

# Interview: Rev Anthony Loh

It has been a busy period for JCC for the past few years due to church relocation and rebuilding, followed by a year of celebration and commemorating the new building. Now that things have settled down, let's get to know more about our dearly beloved and Rev., Anthony Loh.



**Alicia:** A little background on you please...like how did you come to accept Christ?

**Anthony:**

I came from a non-Christian background in Malaysia. I only remember praying to the sky with my hands held tight by my grandmother and observing the delicious chicken offered to “god” before being consumed by the family. Other than these, I remember nothing.

I started to join Sunday School when I was in primary school. My aunt brought me to church and immediately I enjoyed going to Sunday school because of the “free gifts”, active games, plenty of free snacks, and the fellowship with friends.

The Bible was just a book with many interesting stories that I had to read and listen to because it was part of the Sunday School. I had always looked forward to Christmas, Easter and Games Day – these were the special highlights of the year for a primary school boy.



**Alicia:** How did you get involved with the Boys' Brigade and JCC in your youth?

**Anthony:**

I joined the church youth group and school Christian fellowship/club when I was in sec 1. I didn't join BB till I was in sec 4. Most of my friends, including my best friends, were from the same group of people who were active in BB, church youth group or school Christian fellowship. Looking back, I thank God for surrounding me with so many Christian friends who influenced and shaped my thinking as I grew in secondary school. All my life's activities



focused very much on Christian activities and church stuff. However, there were also fun times catching spider and fishes in the stream. Maybe I ever caught a “Christian spider” unknowingly!

One of my spiritual breakthroughs was when I in sec 4. The father of one of my best friends was a Chinese medium. By this time, we started to be given the opportunity to serve as youth cell leaders in church and in school (Christian fellowship). We were also mentored by the pastor through Bible study. In one of the Bible sessions with the pastor, I witnessed the manifestation of demon deliverance and the resistance of the evil one in my best friend mentioned above.

There were a number of spiritual attacks in those days. I was physical pressed upon by some kind of forces when I was sleeping at night. I was very afraid. But the victory came as I was taught to use the Word of God to resist the demon whenever I was “attacked”. Eventually, I was liberated from this ordeal. Suddenly, my entire world began to change: God is real, Jesus is real, Satan is real, the Name of Jesus has power, and victory can be claimed in Jesus’ Name.

I began to take God and the Bible seriously and was eventually baptised when I was in the final year of secondary school. I concluded at that time: People without Christ is indeed without HOPE.

**Alicia:** Your previous calling was in Campus Crusade and now presently, you are in the pastoral ministry. How are your feelings then and now in regards to your transition?

**Anthony:**

After my studies in poly, I knew God was calling me for fulltime work. I was actively serving in Church. Then I came to Singapore to work in 1989. I was introduced to JCC and since then JCC has been my home church till today. My burden was for mission work. I hoped that I would be a missionary one day. With that I prepared myself, at least serving actively in church (JCC youth fellowship and attending church mission trips) while working in an electronics company.



Finally, I entered Singapore Bible College with Rev. Yee and Pastor Michael. I started as a youth worker at JCC upon graduation, and then joined Campus Crusade (now called “Cru Spore”) with the intention of going to the mission field.

“Fortunately, or unfortunately” by God’s “Divine plan”, there was a greater need in JCC due to pastoral transitions. I was asked to consider to serve in JCC “for a while”. I came back to JCC in 2002 as a youth worker, and that “for a while” arrangement continued until today!



**Alicia:** I’m sure that being called into full time ministry has its impact on your family. How do you balance the demands of your family and that of your ministry?

**Anthony:**

My wife, Meiling, also graduated from SBC. We started our lives in the pastoral ministries as a life calling. We serve in different churches due to language. She is serving in a Mandarin-speaking congregation. There were



not many struggles at the beginning as we used to enjoy and get busy with ministries. We stole time here and there to spend time together and we attended each other’s church activities/church camp as part of family time!

The greater challenges came about as the children grew into the season of teenagers. Family time became harder as everyone had their schedules. Nevertheless, we tried to do “what we can”. We thank God for protecting and leading the children to grow in Christ, though as parents we seemed out of action at times!

I believe the model we set for them to put God first above all interests, hobbies, etc. may have helped make it much easier for them to choose Godly priorities for themselves!

**Alicia:** One thing I always admire about you is your upbeat spirit. You always seem so cheerful even when people around you aren't. Any secrets to that?

**Anthony:**

There are a few things that I will guard with all possibilities:



A) Keep dwelling in His presence daily: I learnt and am still learning – Hide and hide in the secret place of God's presence daily! A time to come into His Presence and try to be still as long as I can. It is here that my struggles and confusion are being lifted up to the Lord. It is here that sins are confessed, failures surrendered, anger and bitterness renounced, and I learnt to walk with God in all situations.

B) Keep growing in God's Word and never stop learning: I listen to many sermons from many churches. Learning to soak in God's Word as much as I can. Sometimes, I do fall short due to busy schedules. Nevertheless, I attend many equipping seminars as part of the learning process!

Someone said, when you keep the "secret place with God", He will take care of your "public place".



C) Keep growing in faith by leaning on the Holy Spirit and in intercession for one another. I believe that by turning my eyes to Jesus first in all events, it helps me to recover faster from any setbacks – emotionally – and enable me to stay cheerful so that I can help minister those who are in need! Trying to walk with and talk to the Holy Spirit helps me to stay afloat in the midst of busyness and church challenges.

Lastly, praying with intercessors and people who are passionate towards prayers/intercession has greatly helped me as well. These are the people who



encourage me to pray actively, keeping the discipline of prayer and seeking God relentlessly.

Sometimes, joining them in their prayers is sufficient to have the soul lifted up!

**Alicia:** What is your advice to young aspirants to full time ministry?

**Anthony:**

Practice the A, B, C mentioned above. Keep serving the Lord – in small things or big things. Never stop serving the Lord and never stop church life in whatever season you are in – e.g., as student, young adult or adult. It is always within the larger body of Christ that active brothers and sisters are around us to help us keep our faith when life challenges increase. Putting God and God’s things first starting from young will help in discovering big things and God’s calling!



**Alicia:** What are you thankful for currently?

**Anthony:**

I am thankful to God for every JCCian. Each pastor has his/her gifting and service shortfalls. Despite everything, JCCians have been patient with me, walking alongside in ministry and lifting one another to grow in Christ.

**Alicia:** What is your greatest desire for JCC?



**Anthony:**

My greatest desire is to see every JCCian loving Jesus so passionately that we dare to trust God for greater things in our lives and church ministry. Indeed, joining the rest of the churches to be the Antioch of Asia is the beginning for JCC to kickstart a new season God has given to us in light of His RETURNING AGAIN!