

Press Kit  
Vanessa Fortenberry

*Vanessa Fortenberry*  
*Inspirational Author and Speaker*



# Press Kit

## Vanessa Fortenberry



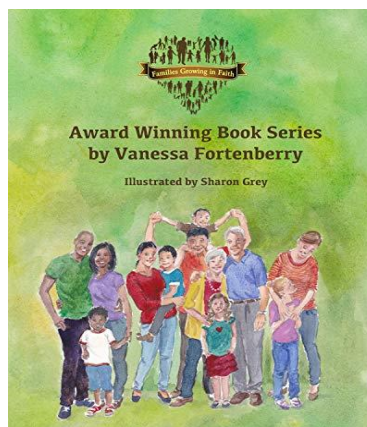
### **Families in Faith Series:**

***Mama, I Want to See God***

***Daddy, I Want Know God***

***Grandma, Granddad, We Want to Praise God***

Available in the following formats: hardcover, paperback, audio, eBook, and eBook bundle.



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## Vanessa Fortenberry



**Date Published 2021**

**[Grandma, Granddad, We Want to Know God Book Trailer](#)**



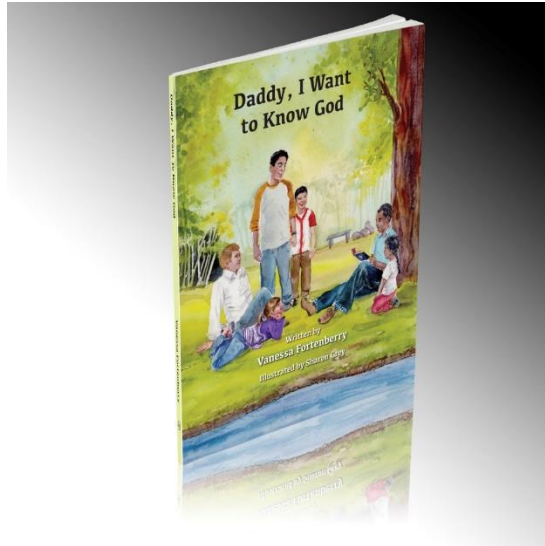
Finalists in the "Children's Religious" category of the 2023  
Book Excellence Awards



Finalists in the "Children's Religious" category of the 2023  
Book Excellence Awards

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## Vanessa Fortenberry



**Date Published 2017**

**[Daddy, I Want to Know God Book Trailer](#)**



Winner in the "Children's Religious" category of the  
2019 Christie Indie Awards in the Children's (4-8 year) category



Winner in the "Children's Religious" category of the  
2018 American Fiction Awards

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## Vanessa Fortenberry



**Date Published 2014**

**[Mama, I Want to See God Book Trailer](#)**



**[Winner in the "Children's Religious" category of the 2017 Bookvana Awards](#)**



**[Finalists in the "Children's Religious" category of the 2016 Best Book Awards](#)**

# Press Kit

## Vanessa Fortenberry

### Media Kit Contents

Short Bio

Long Bio

Contact Info & Social Media Links

Synopsis (Information Sheet)

Includes *Grandma*, *Granddad*, *We Want to Praise God*, *Daddy*, *I Want to Know God* and *Mama*, *I Want to See God*

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Info for Christian Schools and Churches

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# Press Kit

## Vanessa Fortenberry

### Short Bio

Providing relatable and memorable stories, Vanessa Fortenberry fulfills her mission of using her writing as a tool for Christian ministry that expands beyond the walls of the church and communicates inspirational messages for children and adults.

Vanessa Fortenberry is an award winning inspirational author of the children's book series, Families Growing in Faith with the books: *Mama, I Want to See God*, *Daddy, I Want to Know God*, and *Grandma, Granddad, We Want to Praise God*.

A Georgia Peach, Vanessa recently retired as a teacher librarian. A passionate singer, she enjoys worshiping in her church choir in Stone Mountain, Georgia and singing with the Wendell P. Whalum Community Chorus. In addition, Vanessa receives pleasure in baking her favorite desserts for her family and friends. To learn more about Vanessa, her writing endeavors, and to subscribe to her quarterly newsletter, please visit her website at [www.vanessafortenberry.com](http://www.vanessafortenberry.com).

# Press Kit

## Vanessa Fortenberry

### Long Bio

A retired teacher-librarian, reading, and music teacher; **Vanessa Fortenberry** is a true Georgia Peach having lived in the Atlanta metro area all her life. Inspired by her grandson, Vanessa wrote the “award-winning” children’s verse story, *Mama, I Want to See God* published by [Boutique of Quality Books](#) (BQB, 2014). This story echoes the ways in which young readers inquisitively want to know if they can see God and if they look like Him. This story is the first book in the series, [Families Growing in Faith](#). The second award-winning book in the series, *Daddy, I Want to Know God* launched 2017. The third book in the series, *Grandma, Granddad, We Want to Praise God* launched in 2021.

