

The Cancellation's Challenge

How important the inspirational days and sessions of General Conference are in the lives of thousands of members of the Church has been brought into sharp focus by the necessary cancellation of October Conference.

General Conference is far more than just a series of meetings for faithful members; brought together is the high-up-to-heaven inspiration, the down-to-earth practical counsel by the General Authorities of the Church, and the engaging rubbing of shoulders with countless warm friends, old and new.

The components of General Conference are so amazingly varied—inspiring conference addresses, thrilling music, special instructional meetings, exciting missionary and family reunions, interesting new books on Church subjects, just to cite a few—that there is little wonder that thousands of Church members have been saddened by the announcement.

But the disappointment of the members is small as compared with the sadness of the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve in having to cancel the conference. Their announcement indicates with what deep affection they hold the members of the Church and how concerned they are not to subject the members to jeopardizing their health. "Life is so precious," the

message stated, "the Lord expects us to do all within our power to conserve it. We are sure our people will understand the reluctance we feel in foregoing the uplifting, inspiring experiences of a General Conference of the Church, and that they will accord with the decision we have prayerfully reached."

From the official statement, Church members ought to catch the sensible suggestion that they give their own health and the health of their family members priority consideration. This they can do by following recommendations of their doctors, avoiding crowds and adhering to all other practices necessary for maintaining good health. As indicated by the cancellation action itself, proper health instruction should not be ignored.

But even if October, 1957, will be remembered for years to come with disappointment, October, 1957, also offers a new challenge to Church members to work—without the advantages of General Conference's inspiration—more assiduously in perfecting their own lives, more unselfishly in behalf of others, more devotedly for the cause of righteousness, more earnestly to bring happiness into the lives of neighbors, more zealously to establish peace at home and abroad.

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