

1824 Joseph Smith Jr. awakened by discourses of Rev. George Lane

One Mr. Lane,¹ a presiding Elder of the Methodist church, visited Palmyra, and vicinity. Elder Lane was a tallented man possessing a good share of literary endowments, and apparent humility. There was a great awakening, or excitement raised on the subject of religion, and much enquiry for the word of life. Large additions were made to the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist churches.—Mr. Lane's manner of communication was peculiarly calculated to awaken the intellect of the hearer, and arouse the sinner to look about him for safety—much good instruction was always drawn from his discourses on the scriptures, and in common with others, our brother's mind became awakened.

Oliver Cowdery, “Letter III. To W. W. Phelps, Esq.,” *Latter Day Saints’ Messenger and Advocate* 1 (December 1834):42, Kirtland, Ohio.

¹ George Lane (1784-1859). Appointed as presiding elder of the Ontario District in July 1824. Report of Rev. Lane, "Revival of Religion on Ontario District," letter of January 25, 1825, in *Methodist Magazine* 8 (April 1825):158-59. Joseph Smith would have been eighteen years old when he heard Rev. Lane preach.