

## Andre Alston

Andre Alston would want people to know that he is “a caring person, loyal, dependable, and most of all a person who loves God!” He believes that when you put God first, “there will still be trials and tribulations but they’re easier to deal with; you do not feel weighed down because he takes control of it for you.”

Born in Baltimore in 1957, Andre lived in Liberty Garrison and attended Liberty Garrison Elementary School. He then attended Garrison High for a year before moving to Randallstown and attending Milford Mill High School. He was the oldest child and had four brothers and two sisters. They were raised Catholic.

Andre remembers some hard things growing up. Until he was 21, he had been raised thinking his grandmother was his mother and that his mother was his sister. He also remembers his oldest sister being hit by a car and suffering severe injuries. And he says that he “at one time wanted material things, but eventually I came to see that you don’t need things to be happy. I had been searching for happiness in all the wrong places.”

Following high school, Andre took computer courses from Control Data Institute and ended up working for them. Upon moving to Houston, Texas for another computer job, he got caught up in the drug world and ended up being arrested and serving 16 months. But to Andre, “this was a blessing. I had asked God to please take away this life I was living; soon after that prayer I was arrested, and I thought to myself ‘Be careful what you pray for!’”

He began attending Waylon Baptist Church in 1989 and thought he was growing in the Lord. But when he lost his six-month-old son, “I realized I didn’t really know God, and I stayed like that for a long time.” He says it was his daughter Kennedy “who really changed my life. She brought me to New Song Community Church on Father’s Day in 2006. I immediately felt comfortable at New Song, and I have been growing in the Lord ever since.” Andre spoke highly of the Learning Center and Ms. Susan “who has had a real impact on my life.” Ms. Susan said that “I have always been impressed that no matter how hard the circumstances, Andre has always been there for his daughter and made her education a priority.” Recently burned out of their home, Andre and Kennedy are now living on Lafayette Avenue, and Kennedy continues to excel at the Learning Center. Andre recently worked with Mark Lange in rehabbing some of the space at New Song’s preschool building at 1385 Gilmor Street. (Note: Both Mark and Andre each claim that they alone did all the work...)

Okay, so what does Andre enjoy and like? “Sports – I always love the underdog – family and friends, studying my Bible, math and numbers (he loves Sudoku!), and I love people.” He said growing up he loved “steak and potatoes, but nowadays I love seafood.” Andre does not like “negativity, and I hate seeing people taken advantage of. I have always cared about the little guy.”

Andre believes that “God always puts me in the right place at the right time.” And all of us at New Song are glad that God has placed you here with us as you become an official member of the church today!

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