As a young girl, Vanessa wrote plays, poetry, and short stories. Fascinated with words, she was also an avid reader. In college, Vanessa soon found herself in a predicament of having to choose between English or Music as her major. Her love of music prevailed and she initiated studies in Music Education with a concentration in Voice.

After graduation, Vanessa still could not escape the appeal of the “written word.” She continued to write poetry and commenced to write a romance novel. Well . . . life caught up with Vanessa and she found herself abandoning her dreams of writing.

Years later, Vanessa taught general music, chorus, and voice where she excelled in passing on her love of music to her students. However, her continued passion for books, reading, and research soon led Vanessa to return to school for her Master’s and Specialist degrees in Media. As a recently retired teacher-librarian, Vanessa enjoyed story time with her students and took pleasure in reading the “book of the month” with her reading club students. Vanessa’s interest in how children learn to read and how to teach best practices in the reading process fascinated her. Consequently, she earned a Reading endorsement in 2009.

When asked about her dreams for the future, Vanessa would always respond, “to write a book.” However, she could never pinpoint the genre or audience. In 2010, while exercising at the gym, Vanessa mistakenly (how many of you know it was not a mistake?) turned the TV channel to the 700 Club. A conversation about how “God knows us and knows us by name,” quickly gained her attention. God spoke to Vanessa and she went home to write the first of many motivational stories for children. Additionally, her love of music inspired her to write songs to accompany several of her writing projects.

Vanessa continues to develop her craft by participating in writers organizations. She is a member of The Christian Authors Guild ([www.christianauthorsguild.org](http://www.christianauthorsguild.org)), where she is also a contributor to the



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book, [\*Relief Notes: Encouraging Letters for Tough Times\*](#), the Stonecrest Writing Support Group, and she was previously a contributing writer for her church newsletter publication, The Anchor. In addition, Vanessa is a member of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), Christian Authors Guild, Christian Authors on Tour, and the Black Writers Support Group.

Vanessa also wrote an article, Encouraging Your Reader published in the June 2012 edition of the Guardian Angel Kids Ezine ([www.guardian-angel-kids.com](http://www.guardian-angel-kids.com)). She invites you to subscribe to her blog, [Connecting Readers and Writers to the Word](#) (previously the Children's Bookroom and to her quarterly newsletter, [Connecting Readers to the Word](#)).

Vanessa is available for speaking engagements, writing workshops, interviews, and appearances. She is also happy to speak to children's groups, churches, schools, reading, and writing groups.

Vanessa savors the moments she spends with her family and friends, as well as baking delicious desserts for her loved ones.

# Press Kit Vanessa Fortenberry

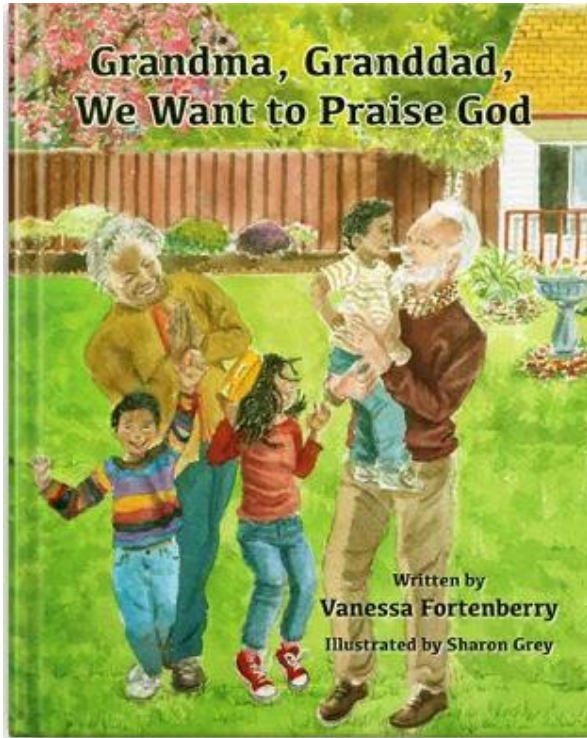
## Contact Info

To contact Vanessa please email her:

[vfortenberry11\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:vfortenberry11[at]gmail.com)

