

**BUSINESS CREDIT
& FUNDING**

Hassan Thomas
**ICONIC MAN
OF THE YEAR**

**THE AI
ADVANTAGE**

**WHERE
STORIES
FOUND THEIR
VOICE**

**HER VOICE
STILL TEACHES**



WEALTH

Contents



03

**HASSAN THOMAS:
ICONIC MAN OF THE YEAR**



17

GENERATIONAL TRAILBLAZER

Called, Not Careered. The Covenant Journey of Sandra Simmonds

01 FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

07 BUSINESS CREDIT & FUNDING

11 **HER VOICE STILL TEACHES**
THE ENDURING LEGACY OF DENISE THOMAS

14 The AI Advantage: How Modern Entrepreneurs Are Multiplying Time, Income, & Impact

20 FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

22 **WHERE STORIES FOUND THEIR VOICE**

THE CREATIVE LEGACY OF MICHAEL ANDERSON IN SOUTH FLORIDA BROADCASTING

24 IGNITE COACHES

33 HONOREES

37 SPONSORS & ADS

01

APRIL 2026 | ISSUE 07





FOUNDER'S WELCOME

There comes a moment when inspiration is no longer enough. You've attended conferences. You've heard the speeches. You've taken notes. You've felt motivated.

But this year is different.
This year, we IGNITE.

Welcome to the 2026 edition of RiseUp Wealth Magazine, created in alignment with the RiseUp Wealth Summit: IGNITE – The Mastermind Experience. This is not just another event. It is a strategic room. A room where ideas turn into execution. Where conversations turn into collaborations. Where vision turns into movement.

IGNITE represents activation.

It is the spark that turns knowledge into action. It is the discipline that transforms plans into results. It is the courage to move when others hesitate. This year, our speakers are not simply presenters. They are IGNITERS.

These are coaches. Builders. Strategists. Leaders who have done the work and are committed to helping others execute at a higher level. They are here to challenge thinking, refine strategy, sharpen focus, and equip you with practical steps you can implement immediately. The IGNITERS are not here to impress you. They are here to stretch you. Because wealth is not built by inspiration alone. It is built by decision. By discipline. By alignment. By execution.

At Legacy Lives Here Inc., our mission has always been clear. We empower individuals and families through financial literacy, entrepreneurial education, and intentional community building. But empowerment must lead to action. That is why IGNITE was chosen as the 2026 theme. Because this is the year we stop preparing and start executing.

This year, we are also proud to expand that mission through one of our newest and most meaningful initiatives, the Denise Thomas Legacy Scholarship Fund.



This fund represents more than financial support. It represents opportunity. It represents access. It represents the belief that someone's future should not be limited by their current circumstances.

Every partnership, every contribution, and every resource connected to this initiative helps us invest directly into individuals who are ready to learn, grow, and build a legacy of their own. It is our commitment to not only teach wealth, but to help create pathways for it.

This magazine is more than a program guide. It is a reflection of stories, strategy, faith, resilience, and real execution. Inside these pages, you will meet leaders who refused to stay comfortable. Entrepreneurs who chose courage over convenience. Visionaries who understand that generational wealth is not accidental. It is intentional.

As you read, I encourage you to ask yourself:

What in me needs to be ignited?
What idea have I delayed?
What move have I been overthinking?
What level am I ready to step into?
The time is not later.
The time is now.
IGNITE is about activating what is already inside of you.

Thank you for being part of the RiseUp movement. Thank you for believing in legacy. Thank you for choosing execution over excuses.

Let's build.
Let's move.
Let's IGNITE.

Glenn Payne Afiesha Payne

Founders

Legacy Lives Here Inc.
RiseUp Wealth Summit

Legacy is not what we leave behind. It is what we invest into others while we are here.

THE
ICONIC MAN
Hassan Thomas



Turning Setbacks into Strategy. Turning Knowledge into Legacy.

One play. One step. One sound no athlete ever forgets.

In a single moment on a college practice field, Hassan Thomas felt his future shift. The plan he had trained for, disciplined himself for, and believed in was suddenly no longer available. What followed was not retreat, but redirection. Not bitterness, but clarity. That moment did not end his story. It refined his purpose.

Some leaders are shaped by opportunity. Others are forged by interruption. Hassan Thomas belongs firmly in the latter category.

At a relatively young age, Hassan has emerged as a trusted voice in financial literacy, career readiness, and generational thinking, not because his path was easy, but because it was interrupted, redirected, and ultimately refined. His story is not one of overnight success. It is a testament to discipline, faith, and the power of responding well when life rewrites the plan.

A Calling That Revealed Itself Early

Long before podcast downloads, keynote stages, or awards, the signs were already there. As a teenager, Hassan noticed that people naturally trusted him with money. Friends leaned on him for advice. Teammates joked that if he ever made it to the pros, he would be the one managing their finances. At the time, he did not see it as a calling. Looking back, the pattern is unmistakable.

Trust. Communication. Care for people. And a deep sense of responsibility rooted in gratitude for those who poured into him, especially his mother. These qualities became the foundation of a belief that now defines his work: success is meant to be shared.

That belief would later grow into a mission to teach financial literacy, career readiness, and communication skills to students, young professionals, and first-generation wealth builders across the country and beyond.

Discipline, Value, and Vision

Graduating college in 2020 placed Hassan at a crossroads many young professionals know well. While peers searched for direction, he anchored himself to one guiding principle: value.

Value built internally through education, certifications, and self-investment. Value delivered externally through service, clarity, and impact.

He accepted seasons of sacrifice, working purpose-driven side hustles, producing imperfect early podcast episodes, and trusting the process. As a former collegiate athlete, he understood the formula. Progress comes from repetition. You show up. You put in the reps. You improve daily. That athletic discipline translated seamlessly into leadership. Vision kept him focused. Value kept him relevant.



