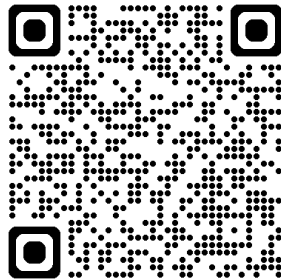


# Thank you

The Gatewood family would like to thank you for the cards, flowers & kind expressions of sympathy shown following Jim's passing.

Your support at this difficult time was very much appreciated and a great comfort to all of the family.



To celebrate Coach Gatewood's legacy of mentorship and service, the family asks that donations be made to the Coach Jim Gatewood Scholarship fund through the McKinney Education Foundation in lieu of flowers.

# In Loving Memory



## James Dan Gatewood

FEBRUARY 27, 1965 - FEBRUARY 27, 2026

*They are not dead, who leave us this great heritage  
Of remembered joy.  
They still live in our hearts, in the happiness we knew,  
In the dreams we shared.  
They still breathe, in the lingering fragrance windblown,  
From their favourite flowers.  
They still smile in the moonlight's silver  
and laugh in the sunlight's sparkling gold.  
They still speak in the echoes of words  
We've heard them say again and again.  
They still move in the rhythm of waving grasses,  
In the dance of the tossing branches.  
They are not dead; Their memory is warm in our hearts,  
Comfort in our sorrow. They are not apart from us, but a  
part of us  
For love is eternal, and those we love shall be with us  
Throughout all eternity.*

## Obituary

James Dan Gatewood was born on Feb. 27, 1965, and left us on his 61st birthday, February 27, 2026, after fighting a courageous battle against cancer. Jim was a beloved husband, father and one of the most respected high school baseball coaches in Texas. He leaves behind a legacy defined by leadership, integrity, faith, and family.

In his 25 years as a high school head coach, Jim amassed 446 wins.

During his 19 years at McKinney North High School, Jim built a successful program grounded in discipline, accountability and a true "find a way to win" culture. Prior to McKinney North, Jim played a vital role as an assistant baseball coach for eight years at the University of

Alabama. During his tenure at Alabama, the team won multiple championships, appeared in the College World Series in Omaha, and were the SEC Conference Champions in 2006.

To those who played for Coach Gatewood, he was far more than just a coach. He was a mentor, a leader, and a true role model. Players...and fellow coaches...admired his consistency, humility, and the way he quietly held himself and others to a higher standard. He believed the lessons learned on the baseball field would equip his players to become better men well beyond their days on a baseball diamond.

His strong Christian faith shaped his leadership; he led with patience, grace and with a servant's heart. His influence reached far beyond his own teams, impacting the broader baseball community well beyond Texas.

Those who knew him knew he loved baseball deeply, but Jim's love for his family surpassed all else. Jim is survived by his wife of 35 years, Lee and two adoring daughters, Rachel Erin and Grace Katherine. He is survived by his brother, Reginald Louis Gatewood and wife, Tamara, nephew Tyler Gatewood and niece Ava Gatewood.

His family was Jim's greatest pride and joy. He spoke of them with a full heart, centered his life around them and found his greatest joy in their presence.

While Jim has realized his heavenly reward, his impact here on this Earth will live on through his family, through the young men he shaped and through the example he set both on and off the baseball field.

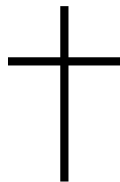
The greatest honor of Jim's professional career was the renaming of the McKinney North High School baseball field to Jim Gatewood Field.

Now and forever, every player, parent and fan who attends a McKinney North home baseball game will see his name on Jim Gatewood Field and feel the influence of Coach Jim Gatewood himself.

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6*

## Order of Service James Dan Gatewood

2:00pm, Saturday, March 7, 2026  
Cottonwood Creek Church



WELCOME PRAYER:  
Justin Frazier - Executive Pastor  
at Cottonwood Creek

HYMN:  
"In Christ Alone"  
Sung by David Gaschen

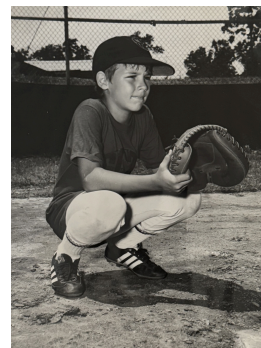
READING OF SCRIPTURE:  
By Rachel and Grace Gatewood

TRIBUTES OF FRIENDS:  
Shawn Pratt  
John Marshall  
Lance McDowell

MESSAGE OF HOPE:  
By Dr. Randy Marshall

HYMN:  
"It Is Well with My Soul"  
Sung by David Gaschen

BENEDICTION AND PRAYER OF  
DISMISSAL:  
By Dr. Randy Marshall



*The following excerpt is the final entry from Jim's prayer journal. Written in his own hand, may we receive these words as a reflection of his faith, and may we honor his memory in our hearts.*

*Trusting God isn't about stepping  
into the unknown.  
It's about standing firm when  
the journey gets tough.*

*Psalms 51:10*

*Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

*Being a Christian doesn't change what you  
deal with, it changes how you deal  
with it. Stay strong, you are built for this.*

*If the living knew what the dead know,  
the whole world would follow Jesus.*

*'Trusting God isn't about stepping into the unknown.  
It's about standing firm when the journey gets tough.'*

*Psalms 51:10*

*'Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.'*

*Being a Christian doesn't change what you deal with,  
it changes how you deal with it.  
Stay strong, you are built for this.*

*If the living knew what the dead know,  
the whole world would follow Jesus."*