James R. Crumley Jr. Archives

**Records, c. 1965-2013, of Frankie San (Kyuzo Miyaishi), graduate of the LTSS and minister to Richland County prisoners in CCI and Broad River Correctional Institution.**

**Supplemental records of Frankie San were donated by Tom O’Brien (former president of LTSS business office) in 2017 as well as the Frankie San Foundation in 2021.**

**Records stored at the Crumley Archives. Advanced notice for research required.**

**Creator:** Rev. Frankie San

**Extent:** Two Boxes

**Access Restrictions:** None

**Use Restrictions**: Permission to publish material from the Frankie San Collection must be obtained from the Director of the Crumley Archives, 4201 N. Main St., Columbia, SC 29203.

**Processing Information**: Arrangement/preservation of material and creation of this finding aid completed by T. Scott Reeves (2017, 2021).

**Frankie San Biographical Sketch:**

Born Kyuzo Miyaishi in Tokyo, Japan in 1929, Frankie San is known for his more that 40 years of ministry to prisoners in the Richland County prison system in South Carolina. Frankie had served in the Japanese military and become disillusioned and hopeless following the defeat of Japan in WWII. After a failed suicide attempt, he found hope in a verse from the Bible he had been given by the Gideon’s Society. “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you…” Jesus had said in John 14:27. This was the hope and purpose Frankie needed.

Soon after committing to a life following Christ, Frankie was invited to attend Columbia Bible College. Struggles with the English language led him to transfer to Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary where he was mentored by then President, Dr. Epling Reinartz. After graduating with a MA degree in Religious Education in 1966, he moved into South Carolina’s most notorious prison. The rest of his life was devoted to ministering to the men of the Richland County Prison system.

**Scope and Content:**

The Crumley Archives currently has a diverse collection Frankie San’s materials including annual ministry reports, early ministry newsletters called “The Gospel According to Frankie-San”, his tri-annual prison publication known as “Cell 55,” all ranging in dates from 1965-2013. Also included in the collection are general biographical material, photos, correspondence, inmate bios, etc.

**Contents:**

**Box 1: General Bio, Correspondence, etc.**

File A- General Bio and Prison Information

File B- Photos

File C- News and Magazine clippings/stories

File D- General Correspondence

File E- Inmate Correspondence

File F- Inmate Bios (short)

File G- Death Row Inmate Robert South Correspondence, Bio, Clippings

File H- Inmate Pat O’Neil Correspondence, Bio, Photos

File I- Frankie Writings

File J- Frankie Prison Ministry Booklets

File K- Gospel According to Frankie San (Early Newsletter): November 1965-July 1966

File L- “The Year of Our Lord” Annual Reports: 1976, 78-79, 81-87. 89, 92-98, 2000-2002

**Box 2: “Cell 55” Newsletters**

File A- 1966 (August, September, November), 1967 (January, March, April, December),

1968 (Easter), 1970 (Christmas), 1971 (Christmas), 1972 (Christmas), 1973 (Christmas),

1974 (Christmas), 1975 (Christmas)

File B- 1976 (Christmas), 1977 (January), 1978 (Christmas), 1979 (Christmas)

File C- 1980 (Christmas), 1982 (Christmas), 1983 (Christmas), 1986 (Christmas),

1987 (Christmas), 1988 (Christmas), 1989 (Christmas)

File C- 1990 (Christmas), 1991 (Christmas), 1992 (Christmas), 1993 (Christmas),

1999 (Christmas)

File D- 2000 (Christmas), 2001 (Christmas), 2002 (Christmas), 2003 (Spring, Christmas),

2004 (Jan & Christmas), 2005 (Summer, Christmas)

File E- 2006 (Lent, Summer—includes life story and timeline, Christmas),

2007 (Winter, Summer, Christmas)

File F- 2008 (Winter, Summer, Christmas), 2009 (January, Summer, Christmas),

2010 (Summer, Christmas)

File G- 2011 (Summer, Christmas), 2012 (Summer), 2013 (Winter, Summer, Christmas)