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A Tract Given Through a Dream

How "The Church of Jesus Christ," One of Our Best Tracts, Came into Existence—Written at Our Request

By William Lewis

IN 1901 while on my mission to Wales, I had the following dream: I saw a large body of people and I was requested to speak to them; I asked that some one more competent than I would speak, but the person in charge would not excuse me. So, after going upon the platform and looking over the large audience, none of them members of our church, I was trying to decide what line of thought would be best to present, but my mind was a blank, and during the singing of the first song and the offering of prayer, I prayed earnestly for a subject that would be food for that large audience. Various subjects came dimly to my mind; after singing the second song, I arose fully decided that if I did not receive more light than I had and more liberty, I would cut my remarks short. I was very anxious that I would be able to present to that large and seemingly anxious body of people a line of thought that would be of lasting benefit. The question, with more than the ordinary force and liberty came to me: "The Church of Jesus Christ; where is it, and how shall I know it? There are many churches of men; only the one Church of Christ." I discerned that the question was very appropriate and that a large percentage of the hearers were pleased with it, eager and

anxiously waiting for an answer, supported by the Scriptures.

With light and liberty I undertook to answer the above question.

For one year the sermon preached in that dream would frequently come to my mind and several times during the year I preached it in the open air to hundreds of people, and at one time it was preached to over two thousand people in Wales with unusual liberty. During the year I was impressed to have the sermon published in tract form, but being a poor scribe and never having written a tract, I would dismiss the matter from my mind. Finally I wrote it and sent it to President Joseph Smith and he spoke very encouragingly of it, and in a letter from Bishop E. L. Kelley very favorable comments were made on it and fifty dollars to pay for the publication of five thousand tracts in English and five thousand in Welsh was sent to me. This price was much cheaper than could be made in the United States.

So, three fourths or more of the tract was presented in the dream. It contains a birds-eye view of the church of the New Testament in a plain, simple language, in organization, doctrine and spiritual gifts, and a short chapter on the apostasy and angelic visitation and restoration.

