

Dear Friends of Green Lake,

At Easter we wrote of our hope for Green Lake being grounded in the promise of the hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness," with no clear idea how that faithfulness would manifest itself so that we could survive the impact of COVID-19. Our fall video update titled 'Manna' (view at glcc.org) tells of how God parted our Red Sea and gave us peace through a miraculous 2020 journey. On the edge of the Red Sea, at the brink of destruction, "Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only **to keep still.**'" *Exodus 14:13-14 (NRSV)*


Green Lake's disaster was mourning the loss of most of our conferences and over 75% of our accommodations and dining income in 2020. However, God brought the largest single gift in our history to pay off our debt in spring. Combined with your support and other expense reductions, Green Lake will survive the pandemic's 2020 tidal wave. We are given a role in our parting of the Green Lake Red Sea story as we read the next verse of Exodus: "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites **to go forward.**'" *Exodus 14:15 (NRSV)*

Our 'Manna' video tells stories of **going forward** by improving the conference center. Our staff experienced spiritual and leadership growth as we took the time to **be still**, pray and focus on Green Lake's 1944 founding purpose statement to "nurture and grow Christian leaders." We took our own closer walks with God on the grounds, and held meetings outside in various beautiful locations. We facilitated family ministry and hosted some small retreats. A recent Youth With A Mission journeyed to the Lawson-era towers to pray, seeking God's direction for their lives. The leader said, "You can feel God's presence in those towers and all around the grounds." We also delighted in providing economical ReCreation stays for pastors and worship leaders to **be still** and rejuvenated by God.

Now we look ahead to a second year where the pandemic will likely impact conferences. We sing again "Great is thy Faithfulness" as we, with great hope, seek God's way to keep **going forward** in 2021. We depend on your prayers and ask you to consider a year-end gift that enables us to adapt to a new normal in 2021 and sustain Green Lake for its next 75 years of ministry. More than ever, the world needs the hope and vitality of Christian leaders called, nurtured and trained at Green Lake. Christian leaders need Green Lake's sacred grounds to provide peace, rest and rejuvenation. The **still** of Green Lake enables them to **go forward** and minister to churches, families, businesses and communities. Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry.

May God bring you peace and joy this Christmas season, and may you find hope in the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.


Ben Mott
President/CEO


Rev. Michael Williams, D.Min.
Vice President of Development



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*King George VI's Christmas Broadcast
to the British Commonwealth
25th December, 1939*



*And I said to the man who stood at
the gate of the year: "Give me
a light that I may tread safely
into the unknown."*

*And he replied: "Go out into the
darkness and put your hand into
the Hand of God. That shall be
to you better than light and
safer than a known way."*

Footnote: This speech was delivered at a bleak moment for Britain as World War II had begun on the 3rd of September 1939. George's wife Elizabeth, mother to today's Queen Elizabeth II, brought him a poem that had deeply touched her. George VI excerpted the first lines of the poem, "God Knows" (aka "The Gate of the Year") by Minnie Louise Haskins to illuminate the spiritual comfort he believed his subjects might seek as the Axis powers confronted the Allies in the early days of World War II.