

Bloomfield Hills Stake 2015 Theme

(To be read in Sacrament Meetings on Sunday, January 4th, 2015)

In April 2014 General Conference, President Dieter F. Uchtdorf shared with us the story of Rip Van Winkle, who slept through the American Revolution. He then asked if we as members of the Lord's Church were sleeping through the Restoration, and gave us the following admonition:

"There is too much at stake for us as individuals, as families, and as Christ's Church to give only a halfhearted effort to this sacred work. Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is not an effort of once a week or once a day. It is an effort of once and for all."

He then referred to the word of the Lord, given in the 64th section of the Doctrine of Covenants, verse 33 – which we have set as the theme for the Bloomfield Hills Stake in 2015:

"Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great."

As we strive to be obedient in laying the foundation of a great work, we sincerely ask each member of the stake to accept for themselves and their families the following goals for 2015:

- 1) *Create a home where the Spirit of the Lord dwells as we make and keep sacred covenants.*
- 2) *Weekly perform an honest assessment of your contribution to Hasten the Lord's Work of Salvation, considering specifically these ways of strengthening our homes:*
 - A) *Becoming worthy to hold a temple recommend, with regular and meaningful temple attendance;*
 - B) *Family History work leading to submission of one or more family file names to the temple;*
 - C) *Efforts to "flood the earth" with social media messages filled with righteousness and truth.*

Brethren and Sisters, we testify that our lives, and the lives of those we love, will be blessed as we become true disciples of Jesus Christ, as we strive to hasten His work of salvation – without becoming "weary in well-doing".

President Uchtdorf concluded his April conference address with a challenge, which we would ask that we all, as members of the Bloomfield Hills stake, accept for ourselves. He said:

"Let us be awake and not be weary of well-doing, for we "are laying the foundation of a great work," even preparing for the return of the Savior. Brethren [and Sisters], when we add the light of our example as a witness to the beauty and power of restored truth, we will not sleep through the Restoration."

Of this we testify. Our prayer is that through our consecrated efforts, the foundation of this work will proceed to "that which is great".

Theodore W. Parsons III John P. Marshall David H. Olsen

The Bloomfield Hills Stake Presidency