

Franny  
and  
Pom Pom™

and the  
**Fruit  
That  
Lasts**

FRUIT  
THAT  
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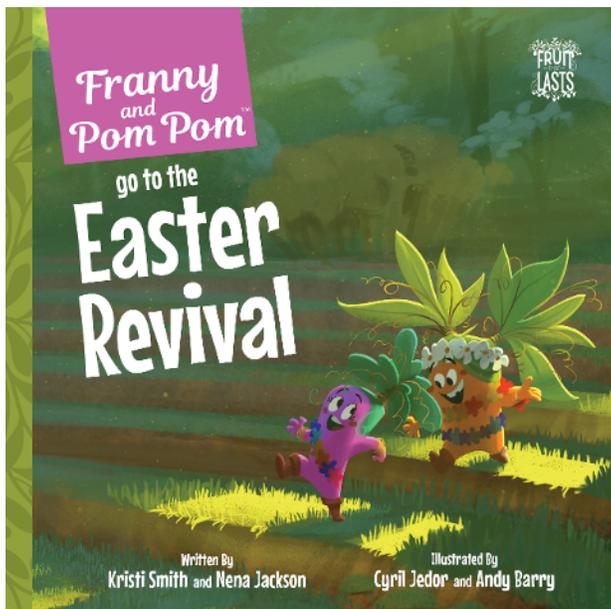
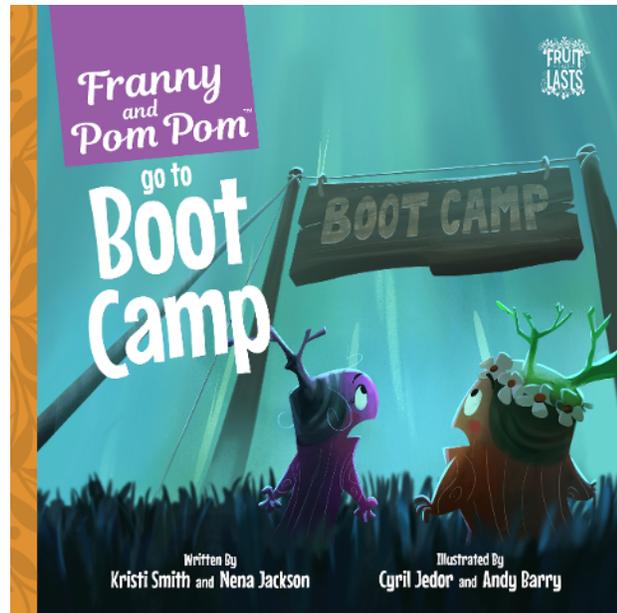
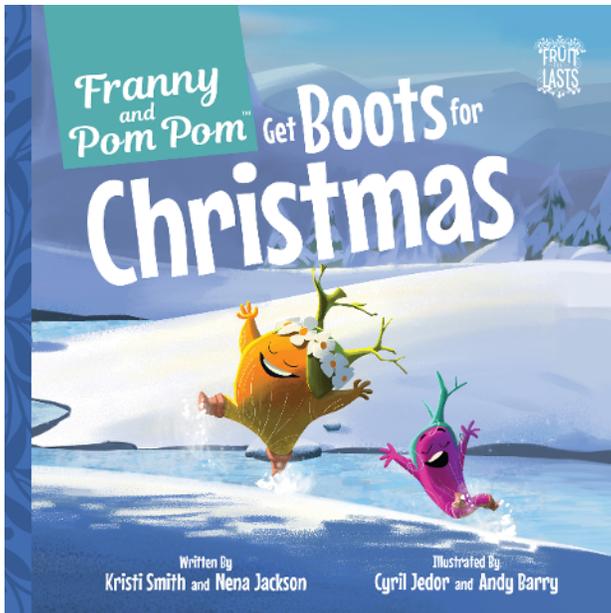


Written By  
Kristi Smith and Nena Jackson

Illustrated By  
Cyril Jedor and Andy Barry

# FRUIT THAT LASTS

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“Fruit That Lasts” is a five-book series that helps children understand the fullness of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and, ultimately, how to cultivate the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

# THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

Sometimes God speaks through the Bible, sometimes he speaks through other people and then there are the times his divine appointment seems to simply fall from the sky. Long-time best friends Kristi Smith and Nena Jackson were sitting in a park when a message from the Lord seemed to float from the tree overhead and into their souls, igniting a passion for a new calling.

Kristi and Nena have since labeled this phenomenon the “download,” the time when God gave them the desire for “Fruit That Lasts,” a book series that helps children understand the fullness of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and, ultimately, how to cultivate the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Starting the journey with only a title and blind faith in God, the women prayed over their project as more essential elements of the series emerged. Friends since first grade, Kristi and Nena decided to model the two child characters after themselves, but in the form of fig and pomegranate trees named Franny Fig and Pom Pom Pomegranate. The two grandmothers in the story would be modeled after their own grandmothers, Nana and Rue Rue, and also characterized as fig and pomegranate trees.

