
NOTES

FOREWORD by James Hudson Taylor IV

- 7 **“He is no fool”**: Jim Elliot journal entry: October 28, 1949. Box 1, Folder 8, CN 277: Journal, Vol. 3; March 11, 1949–August 15, 1950. Wheaton Archives & Special Collections, Wheaton College, IL.
- 8 **“the blood of the martyrs”**: Tertullian, *Apologeticus pro Christianis*, 48–50.

PREFACE

- 12 My immediate family has always spelled Cornelius’s abbreviation as *Neil*, which is why I’ve chosen to present it this way. Cornelius is referred to as *Neal* in chapter 1 of *The Triumph of John and Betty Stam*. In his memoirs, written in the early 1980s at the request of his wife, Ruth, Cornelius spelled his name *Neill*. Stam family members throughout the years have spelled it any of those three ways.
- 13 **“We have never had”**: Lewis Sperry Chafer, quoted in Clara and Charles Ernest Scott, “In Loving Memory of John and Betty—An Anniversary Letter,” April 1936 (self-published circular letter), 74: The Scott Family (China Missions) Manuscript Collection. Box 1, File 1:3. Princeton Theological Seminary Archives, Princeton, NJ.

PROLOGUE: AT ANY COST

- 15 The events and much of the dialogue written are based on depositions made by Mei Tsong-fuh and Li Ming-chin before George Atcheson Jr., Consul of the United States of America, in and for the consular district of Nanking, China, January 1, 1935. Box 1, Folder 7, CN 449: Correspondence with Government Officials about the murders. Wheaton Archives. Also based on the accounts in Mrs. Howard [Geraldine] Taylor, *The Triumph of John and Betty Stam* (Philadelphia, PA: China Inland Mission, 1935), and Lee Sjoerds Huizenga, *John and Betty Stam: Martyrs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1935).
- 16 **“It is better”**: Betty Stam, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 101.
- 17 **John Stam letter to CIM officials**: December 6, 1934. Box 1, Folder 7, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.

1. A HERITAGE FROM HOLLAND

- 20 **“It has two columns”**: Margaret Neighmond, quoted in Cornelius R. Stam, *The Memoirs of Pastor Cornelius R. Stam* (Germantown, WI: Berean Bible Society, 2003), 14.
- 20 **“The book told me”**: Peter Stam, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 2.
- 21 **“Then you are out”**: Employer to Peter Stam, quoted in Lee Sjoerds Huizenga, *John and Betty Stam: Martyrs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1935), 26.

2. HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

- 23 **“We certainly were”**: Clazina Stam, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 4.
- 25 **“Mr. Stam, I’m so”**: Woman on phone with Peter Stam, quoted in Cornelius Stam, *Memoirs*, 29.
- 26 **“And thy house”**: Jacob Stam speech at CIM memorial service for John and Betty Stam, February 21, 1935. Box 1, Folder 14, CN 449: Memorial Service Transcript (1935). Wheaton Archives.
- 26 **“It’s up to you, John”**: Peter Stam, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 8.
- 27 **“I am the wrong man”**: as quoted in John Stam’s Testimony below.
- 28 **John Stam’s Testimony**: John reflects on the day he got saved as “morning” when he heard Pastor Houston preach. Both Cornelius and Jacob Stam remember the event as night in their own accounts, which is how I have presented it for the story in chapter 2. Pastor Houston held services over a period of multiple days and John likely confused the small detail when reflecting on it over a decade later. A copy of this testimony can be found in Box 1, Folder 16, CN 449: John Stam Testimony. Wheaton Archives.

