

A MEMOIR OF MENTORSHIP, MIGRATION, SERVICE, AND LEGACY

# Lift As You Climb

Uncharted Destinations in a Jamaican-American Life

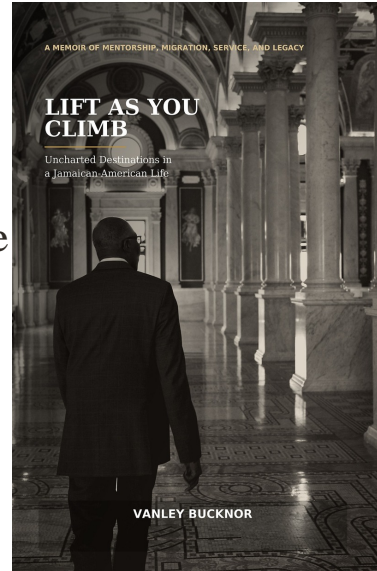
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This media kit is prepared for media, event organizers, booksellers, libraries, reviewers, and community partners interested in the publication of *Lift As You Climb*.

<b>Title</b>	Lift As You Climb
<b>Subtitle</b>	Uncharted Destinations in a Jamaican-American Life
<b>Category</b>	Memoir / Jamaican-American life / mentorship / migration / public service / legacy
<b>Paperback ISBN</b>	979-8-9958099-0-6
<b>Ebook ISBN</b>	979-8-9958099-1-3
<b>Primary inquiry</b>	Media, speaking, library, bookseller, review-copy, and event inquiries

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# Book Summary

*Lift As You Climb* is a reflective Jamaican-American memoir about the people, places, values, and turning points that shape a life. From childhood in Jamaica to teaching, migration, family, public service, and leadership, Vanley Bucknor reflects on a journey made possible by faith, discipline, education, sacrifice, mentorship, and opportunity.

At its heart, the book is a story of gratitude and responsibility: remembering those who helped us rise and accepting the duty to help others rise as we climb.

The memoir moves through childhood, education, migration, professional growth, public service, family, mentorship, and legacy. It is both personal and universal - a thoughtful account of becoming and of the responsibility to help others rise.

## Key Themes

- Roots, family, faith, discipline, and the rhythms of Jamaican life.
- Education as a doorway to opportunity and personal transformation.
- Migration, reinvention, and the courage to begin again.
- Public service, stewardship, accountability, and leadership.
- Mentorship and the responsibility to help others rise.

## Potential Audiences

- Jamaican, Caribbean, and Jamaican-American communities and organizations.
- Readers of memoirs about immigration, family, education, resilience, and public service.
- Leadership, mentorship, education, library, civic, and public-service audiences.
- Book clubs, libraries, cultural organizations, alumni groups, and community forums.

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# About the Author



Vanley Bucknor grew up in Jamaica and migrated to the United States in his mid-twenties. Trained first as an educator in Jamaica, he later built a distinguished career in information technology and public service, including senior leadership service at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

He retired from federal service in 2025 and now devotes more time to writing, mentorship, family, service, and legacy.

## Host-Ready Author Introduction

Please welcome Vanley Bucknor, author of *Lift As You Climb: Uncharted Destinations in a Jamaican-American Life*. His story begins in Jamaica and continues through teaching, migration, public service, leadership, and a deep commitment to mentorship and legacy. In this memoir, he reflects on the people who helped shape his path and on the responsibility to help others rise as we climb.

## Short Introduction

Vanley Bucknor is the author of *Lift As You Climb: Uncharted Destinations in a Jamaican-American Life*. Born and raised in Jamaica, he migrated to the United States and built a distinguished career in information technology and public service, including senior leadership service at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. His memoir reflects on mentorship, migration, education, service, and legacy.

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# Speaking Topics and Descriptions

These speaking topics are designed for book talks, library programs, community events, podcast interviews, leadership forums, educational programs, faith-based gatherings, and cultural organizations. Each topic can be adapted as a keynote, fireside conversation, panel discussion, author Q&A, or moderated interview.

## **Lift As You Climb: A Conversation on Mentorship, Migration, Service, and Legacy**

This signature talk introduces the central message of *Lift As You Climb*: that a meaningful life is not measured only by personal advancement, but by how we use our opportunities to encourage, guide, and serve others. Drawing from his Jamaican upbringing, migration to the United States, teaching background, family life, and public-service career, Vanley Bucknor reflects on the people who helped shape his journey and the responsibility to help others rise.

Best suited for: Book-launch events, libraries, community organizations, churches, alumni groups, cultural associations, leadership forums, and general audiences.

Audience takeaway: Success becomes more meaningful when it is connected to gratitude, responsibility, service, and legacy.