“No work, no eat. No grind, no shine.” The lesson applies just as much to money as it does to life.

When the Game Changed

In 2019, during his senior year of college football, Hassan's trajectory shifted dramatically. A torn meniscus ended his starting opportunity and closed the door on a potential professional football career. One moment altered years of preparation.

The loss was real. So was the grief. But adversity did not end his leadership. It clarified it.

During recovery, Hassan immersed himself in his senior thesis, centered on financial literacy and career readiness. That research sparked a bold idea: turning academic insight into real-world impact. Encouraged by his cousin, Myles, he launched what would become the FYI FLI: Financial Literacy and Investing Podcast.



***"Interruption did not stop him.
It revealed him."***

What began as a pivot became a platform.

The podcast has since reached listeners in more than 50 countries, surpassed 70,000 downloads, and earned Podcast of the Year at the Southern Entertainment Awards in 2023. From there came books. From books came speaking. From speaking came the work he now leads, teaching, mentoring, and equipping others through the lessons adversity refined.

Leadership is not defined by what is taken away, but by how you respond and choose to move forward.

Making Money Make Sense Across Generations

Hassan's work spans students, young professionals, and families building wealth for the first time. One of the most damaging financial misunderstandings he sees today is surprisingly simple: people are not taught the cost of their dreams.

Young people dream boldly, but often without understanding the financial, emotional, and time investments required to bring those dreams to life. Hassan challenges families to expose students early to real trade-offs and real expectations, not to discourage ambition, but to ground it.

In his role as a financial content specialist with iGrad Financial Wellness, another recurring gap stands out: credit education. Fear-driven advice, often passed down from personal trauma, has left many unprepared to use financial tools responsibly. Hassan's approach replaces fear with understanding, because education creates confidence, and confidence fuels action.

Redefining Generational Wealth

To Hassan, generational wealth is not merely assets or net worth. It is time, options, and freedom of choice. But wealth alone is not enough.

Without knowledge, wealth lacks direction. Without values, it lacks restraint. His work emphasizes that discipline, education, and morality must accompany money if legacy is to last.

Intentionality, he believes, matters more than income. Money is a tool. In the right hands, it builds. In the wrong hands, it damages.



***"We cannot pass down
generational wealth without
also passing down generational
education and values."***

Grounded Leadership in a Noisy World

As his influence grows, Hassan remains anchored by a personal framework: Faith, Family, Fitness, and Finances.

- Faith grounds him.
- Family sustains him.
- Fitness protects the vessel carrying the vision.
- Finances shape the quality of daily life.

Mentorship has reinforced this grounding. Leadership lessons around work-life integration rather than balance have shaped how he builds both career and relationships with intention and integrity.

A Mature Definition of Success

Success, for Hassan, is not measured by comparison. It is measured by progress. One step forward is still a win. Growth is still success.



“If you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything.”



The Responsibility of Being Iconic

Being named Iconic Man of the Year is not, to Hassan, a destination. It is a responsibility.

- A responsibility to lead with integrity.
- To educate with humility.
- To serve with consistency.
- To model faith, character, and commitment in every role he plays.

Recognition may shine a light, but purpose sustains the work. Legacy is not built by talent alone. It is built by obedience, faith, and the willingness to serve beyond yourself.

In honoring Hassan Thomas, RiseUp Wealth Magazine recognizes more than achievement. We recognize a man who turned interruption into instruction, adversity into alignment, and knowledge into generational impact.

That is what makes him Iconic.

BUSINESS CREDIT & FUNDING

The Blueprint Most Entrepreneurs Were Never Taught



Cherise Lenore Riley
CONTRIBUTOR

“Funding is not just about access. It is about readiness. Business credit is not just about approval. It is about trust.”

A few years ago, I worked with an entrepreneur whose heart was bigger than their business. They were talented. Passionate. Deeply committed to serving others. If someone needed help, they showed up. If someone lacked resources, they shared whatever they had, without hesitation, without conditions. From the outside, it looked admirable.

But behind the scenes, there was a problem. One I have seen more times than I can count across my 25 years in lending, mortgage finance, credit consulting, business funding, analysis, and strategy: They had never been taught how to manage money.

They grew up in a household where financial conversations came loaded with stress. Money meant survival. Credit felt confusing and out of reach. No one ever sat them down and explained how any of it worked. And when they launched a business, they brought every one of those experiences with them, unexamined, unresolved, and quietly running the show. Money came in. But it went right back out. Sometimes emotionally. Sometimes urgently. Sometimes toward obligations that had been stacking up for years. The result was predictable.

Their credit was damaged. Their business was disorganized. And every time they applied for funding, they were denied. Not because they lacked vision. Not because their business was not real. But because they lacked the blueprint. So we went back to the beginning. We rebuilt their credit. We reorganized the business. We separated their finances and created the systems and discipline that had never been put in place. It did not happen overnight. But everything began to shift. Their credit improved. Their structure strengthened. Their business became something lenders could actually see, assess, and trust. And when they applied for funding again, the doors opened.

Today, that entrepreneur has grown their business and now teaches others the very financial principles they were never taught. That is the full circle moment. That is what the blueprint makes possible.

Their story reflects a truth that too many entrepreneurs are living with right now. Most are not struggling because they lack passion, vision, or work ethic. They are struggling because they were never taught how to build a business that lenders trust. They were taught to hustle. To survive. To figure it out. But figuring it out and building with strategy are completely different things, and that gap is costing people everything.