# Press Kit

## Vanessa Fortenberry



ISBN 978-1-952782-21-3 (Casewrap Hardcover)  
ISBN 978-1-978-1-952782-22-0 (eBook)  
Price: \$17.95 (Hardcover); \$6.99 (eBook)  
Category: Juvenile Fiction/Christian/Emotions & Learning Concepts  
Age group: 5- to 7-year-olds  
8 x 10, 30 pages with 20 full-color illustrations  
Publication date: September 1, 2021  
Book 1 in the Families Growing in Faith Series:  
Mama, I Want to See God 978-1-939371-32-4 (p)  
978-1-939371-08-9 (e).  
Book 2 in the series: Daddy, I Want to Know God  
978-1-939371-64-5 (H) 978-1-939371-66-9 (e)



### About the Book

If you praised God at all times, how would your life change?

In this rhyming story, *Grandma, Granddad, We Want to Praise God* follows inquisitive children who learn from their loving grandparents that praising God brings joy. This engaging story will empower children in fostering habits of praise and thankfulness.

Grandparents and their grandchildren, as well as parents, guardians, and caregivers will love the rhyming stanzas and vivid illustrations of a child's natural curiosity and growing discovery that we can express praise through the good and the bad; anywhere or anytime; and with singing, dancing, shouting, and clapping.

*Grandma, Granddad, We Want to Praise God* is the third book in the series, *Families Growing in Faith*.

### About the Author

Providing relatable and memorable stories, Vanessa Fortenberry fulfills her mission of using her writing as a tool for Christian ministry that expands beyond the walls of the church and communicates inspirational messages for children and adults.

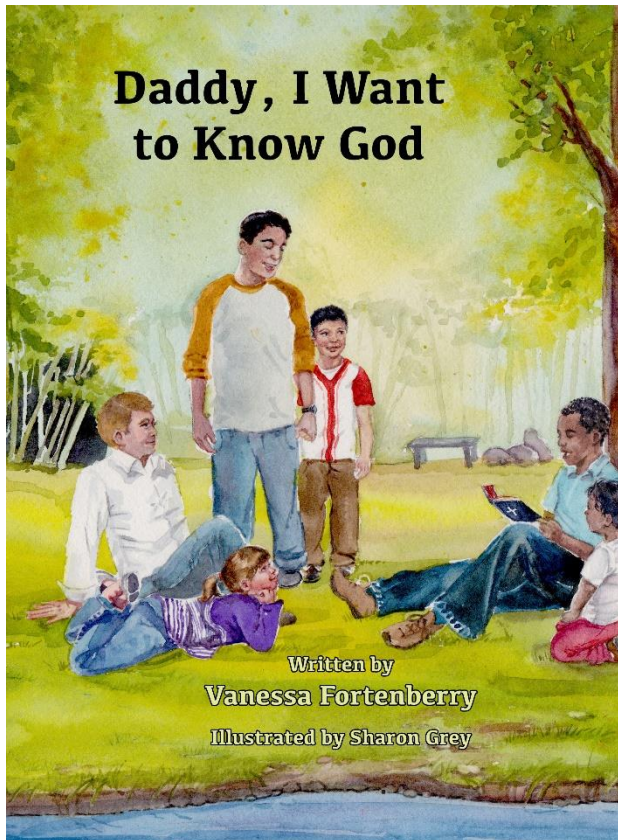
A Georgia Peach, and music teacher turned librarian, Vanessa takes delight in story time with her students. A passionate singer, Vanessa enjoys worshipping in her church in Stone Mountain, Georgia and singing with the Wendell P. Whalum Community Chorus. She receives pleasure in baking her favorite desserts for her family and friends.

To learn more about Vanessa and her writing endeavors, visit her website at

[www.vanessafortenberry.com](http://www.vanessafortenberry.com)

# Press Kit

## Vanessa Fortenberry



ISBN 978-1-939371-64-5 (Paperback)  
ISBN 978-1-939371-65-2 (Casewrap Hardcover)  
ISBN 978-1-939371-66-9 (eBook)  
Price: \$9.95 (Paperback); \$17.95 (Hardcover); \$6.99 (eBook)  
Category: Juvenile Fiction/Christian/Emotions & Learning Concepts  
Age group: 5- to 7-year-olds  
8 x 10, 30 pages with 20 full-color illustrations  
Publication date: October 1, 2017  
Book 1 in the Families Growing in Faith Series:  
Mama, I Want to See God 978-1-939371-32-4 (Paperback); 978-1-939371-08-9 (eBook).



### About the Book

If you could know God, what would the encounter look like?

