



**SammyTippit**  
MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 700368 • San Antonio, TX 78270 • [www.sammytippit.org](http://www.sammytippit.org) • EMAIL: [info@sammytippit.org](mailto:info@sammytippit.org) • Tel. 210-492-7501

May 2026

## A Fire That Wouldn't Die

I was eighteen years old the first time I stood before a congregation and asked two questions burning in my heart: *“How many of you have prayed for the Soviet Supreme leader, Leonid Brezhnev? How many of you have prayed for people considered our enemies?”*

Six months earlier, Jesus had radically transformed my life. And from that very first moment of faith, He placed something unexpected inside me — a deep longing to bring the gospel to the very people who hated Christians. Not despite the danger. Because of God's love.

That longing led me to infiltrate a communist youth festival in East Berlin in 1973. It led me to Romania in June 1980, where I walked into the Emanuel Baptist Church in Oradea and witnessed something I could barely comprehend — a church so crowded with people praying that it was difficult get through the door. Believers who suffered terribly were experiencing a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit.

I remember one cold night on the frozen banks of the Danube River, praying with colleagues and asking for what seemed impossible: that the fires of revival burning in Romania would spread eastward — across the Soviet Union, all the way to the farthest reaches of Siberia.

I remember soldiers pulling me from a train, deporting me with the words: “You will never place your feet on Romanian soil as long as you live.”

I remember a note, smuggled to me from those dear believers: *“Don't be discouraged, Sammy. Remember — the glory of God comes through much suffering.”*

And I remember the phone call in December 1989, in the middle of the Romanian revolution that overthrew the communist dictator, Nicolae Ceaucescu: “Sammy, you must come back. What we have been praying for has come to pass. Come. Come quickly!”

I went. I stood at that same border, in the falling snow. When soldiers asked if we were Christians and I said yes, one threw his arms open wide: **“Welcome to the new Romania!”**

God had answered. The impossible had happened. From Romania, He sent me to the Soviet Union, where I preached in stadiums and the message was broadcast across Moldova and Ukraine. I remember going to Norilsk in the Arctic Circle, where Christians had died in prison camps, and where ninety percent of the people in a stadium responded to the gospel. God sent

me to Rwanda, to war zones in Africa, into Sudan, Egypt, and Iran. In every place, I carried what the persecuted church had taught me: the secret to revival is prayer, and the key to victory over darkness is an intimate walk with God. What God did, He did quietly. No internet. No social media. No live streaming. No publicity. But **what God does in secret, He eventually brings into the light.**

Two months ago, I received a phone call from Dr. Sebastian Vaduva, on behalf of the leadership of Emanuel University in Oradea — the only fully accredited Christian university recognized by the European Union in all of Eastern Europe. He said: “Sammy, we are considering launching the ***Sammy Tippit Center for Christianity under Persecution*** at Emanuel University. Are you open to this project?”

I’ll admit, sharing this feels a little awkward — it carries my name. But I want you to know about it, because this isn’t about me. It is about the persecuted church. And for that reason, I am overwhelmed and extremely excited.

More Christians are suffering for their faith today than at any other time in history. *The Sammy Tippit Center for Christianity under Persecution* (STCCuP) will serve them — providing Biblical teaching, ministry resources, and an educational institution for research and encouragement for persecuted believers around the world. It will provide conferences to help the persecuted church.

In October 2026, I am invited to Oradea to speak at the opening of the fall semester at Emanuel University, and to launch the Center. Also, I am invited to speak in a Sunday service at the Emanuel Baptist Church — the very church where I first preached in 1980, with Dr. Paul Negrut, now President of Emanuel University and my interpreter on that first trip to Romania.

The ministry I have led for more than fifty years — through communist Romania, the Soviet Union, and suffering nations on every continent — will also now have a home in Eastern Europe. A legacy. STM and STCCuP will both continue *long after I am in heaven*.

### **This is where I need you.**

STCCuP will need a director, professors, and funding — not for Sammy Tippit Ministries, but for the Center itself at Emanuel University. Would you pray? Pray that God raises up the resources to establish this work. Pray for the persecuted church — not just to survive, but to thrive and overcome the darkness, as our Romanian brothers and sisters taught us is possible.

If you know of a person or a foundation who might want to be part of something this significant, please reach out to us.

The soldier on that snowy Romanian border threw his arms open wide. *We are believing God to do it again — this time, for persecuted believers around the world.*

— Sammy Tippit