

Addiction Recovery Program Site Added to LDS.org

By **Melissa Merrill**

Church News and Events

Throughout the world, members of the Church and others have found hope and healing through the Addiction Recovery Program (ARP), sponsored by LDS Family Services. Now, with the advent of arp.lds.org, the 12-step program's message of recovery through the Atonement of Jesus Christ is accessible to more people than ever before.

The initial release of the site in May in English (plans are in place for the site to be translated into other languages at a future date) includes information for people facing addictions, their loved ones, their leaders, and ARP volunteers. This structure is somewhat similar to that of the combatingpornography.org website the Church released in April 2010.

The site solves what have been two major barriers to the program in the past—awareness and availability, said Ben Erwin, LDS Family Services counseling program manager for the ARP. The site's presence on LDS.org will help more people be aware of the program's existence—and of its being a program sanctioned by the Church—and it will help people who may not have had access to the program or program materials previously.

One of the main features of

the initial version of the site is the Meeting Locator. This tool allows people to find meetings by location, by schedule, by group makeup or addiction, and by meeting type. For instance:

- People whose jobs require travel can find a meeting in the locations they're visiting. (Prior to this, they might have just skipped their meeting for the week, missing opportunities for valuable support.)
- People whose commitments preclude them from attending meetings during standard times can find a meeting held during a time more conducive to their schedules.
- Someone who wishes to attend a meeting for a particular type of addiction—for instance, pornography or unhealthy eating—can find meetings geared specifically to their struggle.
- Someone who lives in a remote area or a region in which meetings are not yet being held can find meetings held via conference call. This



A new website for the Addiction Recovery Program is helping members become aware of—and access—meetings and other helpful tools that can help lead to recovery through the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

could also be a good option for those who are not comfortable attending a face-to-face meeting.

All information about meetings entered into the tool is maintained locally by LDS Family Services Offices, program coordinators, or others associated with overseeing the meetings—not centrally by Church headquarters in Salt Lake City. This is important because, since the program is priesthood-driven and meetings are organized under the direction of a stake or district president, those who have stewardship in particular regions can update the meetings instantly.

Because the program is administered locally, those who are unable to locate the program in their area can speak to their stake or district president and request that he consider hosting the program in their unit. Stake and district leaders who receive such requests then address the need with Area leadership.

The site will continue to grow over time, both in terms of language offerings and of content.

Elements of future releases may include videos of recovery stories, resources for immediate support, and secure tools for confidentially sharing questions and experiences.

For more information about the site, visit arp.lds.org, or search news.lds.org using the keyword “ARP.” ■

Church Leaders Speak at Commencements in Hawaii, Idaho, Utah

Church leaders traveled to Church schools in Hawaii, Idaho, and Utah, USA, during April to give words of advice to graduates leaving the college and university setting to pursue careers.

At Brigham Young University–Idaho on April 7, 2012, Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles counseled students to “replace fear with faith.”

“I believe we are standing on the threshold of a new era of growth, prosperity, and abundance,” he said. “I urge you to make a commitment to yourself and to Heavenly Father to dedicate your life and consecrate your time and talents to the building up of the Church of Jesus Christ in anticipation of the Savior’s Second Coming.”

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles visited LDS Business College in Salt Lake City, Utah, on April 13, 2012, to deliver the commencement address to graduating students from all 50 US states and 67 countries.

He stressed the need for students to give service throughout their lives. “Service will be your antidote against selfishness and the sense of entitlement that more and more afflict societies around the world. . . . Your service will bless others, but it will also protect you,” he said.

The next day, Elaine S. Dalton, Young Women general president, gave these words of advice to students at BYU–Hawaii: “Remember who you are.” “Work hard.” “Train for adversity.” “Dream big.” “Winners do not always finish first.”

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“Run into your marathon of faith and life,” she said. “Don’t get discouraged by the hills, but see the opportunity in adversity. Go with a sure foot and a sure knowledge that you are never alone. . . . I truly believe that one virtuous young man or young woman led by the Spirit can change the world.”

On April 19, 2012, graduating students at BYU in Provo, Utah, listened to Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, who spoke of the challenges of the world—wars, natural and financial disasters, and the regression of moral standards—but told graduates to look to the future with faith.

“Though men’s hearts are failing them, you should take heart. There have always been challenging times,” Elder Oaks said. “We, the generations of your predecessors, have survived daunting challenges and so will you. The answer to all of these challenges is the same as it has always been. We have a Savior, and He has taught us what we should do.”

For more on this story and on other messages from Church leaders, visit the Prophets and Apostles Speak Today site at prophets.lds.org. ■

Graduating students at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, USA, listen to Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles on April 19, 2012.