According to the Federal Reserve Small Business Credit Survey, nearly 40 percent of small businesses struggle to access the funding they need to operate or grow. More than one third are denied or only partially approved. The U.S. Small Business Administration reports that lack of adequate financing is one of the top reasons small businesses fail within their first five years.

And a 2023 report from the Brookings Institution found that Black and Latino entrepreneurs face denial rates nearly double those of their white counterparts, not because of a lack of business viability, but because of structural gaps in financial preparation and credit access.

This is not just a money problem. It is a structure problem. A clarity problem. A preparation problem. And every one of those things can be fixed.

Funding Does Not Start With an Application

This is the misconception that trips up more entrepreneurs than almost anything else: the belief that funding begins when you apply. It does not.

Funding begins long before you ever fill out a form. When a lender evaluates a business, they are not simply asking whether you need money. They are asking a much more important question: Is this business prepared to handle money responsibly?

Lenders evaluate time in business, financial stability, credit history, cash flow, documentation, and business legitimacy. In other words, they are evaluating risk. This is why some entrepreneurs say, "My business earned six figures last year. Why was I denied?" Because revenue alone does not tell the full story. A business can generate real income and still appear risky if everything behind the scenes is disorganized. Lenders look for stability, structure, and consistency. Without those things, even profitable businesses get turned away.

I worked with one client who had been running a successful event planning business for three years. Consistent clients, solid income, great reputation in her community. But when she applied for a business line of credit, she was denied. Not once. Three times. When we dug into why, the answer was clear. Her business existed in practice but not on paper. No dedicated business bank account. No EIN. No financial records that a lender could actually read. Her business was real. Her foundation was not.

What a Proper Business Foundation Actually Looks Like

One of the most common mistakes I see is entrepreneurs believing that forming an LLC is enough. It is not. An LLC is a starting point. What lenders actually need to see goes much further.

A credible business foundation includes legal registration and compliance, an EIN from the IRS, required industry licenses and permits, a dedicated business bank account, matching business information across all documents, and organized financial records including profit and loss statements and balance sheets.

Think of it this way. Your business foundation is your first impression with every lender, vendor, and financial institution you will ever encounter. You do not get to explain yourself in a loan application. The documents speak for you. And if those documents are incomplete, inconsistent, or missing entirely, lenders will move on to the next application, regardless of how strong your business actually is.

Why Separating Personal and Business Finances Is Non-Negotiable

Many entrepreneurs blend personal and business money without fully understanding the damage it creates. Cash App deposits, personal transfers, mixed expenses. These things confuse lenders and distort the financial picture in ways that are very difficult to recover from during an application.

I had a client who ran every dollar of her business through her personal checking account for two years. When we pulled her bank statements to prepare for a funding application, we could not tell what was business revenue and what was a birthday gift from her sister. Neither could a lender. Two years of real business activity, and none of it was usable as documentation.

When finances are blended, lenders cannot determine your real revenue, your actual expenses, your true profitability, or your capacity to carry debt. Separation creates clarity. Clarity builds credibility. And credibility is what leads to funding.

What Business Credit Really Is

Business credit is not simply about getting a credit card or a loan in your company's name. It is the financial reputation of your business. It is the track record that tells lenders, vendors, and financial institutions whether your business handles its obligations with consistency and integrity.

Credit bureaus weigh payment history, utilization, length of credit history, the number of accounts reporting, outstanding balances, and financial behavior over time. Payment history carries the most weight. Business credit grows through consistency, discipline, and intentional financial activity.

I often tell my clients that your business credit score is your business's resume. It tells the story of how you show up financially before you ever walk in the room. The goal is not simply to obtain credit. The goal is to build trust, and trust, once built, opens doors that hustle alone never will.

The Step Most Entrepreneurs Skip

Before business credit can grow, the business must first demonstrate real activity. The sequence tends to look like this: form the business properly, obtain an EIN, open a business bank account, begin routine business

transactions, establish vendor accounts that report to the bureaus, and use those accounts responsibly, paying on time, every time.

This creates the financial history that lenders rely on when making decisions. Without a credit profile, even high-revenue businesses can struggle with approvals. The activity has to exist before the record can speak.

One of my clients came to me frustrated after being told she had no credit file for her business, despite having operated for four years. The issue was not her business. It was that none of her financial activity was being reported to the bureaus. We corrected that, established the right vendor accounts, and within months her business had a legitimate, verifiable credit profile. The same business. Completely different outcome.

The Truth About Personal Credit

Here is something many entrepreneurs do not want to hear: personal credit still matters, especially in the early stages.

A new business does not yet have a financial identity of its own. In those early days, lenders use your personal credit as a proxy for reliability. That does not mean you need perfect credit. It means you need a strategy.

Strengthening personal credit while simultaneously building business credit creates a stronger foundation overall. Both matter. Both are workable. And both are within your control.

The Emotional Side of Money

Money is not just numbers. Money carries history. Many entrepreneurs grew up in households where money caused stress, where bills created anxiety, credit felt dangerous, and financial patterns were passed down without explanation or awareness. Those experiences do not disappear when you open a business.

They show up in how you manage cash flow, how you respond to financial pressure, and whether you face your numbers or avoid them. Some entrepreneurs avoid their finances out of fear. Some chase quick money because the pressure never let up. Some carry quiet shame about mistakes they made when they did not know better. And some, and I say this with compassion because I have seen it up close, sabotage their own success without even realizing it, because somewhere deep down, they were never taught that they were allowed to have more.

All of that is understandable. And none of it is permanent.

But funding without wisdom can create bigger problems. Funding combined with structure and clarity creates real opportunity. The inner work and the financial work are not separate. They go together. And the entrepreneurs who do both are the ones who build something that actually lasts.