From that day on a park bench to reviewing the first printed copies of their book, Kristi and Nena haven’t wavered from their mission.

They know how important it is to be

“uncompromisingly steadfast in the message” as they work to capture the attention of a young audience.

“Many times, getting adults to understand the Holy Spirit is difficult, but children are so accepting,” Nena says. “We want to give children all the information and tools to grow in the Lord.”



Nena Jackson



Kristi Smith



## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**N**ena Jackson and Kristi Smith have been best friends since first grade. When they were in elementary school, they consistently created such a ruckus in one of their classes that their teacher made sure they weren't in the same class together the next year. It was this kind of playfulness that was the inspiration for many of Franny and Pom Pom's misadventures.

Fast forward and these two women are still an integral part of each other's lives. In addition to writing books together, they have taught Vacation Bible School curriculum - starring Franny and Pom Pom - in Kenya, Africa.

Nena and her husband, Scott, have four grown children and live near Charleston, South Carolina. Kristi is widowed and has two grown children. She continues to live in

Birmingham, Alabama, where she and Nena grew up.

Franny and Nana's characters are loosely based on Kristi and her grandmother, while Pom Pom and Rue Rue are loosely based on Nena and her grandmother.

Oscar, the wise old owl, came to life when the two needed a narrator for their VBS program and turned to Nena's dad for help.

And, Tedo the helpful skunk is a gift from Janet Layton, who told her three grandsons Spencer, Sawyer and Sam bedtime stories starring Tedo. These boys are Kristi's nephews and, thanks to Janet, Tedo became a household name and was helpful in teaching them biblical lessons.

# MEET FRANNY & POM POM



**F**ranny Fig is a friendly young girl tree who is so nice she might just annoy you a little. You know the type. She is always on time, always kind, always respectful, always joyful, always doing the right thing. See what we mean? Sadly, try as you might, you will have a hard time not liking Franny, because ... well, she's likable. She isn't conceited or arrogant, overly concerned with her looks, or controlling. She will quickly win you over with her charming ways as you watch her dance with the Holy Spirit wind and bear much fruit that lasts.

Pom Pom is an adventurous young pomegranate tree that will tickle you as she dreams up fanciful solutions to non-existent problems, clumsily falls into difficulty, and lazily avoids hard tasks. She put the "mis" in misadventures. She thinks she's rather smart, is angered easily, is a slow learner, but despite all of this, she is the reason you will keep tuning in. You will find yourself rooting for Pom Pom even as she deliberately avoids the Holy Spirit and bearing fruit.

Franny and Pom Pom, inquisitive to a fault, learn a lot from Nana (Franny's grandmother), so plump and loving that she reminds you of hot apple pie on a cold winter's day, and Rue Rue (Pom Pom's grandmother) so slender and refreshing, that she reminds you of a tall, cool smoothie on a hot summer's day. Living in King's Valley wouldn't be nearly as much fun if it weren't for their friends, Oscar the wise, old owl, and Tedo the helpful skunk.

Come frolic in the grass with us as we laugh and learn from Franny and Pom Pom and the others, and hopefully one day bear fruit that lasts in our own lives.



# FINDING THE RIGHT TEAM

Although living in different states and collaborating on a book series might seem difficult, Kristi and Nena found scheduling time to write over the phone worked best for them.

While the books are truly a representation of each woman's creativity, they have their specialty areas. When it's time to turn the rough draft of each book into poetry, Kristi takes the lead, and on administrative tasks, Nena steps in.

Plus, they have found partners and fellow collaborators to help turn their vision into a reality. Every step, they say, has been directed through divine connections. And in one instance, God showed up in an awe-inspiring way. Nena is a part of a ministry called Alpha, a beginning Christian course designed for non-Christians and Christians wanting to explore their faith and ask questions.

Through Alpha, Nena and her husband, Scott, met Cyril Jedor, a French artist who took the course. Despite the teachings in Alpha, Cyril still wasn't convinced. Ever mindful of God's prompting, Nena told Cyril about "Fruit That Lasts" and showed him a pencil sketch in hopes he might be the illustrator they needed.

A few months later, Cyril reached out to Nena, letting her know he had accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior and invited her and Scott to his baptism. After his

celebration, Cyril met Nena for coffee and read the first book in the "Fruit That Lasts" series.

"Now, I want to illustrate this project even more because I am a Christian," Cyril told her. He took the project to his company, Moondog Animation Studio in Charleston, South Carolina, where Cyril and the Moondog team brought the "Fruit That Lasts" characters to life.

Still searching for a publisher, Moondog introduced Kristi and Nena to Jennifer Tubbiolo, co-owner of Relevant Pages Press, now the project manager for publishing the books.

Kristi and Nena will tell you only God could have connected them with professionals they would otherwise never have met.





**T**ell the story of what makes Fruit That Lasts so special.

**To schedule an interview or request a review copy:**

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Holly Fisher**

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**To schedule a book signing:**

**Relevant Pages Press  
Jennifer Tubbiolo**

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