## **Mentorship as Legacy**

Mentorship is one of the central themes of *Lift As You Climb*. This talk explores how teachers, family members, community figures, colleagues, and quiet encouragers can change the direction of a life. It also invites audiences to think about the people who lifted them and how they can become mentors, sponsors, guides, or sources of encouragement for others.

Best suited for: Mentorship programs, youth organizations, schools, professional associations, leadership groups, and community events.

Audience takeaway: Each person has the capacity to become part of someone else's turning point.

## **From Jamaica to America: Migration, Identity, and Becoming**

This topic focuses on the emotional, cultural, and practical dimensions of migration. Through the lens of a Jamaican-American life, Vanley reflects on leaving home, beginning again, adapting to a new country, and carrying the values, memories, responsibilities, and identity of Jamaica into an American life.

Best suited for: Jamaican and Caribbean diaspora organizations, immigrant community groups, cultural programs, libraries, universities, and book clubs.

Audience takeaway: Migration is not only a change in geography; it is also a journey of memory, identity, courage, adaptation, and becoming.

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# Speaking Topics Continued

## Education as a Doorway

This talk explores education as one of the most powerful forces in the memoir. From early schooling in Jamaica to teacher training at The Mico and later professional growth in the United States, the story shows how education, encouragement, discipline, and opportunity can open doors. It also honors the role of teachers and mentors who see potential in young people before they fully see it in themselves.

Best suited for: Educators, students, school leaders, alumni associations, youth-development programs, scholarship groups, and lifelong-learning communities.

Audience takeaway: Education is not only about credentials; it is about possibility, confidence, discipline, and the opening of doors.

## Leadership Grounded in Service

This topic draws from Vanley's public-service career and reflects on leadership as stewardship rather than status. It explores the values of accountability, humility, responsibility, discipline, mission, and service. The talk is especially relevant for audiences interested in public service, organizational leadership, mentoring future leaders, and building a life of purpose beyond title or position.

Best suited for: Public-service audiences, government and nonprofit leaders, professional associations, leadership programs, civic organizations, and workplace events.

Audience takeaway: Leadership is strongest when it is rooted in service, responsibility, and the disciplined use of opportunity for the benefit of others.

## Family, Faith, and Formation

This topic reflects on the quiet forces that shape a life: family expectations, faith, discipline, sacrifice, community values, and the examples set by earlier generations. It is especially suited for audiences interested in legacy, intergenerational wisdom, cultural memory, and personal reflection.

Best suited for: Faith-based groups, family-centered events, cultural organizations, community gatherings, book clubs, and reflective leadership events.

Audience takeaway: Much of who we become is shaped by the values planted in us long before the world sees the results.

## Possible Event Formats

<b>Keynote or featured talk</b>	30-45 minutes
<b>Author conversation or fireside chat</b>	30-60 minutes
<b>Panel participation</b>	45-75 minutes
<b>Library or book-club discussion</b>	45-60 minutes
<b>Podcast or media interview</b>	20-45 minutes
<b>Workshop-style reflection session</b>	60-90 minutes

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# Sample Interview Questions

The following questions are designed for journalists, podcasters, event hosts, librarians, book clubs, and community partners. They give hosts enough range to discuss the book warmly while keeping the conversation centered on gratitude, mentorship, migration, education, service, leadership, and legacy.

1. What inspired you to write *Lift As You Climb* at this stage of your life?
2. What does the title *Lift As You Climb* mean to you?
3. How did growing up in Jamaica shape the values and outlook that carried you through life?
4. Who were some of the mentors, teachers, or encouragers who helped shape your journey?
5. How did migration to the United States change your understanding of identity, opportunity, and responsibility?
6. Why is education such an important theme in the memoir?
7. How did your years in public service influence your understanding of leadership?
8. What do you hope readers will carry with them after reading the book?

Shorter media-kit option: If space is limited, use questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8 as the core six-question set. Questions 6 and 7 remain especially useful for education, leadership, and public-service audiences.

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# Media and Event Information

## Available Assets

- Official front cover image.
- Author photo.
- Short and medium author bios.
- Book summary and publication metadata.
- Speaking topic descriptions.
- Sample interview questions for media, podcasts, book clubs, and event hosts.
- Host-ready author introduction.

## Contact

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<b>Website</b>	liftasyouclimbbook.com
<b>Publisher</b>	Vanley Bucknor Publishing
<b>Launch list CTA</b>	Join Launch List
<b>Publication date</b>	September 17, 2026

## Suggested Media Focus

Vanley Bucknor is available for conversations on mentorship, migration, Jamaican-American life, education, public service, leadership grounded in service, and the responsibility to help others rise as we climb.

## Speaking and Interview Requests

Speaking and interview requests are reviewed individually based on audience, timing, format, and fit. For additional speaking details, please contact liftasyouclimbbook@gmail.com with your name, organization, event type, proposed date, location or virtual format, and audience.