The Blueprint, Simplified

If I had to lay it out plainly, the blueprint looks like this: build the right structure, separate personal and business finances, maintain organized financial records, build business credit intentionally, strengthen personal credit where needed, create a strategic business plan, and seek funding based on strategy, not urgency.

That approach does not just position you for an approval. It positions you for long-term success, the kind that does not crumble the moment something unexpected happens, because the foundation was built to hold weight.

Final Thoughts

The blueprint most entrepreneurs were never taught is not complicated. But it is essential. Funding is not just about access. It is about readiness. Business credit is not just about approval. It is about trust. And structure is not busy work. It is the foundation that everything else stands on.

When entrepreneurs truly understand this, they stop chasing shortcuts. They start building businesses that lenders, investors, and financial institutions can confidently say yes to. They stop feeling like outsiders in rooms that were always meant for them. And they start showing up, financially prepared, strategically positioned, and ready. That is what the blueprint does. It does not just change your business. It changes how you see yourself in it.

If you are serious about learning how to properly structure your business, build business credit, and position your company for funding, this work continues beyond this article. Inside my private community, The Workroom Inner Circle, I teach entrepreneurs how to move from vision to structure with clarity, discipline, and strategy. It is a space for those who are ready to do the real work and build businesses that lenders, investors, and financial institutions can confidently stand behind. You were never meant to navigate this without the blueprint. When you are ready, the room is open.

About The Author

Cherise Lenore Riley is a business strategist, funding consultant, and serial entrepreneur with more than 25 years of experience in lending, mortgage finance, credit analysis, and business development. She is the founder of CL and Associates Group LLC and the creator of The Workroom Experience, where she mentors entrepreneurs on how to structure, fund, and scale their businesses with clarity and strategy. Cherise is also the founder of RL Network TV, a digital streaming platform dedicated to real stories of transformation and impact. She has helped countless entrepreneurs strengthen their financial foundations through business planning, credit development, funding readiness, and grant preparation.



Her Voice Still Teaches

The Enduring Legacy of Denise Thomas

Some lives are measured in titles. Others are measured in transformation. Denise Thomas lived a life that continues to speak. Through her work with Get Ahead of the Class, Denise helped families see college not as a looming financial burden, but as a strategic opportunity. She believed education, when approached with intention and preparation, could become one of the earliest and most powerful wealth decisions a family ever makes. But her mission did not begin on a stage.

It began at a kitchen table, during a season when doors seemed to close all at once. When financial hardship and bankruptcy forced her family to navigate college without traditional financial aid, Denise refused to let circumstance define the outcome. She did what she would later teach thousands of families to do. She researched. She studied. She asked questions until confusion gave way to clarity. She did not sit in hardship. She faced it, and then she turned it into help for others.

What began as survival became service. She first shared what she learned with friends and family. Then with anyone who needed it. Eventually, that knowledge grew into a mission that empowered families to pursue scholarships with strategy, confidence, and discipline. She believed something deeply, whether she said it out loud or not: No one is a victim of where they start. We are architects of where we finish.

Education as a Wealth Strategy

Long before financial literacy became fashionable, Denise was teaching parents to think ahead. She challenged the myth that scholarships were rare or reserved for the exceptional few. She taught that preparation changes probability. That discipline changes outcomes.

She urged families to start early. To build a plan. To create what she often described as a personal marketing strategy for their education. To pursue scholarships, grants, gifts, and earned income. And to avoid unnecessary student loan debt, not out of fear, but out of wisdom.

Avoiding debt, she believed, protects freedom. It preserves the true gift of education instead of allowing it to become a lifelong burden. Her message was never passive inspiration. It was action. She wanted families to leave her sessions ready to move. Ready to implement. Ready to change the trajectory of their lives. And they did. But to truly understand Denise, you have to step beyond what she built and into how she lived.

Her Voice Still Teaches: The Enduring Legacy of Denise Thomas

To her daughter, Denise was first and foremost devoted. Devoted to her faith, her church, her family, and above all, to her children. She was what her daughter calls a renaissance woman. There seemed to be little she could not do. She could host an event, decorate a cake, sew a garment, and still fill a room with warmth without breaking stride.

She instilled in her daughter a love of reading that lives on today. But what made her remarkable was not simply her ability. It was her response to adversity. "She didn't just figure it out quietly," her daughter says. "She learned everything there was to know, then started sharing it." And somewhere along the way, mother became friend.

"We would talk on the phone for hours. That transition from mother to friend is one of the greatest gifts she gave me." There is a memory her daughter carries like a photograph in her heart. A Prom-themed ballroom dance attended by Denise, her children, and their grandfather. Her daughter insisted she wear a grand green gown, reminiscent of Beauty and the Beast. She wore it.

That night, her smile was unguarded and radiant. "I think she really did feel like a princess," her daughter remembers. "I will never forget that smile." It is sacred to remember how they made you feel. It is easy to celebrate someone for what they built. It is sacred to remember how they made you feel.



Dennis saw the steady foundation beneath it all. He watched her navigate difficult seasons with faith, prayer, and decisive action. She turned to God first. Then she went to work. To her, trust without action was incomplete. She prayed, and then she planted seeds. Service was her language.

Years into their marriage, Dennis realized something profound. Though she may not have said "I love you" as often as he might have liked, she said it constantly in other ways. In the meals she cooked and personally served. In the clothes she folded. In the countless responsibilities she carried for their home. It was never about the tasks. It was love in motion. She believed being remembered for making a difference is far more rewarding than simply making money. And everywhere she went, she taught the same principle. Be a positive influence. Intentionally make the lives of those around you better. Leave rooms warmer than you found them.

