

The Power of One

By Sophia Minor

Mary Sophia Springer was born in a small Tennessee town in the early 1900's. Called Sophie by her family, this red-headed, southern, country girl moved North in her early 20's, and at a Christian Missionary Alliance Church she responded to an alter call. This act of obedience in turning to Jesus would change her life and set her on a course of a destiny affecting future generations.

She was not educated in the finest schools. She did not live in the best neighborhoods or the loveliest home. She simply answered the call that God had laid on her heart to "surrender all." Although she faced great heart break, sickness, poverty, and opposition, she continued to work the ground where God had asked her to plant His Word.

She did not build her life on obtaining world-

ly possessions, but she focused on spreading the good news of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There was no person she overlooked. She did not see race, religion, economic status, failures, or addictions. She only saw the lost and broken soul who needed the love and comfort of Jesus.

Then 50 years ago, God spoke to Sophia to go to a place in the mountains where He would pour out His Spirit and send a great revival. "They will come like ants over the hills," He spoke to her heart. She and her husband left their home in the city with four children and headed to the hills of North Central Pennsylvania. They never looked back. Her husband gave up a good-paying job, with one year away from retirement with a full pension. Financially their lives would have been secure, but he agreed with his wife to go. "Honey, if God spoke to you to move to this land, I will follow," he told her. Then he

resigned his job immediately.

So off they went to Coudersport, Pennsylvania. There they were perceived as "city folk" or "flatlanders," and not many people accepted them. They opened a small general store, but not many came. They were ostracized by the community and broke. Still they persevered to do the work of God and establish believers. Things started small with just some prayer meetings in their home.

Now after half a century, God has brought the increase. Sophia died in 1979, but this is what remains: a church now preparing a building for over a 1,000 members, dozens of other churches scattered throughout the region and country, three orphanages and five churches in Romania, a worldwide tract printing ministry now expanding to radio and television, and fourth-generation ministers from her own family.

The power of one is astounding. One match can burn down an entire forest. One medication may mean life or death to a sick child. One meal may nourish a man for days. One medical discovery wiped away polio. One woman, Rosa Parks, started a revolution of equality in this nation by refusing to move from her seat on a bus.

All of us possess potential power. Obedience to the call and purposes of God in our lives releases this power. One person can touch thousands, nations, and generations. Sophie Minor was my grandmother. I desire to follow her obedience because she has proven that one life can generate power to affect countless lives.