, Fresno and Milpitas, Calif., before serving as a missionary in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, through the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. His ministry then led him to El Paso, where he was pastor of First Baptist Church for 17 years. During his time there, he launched outreach initiatives to serve the community. He founded a businessmen's lunch for men who worked downtown, creating a space for fellowship and spiritual growth. Later, he became a professor of Christian ministry at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary, a role he cherished as he mentored future leaders in the church. In retirement, he served as an interim pastor for churches in Lorena, Gatesville, Clifton, Crawford and Waco and in Las Cruces, N.M. One of his greatest joys was Paisano Baptist Encampment near Alpine. His connection to the camp spanned nearly his entire life—first attending as a boy, then working in the cook shed as a teenager, and later preaching there while in college. He returned as a guest preacher before serving as its president 20 years. He is survived by his wife of 62 years Luethyl; son Timothy Levi; daughter Sara Gloria Welshimer and husband Mark; and seven grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to [Paisano](#)

[Baptist Encampment](#), P.O. Box 973, Alpine, TX 79831, or [Methodist Children's Home](#), 1111 Herring Ave., Waco, TX 76708. Private family graveside services with Marine Corps honors will be at Hemmeline Cemetery near Gatesville. Memorial services are scheduled at 1 p.m. Feb. 28 at First Baptist Church in Waco.