Her Voice Still Teaches: The Enduring Legacy of Denise Thomas

A Legacy That Refuses to Be Silent

Denise Thomas passed away last year. But her voice did not. Today, her life continues through the Denise Thomas Legacy Scholarship. To her family, it is not a symbol. It is a continuation.

It represents her giving spirit. Her belief that knowledge must be shared. Her refusal to let a closed door define the ending of a story. The student she would be most proud to support is not simply chasing achievement. It is the one who wants to bring something back. The one who understands that success means more when others rise with you. If she could speak to future recipients, her message would be steady and unwavering: Set your goal. Then go figure out how to get there. Do not let debt chain your future. And do not forget the people walking alongside you.

Dennis describes her legacy simply:

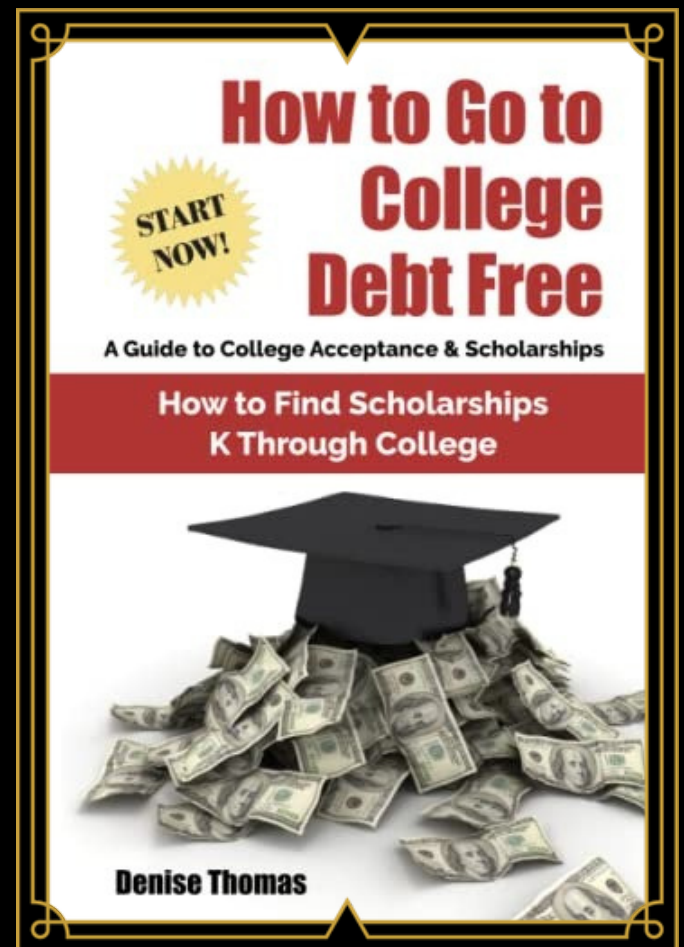
A life of faith-driven service that empowered others to rise above their circumstances and achieve their fullest potential. And perhaps that is the true measure of a life well lived. Not how loudly it was celebrated. But how long it continues to echo.

Denise's voice still teaches. Through every student who graduates unburdened. Through every parent who chooses preparation over panic. Through every family that refuses to let circumstance write the final chapter. Preparation is power. Faith requires action.

And legacy is not proven by what we leave behind, but by who is still standing stronger because we were here.

One day, our names will no longer be called in rooms we once filled. The only question that will remain is this:

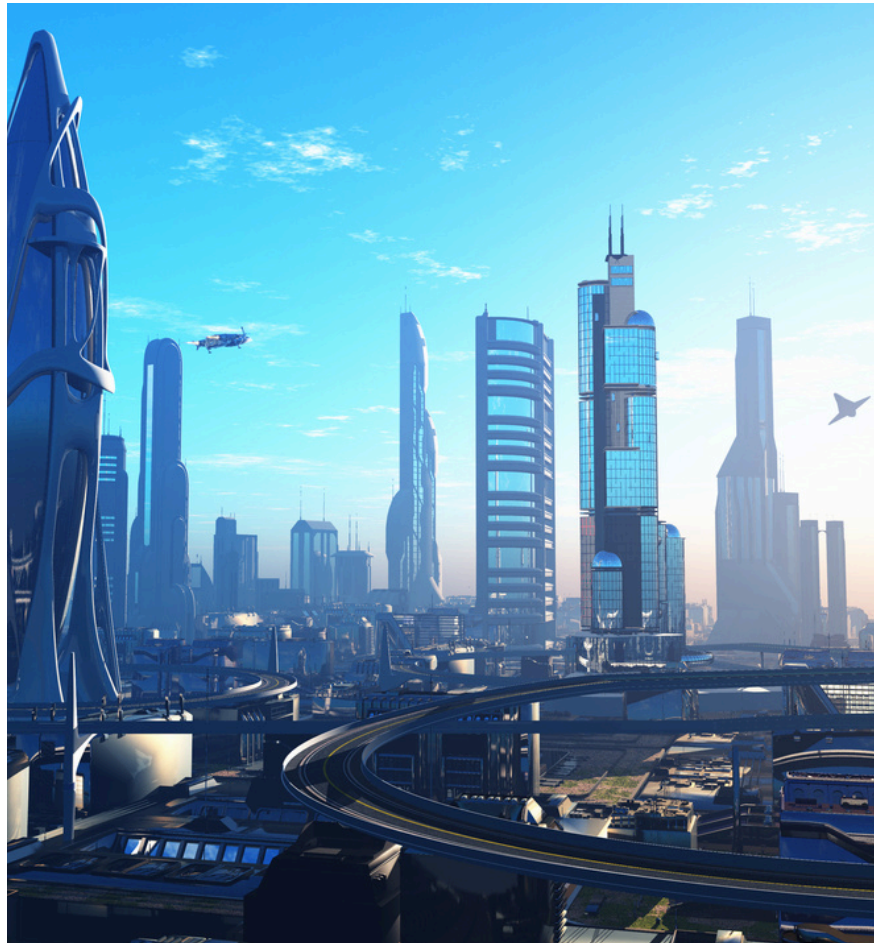
Who rose because we were here?