In this rhyming story, children's probing questions show their desire to learn more about God and His love for them. Compassionate and loving responses from their dads help to lead the children in growing a strong Godly faith. This story depicts the spiritual leadership of fathers as they teach their children about a caring, unfailing, and capable God.

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### About the Author

Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Vanessa Fortenberry wrote plays, poetry, and short stories as a young girl. After graduating college with a degree in music education with a concentration in voice, Vanessa taught general music, chorus, and voice. But, Vanessa's passion for books, reading, and research soon led her to return to school for her master's and specialist degrees in Media.

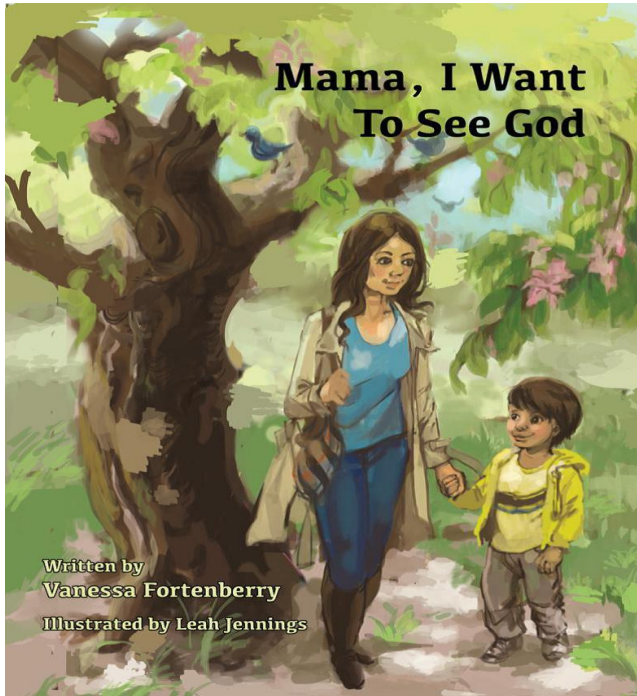
Inspired by her grandson's curiosity about wanting to see God, Vanessa wrote the verse story, *Mama, I Want to See God*. Vanessa savors the moments she spends with her family and friends, as well as baking delicious desserts for her loved ones. To learn more about Vanessa, visit her website:

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# Press Kit

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### About the Book

If you could see God, what would He look like?

In this rhyming verse book, a child asks his mother many questions about God in an attempt to connect more with Him. In answer, Mother's tender and patient responses model God's love. Mother answers all of the questions, allowing the child to experience a genuine connection with God. The purity of children and the spirituality of all cultures radiate in this touching story.

Mama, I Want to See God is the first book in the series, Families Growing in Faith.

### About the Author

Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Vanessa Fortenberry wrote plays, poetry, and short stories as a young girl. After graduating college with a degree in music education with a concentration in voice, Vanessa taught general music, chorus, and voice.

Years later, Vanessa's passion for books, reading, and research soon led her to return to school for her master's and specialist degrees in Media. Presently, as a teacher-librarian, Vanessa enjoys story time with her students.

Inspired by her grandson's curiosity about wanting to see God, Vanessa wrote the verse story, Mama, I Want to See God. Vanessa savors the moments she spends with her family and friends, as well as baking delicious desserts for her loved ones. To learn more about Vanessa, visit her website:  
[www.vanessafortenberry.com](http://www.vanessafortenberry.com)

ISBN 978-1-939371-32-4 (Paperback)  
ISBN 978-1-939371-07-2 (Hardcover)  
ISBN 978-1-939371-08-9 (eBook)  
Price: \$12.95 (Paperback); \$19.95 (Hardcover);  
\$6.99 (eBook)

Category: Juvenile Fiction/Christian/Emotions & Concepts

Age group: 4- to 8-year-olds

8 x 10, 30 pages with 20 full-color illustrations

Publication date: February 26, 2014



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## Vanessa Fortenberry

### Sample Interview Questions

1. What inspired you to write *Mama, I Want to See God* and *Daddy, I Want to Know God*?
2. Why do you believe it is important for children to read these books?
3. What made you want to become a Christian writer?
4. Did your background in music influence the rhythm of your books? If yes, how so?
5. Whom do you imagine as your readers?
6. Why do you think is it important for young children to understand God?
7. As a teacher-librarian, what is your goal in introducing children to books?
8. Do you have favorite books to recommend to others?
9. What are some of your hobbies outside of writing?
10. Do you have plans for future books?