3. GROWING UP OVERSEAS

- 32 **Scotts’ possessions lost in typhoon**: Kenneth M. Scott, *Around the World in Eighty Years* (Franklin, TN: Providence House Publishers, 1998), 3–4.
- 32 **“The Lilac”** poem: (dated November 17, 1914) Elisabeth Alden Scott Stam, *The Poems and Verse of Betty Scott Stam* (Shanghai, China: Kelly & Walsh Ltd., 1938), 3. Also published as Elisabeth Alden Scott Stam, *The Faith of Betty Scott Stam in Poems and Verse*, ed. Clara and Charles E. Scott (New York: Fleming H. Revell, 1938). The Revell edition was also published under the imprint of China Inland Mission, 1938.
- 33 **“I think that”**: Helen Scott, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 23.
- 33 **“To Father and Mother”** poem: November 21, 1929. Elisabeth Stam, *Poems and Verse*, 87–88.
- 36 **“Traveller’s Song”** poem: dated July 14, 1925. Elisabeth Stam, *Poems and Verse*, 46. Some later publications changed Betty’s original British spelling of “Traveller’s” to the American “Traveler’s.”
- 37 **“All five of us”**: Helen Scott, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 26.

4. A LIFE FURTHER SURRENDERED

- 39 **“Keswick’ is over”**: Betty Scott to parents, *Ibid.*, 34–35.
- 40 **“When we consecrate”**: Betty Scott, *Ibid.*, 35.
- 41 **“Perhaps what most”**: Warren Nevius, *Ibid.*, 34.
- 41 **“She chose Moody’s”**: Betty’s sister, *Ibid.*, 36.
- 42 **“My Testimony”** poem: February 22, 1929. Elisabeth Stam, *Poems and Verse*, 80.
- 43 **“These are real poems”**: Henry Van Dyke Jr., quoted from Walter Lingle, “Christian Observer, Talks on Timely Topics—Our Missionary Martyrs,” February 27, 1935: The Scott Family (China Missions) Manuscript Collection. Box 1, File 1:3. Princeton Archives.

- 43 **“Betty was by nature”**: Charles and Clara Scott in the Foreword to Elisabeth Stam, *The Poems and Verse of Betty Scott Stam* (Shanghai, China: Kelly & Walsh Ltd., 1938), n. p.
- 43 **“This poem expresses”**: Betty Scott to father, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 39.
- 43 **“Stand Still and See”** poem: November 30, 1928. Elisabeth Stam, *Poems and Verse*, 78.
- 44 **Betty Scott’s Surrender**: This letter to Betty’s sister Beatrice from October 7, 1926, was originally published as a small promotional pamphlet after the release of *The Triumph of John and Betty Stam*.

5. TOGETHER AT MOODY

- 49 **“He had the bearing”**: Secretary of faculty, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 12.
- 49 **“He will undoubtedly”**: Faculty member prediction, Ibid.
- 49 **“Expect to see”**: Another prediction, Ibid.
- 50 **“Never shall I”**: Isaac Page, Ibid., 42. The “wonderful verses” is a reference to “The Sands of Time Are Sinking,” a hymn by Anne Ross Cousin, based on quotations from the *Rutherford Letters*.
- 51 **“It is an amazing”**: John Stam to brother, Ibid., 19.
- 51 **“The Lord has”**: John Stam to Harry Stam, Ibid., 14.
- 52 **“John was more than”**: Elida church congregant, Ibid., 44.
- 52 **“The Lord knows”**: John Stam to Jacob Stam, Ibid., 18.
- 53 **“My Ideal”** poem: August 1, 1924. Elisabeth Stam, *Poems and Verse*, 25–26.
- 55 **“A million a month”**: John Stam to brother, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 47.
- 57 **“Lord, I give up”**: Betty Scott’s prayer: July 1925.
- 57 **“Betty is in Philadelphia”**: John Stam diary entry, May 24, 1931. *By Life and By Death: Excerpts and Lessons from the Diary of John C. Stam* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1938), 20.
- 58 **“Since I still feel”**: John Stam letter to parents, September 23, 1931. Box 1, Folder 3, CN 449: Correspondences (1931–1934). Wheaton Archives.
- 59 **“When it was over”**: Isaac Page, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 51.
- 59 **“A Missionary’s daughter”**: Betty Scott, quoted in Huizenga, *John and Betty Stam: Martyrs*, 43–44.