Let me say this plainly. AI is not the future. It is the present advantage. If you are an entrepreneur in 2026 still trying to build your brand, write your content, manage your operations, and serve your clients without leveraging AI, you are not just working hard. You are working inefficiently.

What I have learned as a capacity-building strategist is simple. The entrepreneurs who win are the ones who build systems, not just hustle. AI has become one of the most powerful systems available to us. It allows you to create faster, think clearer, execute smarter, and scale without burning out.

For those of us building movements, publishing books, running programs, and leading communities, this is not optional. It is essential. So let me walk you through the seven AI tools I actually use. No hype. Just real application. And more importantly, why they have earned a place in my ecosystem.



In a world where speed, strategy, and execution matter more than ever, I have found that the right tools do not replace your brilliance. They refine it.

As a builder, strategist, and visionary, I do not have the luxury of moving slowly. I need systems that help me think clearly, execute efficiently, and scale intentionally. Here are seven AI-powered tools that have become essential to how I operate:

1. *ChatGPT My Thinking Partner*

This remains my go-to for everything from writing newsletters to structuring programs, drafting grants, and mapping out high-level strategy.

THE AI ADVANTAGE

How Modern Entrepreneurs Are Multiplying Time, Income, and Impact



Genevieve Carvil Harris
CONTRIBUTOR



ChatGPT

What I value most is its ability to sharpen my thinking without diluting my voice. It does not replace my perspective. It refines it.

Why I use it:

It consistently moves me from idea to execution faster than anything else.

2. Canva My Design Team in One Click

As someone constantly building brands, pitch decks, flyers, and social content, Canva has become indispensable.

With tools like Magic Design, AI image generation, and instant presentations, I can transform a concept into a polished visual in minutes.

Why I use it: It eliminates the gap between vision and visibility.

3. Jasper AI My Conversion Copy Engine

When I am in launch mode or building sales pages, Jasper helps refine messaging and produce high-converting copy.

It is especially powerful when adjusting tone across different audiences while maintaining consistency.

Why I use it: It helps turn words into revenue.

4. Descript My Content Repurposing Machine

For anyone creating video, podcasts, or YouTube content, this is a game changer.

Descript allows me to edit video by editing text, remove filler words instantly, and repurpose one piece of content into multiple assets.

Why I use it: It multiplies my content without multiplying my workload.

5. Notion AI My Digital Brain

Managing programs, grants, events, and partnerships requires structure. Notion AI helps me organize it all. From summarizing notes to building SOPs and tracking projects, it keeps everything aligned.

Why I use it: It keeps my ecosystem structured while my vision expands.

6. Midjourney My Creative Director

When it comes to branding, storytelling, and visual concepts, Midjourney is unmatched.

I use it to generate campaign imagery, develop brand aesthetics, and bring ideas to life before they are fully built.

Why I use it: It allows me to see the vision before execution.

7. Zapier My Silent Operations Manager

This is where everything connects.

Zapier automates workflows across my systems by capturing leads, triggering emails, and moving data seamlessly behind the scenes.

Why I use it: It transforms my business into a system that runs efficiently, even when I am not actively working in it.

AI will never replace your voice. It will amplify it. Your story. Your strategy. Your calling. That is still yours.

What AI does is give you leverage. It allows you to package your ideas faster, share them wider, and monetize them more intelligently.

For those of us called to impact communities, build wealth, and create legacy, manual execution is no longer sustainable.

We need leverage. And AI is one of the most powerful leverage tools of our time.

Stay connected and continue the conversation @gencharris

A professional portrait of Sandra Simmonds, a Black woman with long, wavy, dark brown hair with lighter brown highlights. She is wearing a dark grey blazer over a white top and large gold hoop earrings. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a neutral, light-colored wall.

GENERATIONAL
RAILBLAZER

Sandra Simmonds

Called, Not Careered

The Covenant Journey of Sandra Simmonds

For Sandra Simmonds, real estate was never simply a profession. It was a calling rooted in faith, sealed by covenant, and activated through obedience. Long before licenses, listings, and leadership titles, her journey began with surrender.

"I sometimes think of myself as a woman called Moses," she shares. "I was minding my business, and God intervened with His plan." That intervention came through prophecy. While serving in law enforcement, Sandra received a clear word that God was ordering her steps into real estate. Obedience followed. In 2012, she became licensed.

What unfolded next was not just a business story. It was a faith journey that continues to impact families, veterans, and communities across Florida.

"I was called, not careered."

Faith Forged in Service

Sandra's foundation was shaped long before Promiseland Properties LLC opened its doors. A United States Navy veteran, she served 22 years in the military, a season that tested her resolve, her faith, and her identity.

"My faith was unshakable at times, and at other times deeply tested," she reflects. "There were moments I wanted to quit, and moments when the military wanted to quit me."

Yet she endured. She retired honorably, with what she describes as God's justice by her side. Among her proudest achievements is receiving the Humanitarian Medal, an honor that reflects who she is at her core. A servant first. A leader by assignment. A steward of people. Those years of discipline, sacrifice, and faith under pressure now echo through every aspect of her leadership.

Trusting God Through the Process

Like many who walk by faith, Sandra has navigated seasons where clarity was absent and control was impossible. "My testimony is simple. He delivers," she says. "I have had many seasons where I had to trust God beyond plain view."