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## Vanessa Fortenberry

### Sample Author Questions and Answer Sheet

1. What inspired you to write your first book, *Mama, I Want to See God*?

My grandson, Anthony inspired me to write *Mama, I Want to See God*. About five years ago, when he was seven-years old, he actually said to his mother those exact words. Since birth, Anthony has had a bad case of eczema, which is a skin disease. Extra dry skin on his hands, arms, back, and legs, including bleeding ankles and feet due to uncontrollable scratching made walking difficult for him. My daughter-in-law worried about this and thought Anthony wanted to die so that he would be relieved of the intense pain and discomfort. I assured her this was not the case, in that children are naturally curious about God. The next morning I sat at my computer and wrote this story.

2. Who do you imagine as your readers?

I imagine my readers to be children and adults of different ethnic groups. While I wrote *Mama, I Want to See God* for my grandson, I did not see just a "male" or a "girl" character, I saw boys and girls. I quickly realized this would be a story for a diverse group of children. I also imagine my readers to be believers of the Word. In addition, I pray my book will appeal to non-believers, as well.

3. Why do you believe it is important for children to read your books?

I believe children should read this book because it will give them a vision of whom God is through the blessings and love He bestows upon us. Children around the world wonder about God. It is difficult for them to understand that God actually exist when they cannot see Him. This book will help children to discover the "light" within them as they learn and connect more with God. Children will draw closer to God as they gain knowledge about Him, which will allow them to "see" God in themselves? I feel that children reading this book will come to understand that they are unique and special in the eyes of God. In addition, children are so curious, so *Daddy, I Want to Know God* continues to answer their questions about God.

4. What made you want to become a Christian writer?

God! I had plans to write the great American romance novel. I never intended to write children's books or Christian books. But, as we know, God had other plans for me. One summer day in 2010, while along at the gym, I attempted to change the TV channel to one of my favorite shows. As I climbed back on the elliptical bike, I realized I had mistakenly turned the channel to the 700 Club Christian Broadcasting station instead of the local news channel. At this point, I was too lazy to get back up, so I listened to a conversation about how "God knows us and knows us by name." This quickly gained my attention. God spoke to me that day and I responded with a resolved "Yes." I went home to write the first of many inspirational stories for children. Psalm 78:4 states, "We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders" (NIV). That is my mission from God and I'm doing it!

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## Vanessa Fortenberry

### 5. Any plans for future books?

In addition to the Families Growing in Faith books, I'm marketing a children's book dear to my heart related to my Grandmama, a book about my experiences as a grandmother, a children's nonfiction book, and a Christian non-fiction book for children. Additionally, I have many more unfinished books for children and adults that I am eager to complete.

### 6. What are your hobbies outside of writing?

I love to sing. I am a member of the Helen Starr Smith Sanctuary Choir at Antioch AME Church in Stone Mountain, GA and I am a member of the Wendell P. Whalum Community Chorus. I also love to bake my favorite cakes and pies for my family and friends. Additionally, I enjoy solving Sudoku puzzles, when I have or take the time.



# Press Kit

## Vanessa Fortenberry

### **Speaking/Workshop Topics**

Contact Vanessa to speak at schools, churches, libraries, professional, community, and/or writing groups: [vfortenberry11\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:vfortenberry11[at]gmail.com)

## **Speaking Engagements/Writing Workshops for Children/Teens**

- Career Day
- Find Your Inspiration in Writing

### **Public School Programs:**

- School classrooms/assemblies that entertain and inform. Assemblies are 30 minutes for lower elementary and 60 minutes for upper.
- Workshops are best for grades 2-5, but I can do simplified sessions for K-1.

## **Speaking Engagements/Writing Workshops for Adults**

- Families Growing in Faith
- Just Write
- Six Keys to Your Writing Success
- Six Keys to Your Success
- Writing 101— The Importance of the Three R's (**W**RITING, **R**ESearch, and **R**EVISION)
- Unpack Your Talents

Please contact me for additional speaking engagements and workshops not listed  
[vfortenberry11\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:vfortenberry11[at]gmail.com)

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## Vanessa Fortenberry

### **Info for Christian Schools and Churches**

#### **Christian School Programs, Sunday Schools, and Vacation Bible Schools**

- Storytime, discussion of Vanessa's books, and/or interactive sessions and activities.

#### **Church programs:**

- Women's retreats
- Families Growing in Faith
- Or, Vanessa can work with your theme and offer sessions to reinforce your ideas and goals

# Press Kit

## Vanessa Fortenberry

### Publicity Photos



Permission is granted to download these high resolution images for publicity purposes only.

# Press Kit

## Vanessa Fortenberry

### Book Covers



For additional media, please email Vanessa:  
[vfortenberry11\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:vfortenberry11[at]gmail.com)