6. PRESSING ONWARD

- 61 **“Of course it fits”**: John Stam diary entry, March 20, 1932. *By Life and By Death: Excerpts and Lessons from the Diary of John C. Stam*, 26.
- 62 **“I won’t have”**: John Stam diary entry, April 18, 1932. Ibid., 37.
- 62 **“It seems to me”**: John Stam diary entry, June 30, 1932. Box 1, Folder 10, CN 449: Diary (John Stam) 1932–1933. Wheaton Archives.

- 64 **“Have had a blessed”**: John Stam diary entry, September 22, 1932. Box 1, Folder 10, CN 449. Ibid.
- 64 **“When I last saw”**: John Stam quoted by Tom, Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 57.
- 65 **John Stam’s Graduation Speech**: This speech was found among the possessions of James M. Gray in Chicago after he died on September 21, 1935. Gray stepped down as president of Moody Bible Institute on November 1, 1934, but continued serving as president emeritus. A portion of the speech was first published in *The Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, so it is assumed Gray shared it with Geraldine Taylor before its first printing in June 1935. More of the speech was then published for the December 1935 issue of *Moody Monthly* magazine. A full copy of this speech can be found in Box 1, Folder 11, CN 449: John Stam Graduation Speech. Wheaton Archives.

7. JOURNEY TO CHINA

- 71 **“I have seen”**: John Stam letter to family members, October 13, 1932. Box 1, Folder 3, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 72 **“Hallelujah! Wonders never”**: John Stam diary entry, October 12, 1932. Box 1, Folder 10, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 72 **“And then everybody”**: John Stam letter to family members, October 19, 1932. Box 1, Folder 3, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 73 **John Stam’s language school schedule**: John Stam letter to family members, November 5, 1932. Ibid.
- 74 **“Anhwei is the flattest”**: Betty Scott letter to Kenneth Scott, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 64.
- 75 **“Here in this work”**: Betty Scott, Ibid., 68.
- 76 **“If you shoot”**: quoted in John Stam letter below.
- 76 **“Afraid? Of What?”**: John Stam letter to family members with “Afraid? Of What?” poem, December 24, 1932. Box 1, Folder 3, CN 449. Wheaton Archives. There is an additional verse to this poem that John did not include in his letter, which would be located between the third and fourth stanzas presented.

8. CONSECRATED COUPLE

- 79 **“Today one quarter”**: John Stam diary entry, January 17, 1933. Box 1, Folder 10, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 80 **“Hallelujah! Phew, that’s”**: John Stam letter to family members, March 25, 1933. Box 1, Folder 3, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 80 **“There wasn’t a suggestion”**: John Stam letter to family members, March 29, 1933. Ibid.
- 81 **“It is intended”**: John Stam pamphlet to supporters, March 29, 1933. Ibid.
- 81 **“How clearly I remember”**: George Birch letter to John Stam’s parents, December 28, 1934. Box 1, Folder 5, CN 449: Correspondences, Condolences (1934–1937). Wheaton Archives.

- 81 **"It would be"**: John Stam letter to family members, May 15, 1933. Box 1, Folder 3, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 82 **"On our first"**: George Birch letter to John Stam's parents, December 28, 1934. Box 1, Folder 5, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 82 **"This is the type"**: John Stam letter to family members, May 29, 1933. Box 1, Folder 3, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 83 **"If dirty grass"**: John Stam letter to family members, August 12, 1933. Ibid.
- 83 **"Was much helped"**: John Stam diary entry, October 11, 1933. Box 1, Folder 10, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 84 **John Stam's four praises**: John Stam letter to family members, October 15, 1933. Box 1, Folder 3, CN 449: Wheaton Archives.
- 85 **"Everyone seemed to"**: Charles and Clara Scott note to supporters, November 11, 1933. Box 1, Folder 8, CN 449: Correspondence with Charles Ernest Scott (1933–1935). Wheaton Archives.
- 85 **"Despite our fears"**: John Stam letter to family members, October 31, 1933. Box 1, Folder 3, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 85 **"I wish I could describe"**: Ibid.
- 86 **"To John, from Betty"** poem: Date written unknown, but likely late 1931 or early 1932 after Betty arrived in China, Elisabeth Stam, *Poems and Verse*, 123.