Those seasons reshaped her leadership philosophy. She does not trust the process. She trusts God through the process. That distinction has become a defining thread in her confidence, resilience, and decision making today. She explains it this way. "While processes are subject to change, God never does. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Purpose in Action at Promiseland

The name Promiseland Properties LLC was not a branding exercise. It was revelation. "I wish I could take credit for creating such an envied business name and logo," Sandra says, "but God gets all the glory."

The name was born from a promise God wrote over her future, a mandate to serve His people and lead them home. Not only to a physical home, but to stability, peace, and spiritual alignment.

Promiseland Properties LLC operates with a five star reputation and an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau. Yet Sandra believes trust goes deeper than metrics.

"Many realtors are not aligned with the vision of Promiseland," she explains. "Only a select few are chosen because this is God's baby." For her, the business is ministry. "It is not business as usual. Clients cannot merely be counted as a number. They are God's children."

"My faith comes with humility and an anointing to do this business as unto the Lord," she continues. "Clients discern that. They trust that God connected us for one of the biggest financial investments of their lives." Leading you home for the rest of your life clearly captures that mission.

“I do not trust the process. I trust God through the process.”

Removing Fear, Restoring Faith

Homeownership and wealth building often come wrapped in fear, misinformation, and painful past experiences. Sandra sees it daily. "It is human nature to fear the unknown," she says. "Many of my clients come with horror stories of dishonesty in our industry." By the time families encounter Promiseland, it is often after much prayer. Sandra does not take that lightly.

"I will hold your hand through this process," she tells her clients. She walks with them step by step, encouraging them to take a leap of faith while keeping her promise to remain present and accountable. What begins as fear transforms into trust. What starts as hesitation becomes testimony. Clients become advocates. Families tell families. God assigns connections that continue to multiply.

She calls it the gift that keeps on giving.

A More Excellent Way

Serving veterans, first time buyers, and aspiring investors requires more than transactional excellence. It requires compassion, integrity, and grace. Sandra credits the book *A More Excellent Way* by Dr. Sheryl Lang for helping her deepen her service mindset. The lesson was simple yet profound. Understand your God given gifts and use them in a way that gives Him the glory.

"Real estate is ministry," she says. "Humility, compassion, integrity, and grace are fruit that continue to grow in the Promiseland."

Generational Wealth Through Covenant

When Sandra hears the phrase generational wealth, she does not think first of money or property. "Covenant," she says without hesitation. God owns it all. Wealth, in her view, is holistic. It is mindset. It is stewardship. It is positioning families to become lenders and not always borrowers, as written in Scripture. Property is a tool. Obedience is the foundation. Her daily discipline is equally clear. "Take care of God's business, and He will take care of yours."

A Trailblazer's Responsibility

Being recognized as a Generational Trailblazer is not an accolade Sandra carries lightly. It is a responsibility.

Her leadership continues to evolve as her faith deepens and her influence expands. Success is no longer defined by volume or visibility alone, but by alignment, impact, and obedience. Her one sentence definition of legacy says it all.

Covenant!

“God assigns connections.”

Sandra Simmonds - Broker/Owner

"Multi-Million Dollar Sales Producer"

U.S. Navy Retired, Veteran

Certified Short Sale Specialist; CSS

Florida Lic# BK3261304

Georgia Lic# 385716

Leading you home for the rest of your life!!

Promiseland Properties LLC- Broker

2 S. University Drive- Suite 231

Plantation, FL 33324

Cell:904-405-4208. Office:954-652-1231

FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

Fill in the blank in each statement with the correct financial term from the word list. Use the letters in the shaded spaces to spell out a key principle of investing.

1. A [] [] [] [] is anything you own that has financial value.
2. A [] [] [] [] a fixed-income security that represents a loan made by an investor to a borrower.
3. Building an [] [] [] [] [] is an important step to financial stability.
4. A [] [] [] [] is a person or firm that acts as an intermediary between an investor and securities exchange.
5. Good [] [] [] [] is an indicator of your ability to repay debts and manage credit responsibly.
6. [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] is a strategy that involves spreading your investments across various asset classes to reduce risk.
7. [] [] [] [] is money received for work performed, investments made, or financial assets owned.
8. Subtract your expenses from your [] [] [] [] [] to calculate your discretionary income.
9. I [] [] [] [] [] represent present or future financial obligations, such as debts and loans.
10. Another name for an equity investment in a company is [] [] [] [] .

ASSET
BOND
BROKER
BUDGET
CREDIT
DIVERSIFICA-
TION
INCOME
LIABILITIES
PORTFOLIO
RETURN
RISK
STOCK

Y L A S I D I N N P

✔ Answers

ASSET – A asset is anything you own that has financial value.

BOND – A bond is a fixed-income security that represents a loan made by an investor to a borrower.

BUDGET – Building a budget is an important step to financial stability.

BROKER – A broker is a person or firm that acts as an intermediary between an investor and securities exchange.

CREDIT – Good credit is an indicator of your ability to repay debts and manage credit responsibly.

DIVERSIFICATION – Diversification is a strategy that involves spreading your investments across various asset classes to reduce risk.

INCOME – Income is money received for work performed, investments made, or financial assets owned.

RETURN – Subtract your expenses from your return to calculate your discretionary income.

LIABILITIES – Liabilities represent present or future financial obligations, such as debts and loans.

STOCK – Another name for an equity investment in a company is stock.

🔍 Hidden Word (Key Principle of Investing):

From the shaded letters, we get:

“DISCIPLINARY”

💡 Discipline is a key principle of successful investing!



