

November 9, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Yes, Wonderful Things!”

Thanksgiving Day falls on November 26th this year. It was on that same day in 1922 that Howard Carter peered into King Tut’s tomb and made his famous reply to the question, “Can you see anything?”

World War I had delayed the search, but did not dampen the enthusiasm of those who were searching for the burial place of King Tut among the sands of Egypt in the Valley of the Kings. He was known as the boy king, or pharaoh, of Egypt who came to the throne at the age of nine and died ten years later. One of the most insignificant kings of Egypt became the most famous when his tomb was discovered 3,245 years later. That is because it was the most intact tomb of any discovered.

Howard Carter used a chisel his grandmother gave him when he was only 17 years old. He broke open a small space in the upper left hand corner of the door between him and the treasures of Tutankhamun. He held a candle to peer inside, but the hot air escaping from the tomb made the light flicker. Holding a torch he made the hole larger so that he could see all the wonderful things inside.

The tomb has four chambers including the magnificent tomb holding the body of Tutankhamun in a golden coffin. Only last month it was reported that there might be more chambers hidden behind the painted walls.

I was thinking about that man holding a candle and a chisel. He is like us in a way. We are all explorers on a journey. Who would not want to see all the wonderful things this world has to offer! But Christians know that there are even more wonderful things in the world to come. It is impossible for us to describe the wonders and joys of Heaven: “What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Cor. 2:9)

When we began our journey of faith on our baptism day we were all given a little candle so that we can see where we are going in life. This world has a lot of darkness and we need to follow the light if we are going to find the most magnificent gate “made from a single pearl; and a street of pure gold, transparent as glass” (Rev. 21:21).

The chisel that Howard Carter used to open the door reminds us that it takes effort. Heaven doesn’t fall into our lap as if we have no say. All the “tools” we need have already been given to us in our youth. That is when we learned to say our prayers and taught to keep the commandments.

Life is a journey. The sands of Egypt and the hot sun above make this world a difficult place. Do not give up! The door to Heaven is close by. On the other side are such wonderful treasures: Eternal life! “Yes, wonderful things!