9. SERVING AS ONE

- 87 **"John is out"**: Betty Stam letter to John Stam's parents, December 10, 1933. Ibid.
- 88 **"Ancestor worship with"**: John Stam letter to family members, March 5, 1934. Ibid.
- 89 **"We have enjoyed"**: Betty Stam letter to John Stam's parents, February 16, 1934. Ibid.
- 90 **"How can one"**: Mrs. Wang quoted from John Stam in letter to family members, June 4, 1934. Ibid.
- 91 **"Mrs. Wang's home"**: John Stam letter to family members, June 4, 1934. Ibid.

10. HELEN PRISCILLA

- 93 **"I'm very glad now"**: John Stam letter to family members, July 18, 1934. Box 1, Folder 3, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 93 **"I'm glad I'm not"**: John Stam letter to family members, August 2, 1934. Ibid.
- 94 **"Incidentally, they want"**: John Stam letter to family members, September 8, 1934. Ibid.
- 95 **"The baby looks like"**: Betty Stam letter to John Stam's parents, October 22, 1934. Ibid.
- 96 **"Oh, no, no!"**: Mr. Peng dialogue quoted from deposition by William Hanna before George Atcheson Jr., Consul of the United States of America, in and for the consular district of Nanking, China, January 1, 1935. Box 1, Folder 7, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 97 **"It was very"**: John Stam letter to family members, November 19, 1934. Box 1, Folder 3, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.

11. BY LIFE OR BY DEATH

- 99 **“I have opened”**: John Stam letter to family members, December 5, 1934. Ibid.
- 100 **“Rumors are around”**: John Stam’s last diary entry, December 5, 1934. *By Life and By Death: Excerpts and Lessons from the Diary of John C. Stam*, 60.
- 100 **“Then it’s your life”**: Soldier and man dialogue, Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 104. The details surrounding the death of this unknown prisoner were shared in Suancheng by the wife of a Chinese witness to the Stams’ murder with William Hanna in late December 1934. This event in the Stam story has endured debate over exactly what date and location this sacrifice took place, if at all. William Hanna testified that he had no reason to doubt the woman’s claim, but a few early 1935 documents suggest she told Hanna the sacrifice took place in Miaosheo after John and Betty’s murders. I have chosen to present the location as Tsingteh due to the two earliest full-length books of their lives having it as such, as well as out of respect to their being written with the permission of both families.
- 101 **“Where are you going?”**: Postmaster and John Stam dialogue, Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 104.
- 101 **John Stam letter to CIM officials**: December 7, 1934. “His Witnesses Unto Death: A Tribute to John and Elisabeth Stam,” 26. *China’s Millions*: Vol. 42, No. 2, February 1935. Box 1, Folder 1, CN 449: Articles and Clippings (1935–1940). Wheaton Archives.

12. THE MIRACULOUS RESCUE

- 105 **“This man is”**: Chang Hsiu-sheng dialogue, Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 111. Also taken from “John and Betty Stam In Memoriam” pamphlet, 6. Box 1, Folder 1, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 107 **Two Chinese five-dollar bills**: Some early documents and articles say Pastor Lo found a Chinese \$10 bill instead of two \$5 bills. I chose to present it in this book as the latter due to most family members and recognized published material recalling it as such.
- 108 **“You have seen”**: Pastor Lo addressing crowd quoted from George Birch in letter to John Stam’s parents, December 28, 1934. Box 1, Folder 5, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 108 **“Personally I have not”**: George Birch letter to John Stam’s parents, December 28, 1934. Ibid.
- 109 **“This is all we”**: Mrs. Lo to George Birch, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 115.
- 110 **“After Helen’s Rescue”**: Ray Smith, Correspondence with author, March 2023.
- 111 **“I am so anxious”**: Lois Walton, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 116.
- 112 **“Open My Eyes”** poem: December 1, 1928. Elisabeth Stam, *Poems and Verse*, 79.

13. GLOBAL IMPACT

- 113 **“We know that”**: Cornelius Stam, “Survivors Hide Their Grief in Faith.” *The Paterson Evening News*: December 13, 1934.

- 114 **“Our dear children”**: Peter Stam, quoted in Huizenga, *John and Betty Stam: Martyrs*, 91–93.
- 115 **“Oh, why did they”**: Lady and Peter Stam dialogue, Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 124.
- 115 **“As my father”**: Jack Vinson’s son, Ibid.
- 116 **“When the telegram”**: Clara Scott letter to Nathan and Lois Walton, December 15, 1934. “John and Betty Stam In Memoriam” pamphlet, 14. Box 1, Folder 1, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 116 **“To me, it is”**: Clara Scott letter to Nathan and Lois Walton, December 15, 1934. Ibid., 15.
- 117 **“Many people would”**: Kenneth Scott, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 122–123.
- 117 **“When our Chinese”**: Grace Birch letter to John Stam’s parents, December 27, 1934. Box 1, Folder 5, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 118 **“When the coffins were”**: Gordon Dunn, “For the Stams No Deliverance.” *East Asia’s Millions*: November/December 1984.
- 119 **“We thank God for”**: William Hanna, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 125.
- 119 **“We all go Home”**: Missionary’s letter to Betty Stam’s parents, Ibid., 121.
- 119 **“They illustrate Paul’s”**: Charles Scott, Ibid., 128–129.
- 119 **“Two of our splendid”**: Will H. Houghton, quoted in Huizenga, *John and Betty Stam: Martyrs*, 87.
- 120 **“It is needless”**: James M. Gray, quoted in Taylor, *Triumph of John and Betty Stam*, 120.
- 121 **“I am a new”**: Chinese woman in Nanking, quoted in Clara and Charles Ernest Scott, “In Loving Memory,” 42. Box 1, File 1:3. Princeton Archives.
- 121 **“The papers everywhere”**: Lewis Sperry Chafer, quoted in Clara and Charles Ernest Scott, “In Loving Memory,” 74: Box 1, File 1:3. Princeton Archives.
- 121 **“There is no more”**: Walter Lingle, “Talks on Timely Topics: Our Missionary Martyrs,” *Christian Observer*: February 27, 1935: Box 1, File 1:3. Princeton Archives.
- 121 **“We can only rejoice”**: Robert Speer, quoted in Clara and Charles Ernest Scott, “In Loving Memory,” 30: Box 1, File 1:3. Princeton Archives.
- 122 **“Nearly one hundred”**: Methodist pastor, Ibid., 33.
- 122 **“Will you please tell”**: Little girl in London church, Ibid.
- 123 **“It has been”**: “His Witnesses unto Death: A Tribute to John and Elisabeth Stam,” 25. *China’s Millions*: Vol. 43, No. 2, February 1935. Box 1, Folder 1, CN 449. Wheaton Archives.
- 124 **“CHINA: Undercurrent of Joy,”** *TIME*, December 24, 1934, 20. Used under license, reproduced by permission.

14. LEGACY

- 128 **“My father was”**: Cheryl Brodersen, Correspondence with author, August 2022.

- 128 **“Every time I read”**: (Two sources combined) John Piper, *This Momentary Marriage: A Parable of Permanence* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009), 14. John Piper, “Alone on Sunday Night,” *Bethlehem Star Newsletter*: June 11, 1984. Used with permission by John Piper. Correspondence with author, July 2022.
- 128 **“As I turned”**: John W. Peterson, *The Miracle Goes On* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1976), 73–75.
- 129 **“My dad founded”**: Wayne Kirkpatrick, Correspondence with author, August 2023.
- 129 **“The legacy of”**: Keith and Kristyn Getty, Correspondence with author, October 2023.
- 130 **“When I taught”**: Erwin Lutzer, Correspondence with author, June 2023.
- 130 **“The whole Graham family”**: Ruth Graham on behalf of siblings, Correspondence with author, February 2023.
- 131 **“John believed God”**: Art Birch, Correspondence with author, March 2022.

EPILOGUE: A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

- 136 **“Finally I simply”**: Cornelius Stam, *Memoirs*, 79.

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