ICONIC
MAN OF LEGACY
Michael Anderson



Where Stories Found Their Voice

The creative legacy of Michael Anderson in South Florida broadcasting

Michael Anderson was a quiet architect of storytelling at WLRN, helping define the visual language and narrative tone of public television across South Florida. An award-winning television producer, he possessed a rare ability to transform everyday moments into meaningful, memorable experiences, always grounded in a deep respect for the audience and the community he served.

Throughout his career, Michael contributed to a wide range of programming, seamlessly blending compelling visuals with thoughtful, intentional storytelling. From local features to cultural specials and community-centered productions, his work consistently reflected a clear sense of purpose. He believed television was more than content. It was a bridge, meant to inform, inspire, and connect people across backgrounds and generations.

What set Michael apart was not only his creative instinct, but the care with which he approached every project. There was precision in his work, but also heart. He understood that the stories being told were not just segments or episodes, they were reflections of real people, real communities, and real experiences.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Michael was known for his generosity of spirit and his collaborative presence. He created environments where every voice felt valued, whether on-air or behind the camera. His leadership was steady, his instincts sharp, and his impact lasting. To many, he was more than a colleague. He was a mentor, a guide, and a trusted creative partner.

Michael Anderson's legacy continues through the stories he helped bring to life and the people he empowered along the way. His commitment to meaningful storytelling and his unwavering dedication to his craft remain a standard for excellence in South Florida broadcasting.

"Michael had a rare gift for turning everyday moments into lasting impact."

M. Smith



The MasterMind Experience

*Ignite
Coaches*

BE IGNITED

CHERISE LENORE



Cherise Lenore Riley

Pastor & Prophet Cherise Lenore Riley

Kingdom Entrepreneur • Prophetic Voice • Transformational Leader

Meet Pastor & Prophet Cherise Lenore Riley—a trailblazing Kingdom entrepreneur, prophetic voice, and transformational leader called to unlock destiny, birth vision, and build legacy.

With over 25 years in Real Estate and Mortgage Lending, Cherise is a licensed expert, certified financial advisor, and life and business coach since 1996. Her prophetic insight and marketplace anointing allow her to serve as both Business Strategist and Spiritual Architect—equipping people from the inside out.

Cherise believes success begins with spiritual alignment. As a Pastor and Prophet, she ministers holistically—calling forth purpose, breaking strongholds, and releasing clarity to entrepreneurs, visionaries, and leaders. She helps you build your business and life on the rock—Jesus Christ.

She is the visionary behind Destiny Empowerment, CLR Mortgage Solutions, Recreating Me, Flip My Legacy, and Destiny Empowerment Hour Radio. Her Kingdom mandate continues through CL & Associates Group LLC—home to:

- » The Workroom Experience™
- » The WorkroomX Publishing House
- » The Riley Effect PR Boutique
- » CLR Outreach Ministry

In 2025, Cherise became the Founder & CEO of The RL Network TV, a global digital streaming platform dedicated to amplifying Kingdom voices.

Every message she shares and every soul she touches is rooted in her divine assignment: to equip the called, empower the broken, and establish Kingdom legacy across every sphere of influence.

She's not just building businesses—she's igniting destinies.
You're not just meeting a leader—you're meeting your next level.

GENEVIEVE HARRIS



Genevieve Carvil-Harris

Author | Philanthropist | Entrepreneur | Kingdom Leader

Dr. Genevieve Carvil-Harris is an award-winning author, community developer, business strategist, and faith-driven leader whose life's work is dedicated to building people, platforms, and purpose. Known for her dynamic blend of marketplace innovation and Kingdom vision, Genevieve empowers individuals and communities to create generational wealth and sustainable change.

A proud graduate of the University of Miami with a pre-law degree, Genevieve discovered her calling in community and business development, where she merges strategy with service. Through her signature brand, Built By Gen, she has coached hundreds of entrepreneurs using proven capacity-building frameworks that have collectively generated over \$5 million in new revenue. Her programs and training initiatives have reached underserved communities across the nation, bringing access, education, and empowerment through grants and fundraising efforts.

As Co-Founder of Crowd Wallstreet Rewards, a rewards-based crowdfunding platform affiliated with Crowd Wallstreet Inc., Genevieve stands among a pioneering team responsible for establishing one of the first Black-owned equity crowdfunding platforms in the United States. This groundbreaking initiative reflects her passion for economic equity and innovation, helping founders raise capital, scale their businesses, and create long-term impact.

Her commitment to faith, family, and community fuels her leadership journey, one that has earned her recognition as a U.S. United Queen of Queens (2021), a 40 Under 40 Black Leader of Excellence in South Florida, and the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate in Ministry.

At her core, Genevieve Carvil-Harris is a builder of businesses, people, and communities. She uses her influence to challenge limitations, ignite innovation, and inspire others to pursue purpose with courage and clarity. Whether she is in the boardroom, pulpit, or neighborhood, her mission remains the same: to equip leaders to transform lives and leave a legacy that lasts.



DENZEL RODRIGUEZ



Denzel Rodriguez

Financial Educator | Velocity Banking Strategist | Wealth Coach

Denzel Rodriguez is a leading voice in personal finance education, best known for championing Velocity Banking, a strategy that empowers individuals to eliminate debt faster and take control of their cash flow. As a sought-after speaker, coach, and content creator, Denzel has helped thousands of people transform their financial lives through clear, actionable strategies and faith-driven motivation.

Branded as the "Finance Geek," Denzel brings a unique blend of practical money wisdom, spiritual purpose, and personal experience to every lesson. Through his YouTube channel and coaching programs, he breaks down complex financial concepts with simplicity and passion, making them accessible to everyday people.

Rooted in the belief that financial freedom is not just a goal but a calling, Denzel's mission is to help others build wealth, eliminate debt, and live out their God-given purpose.

Core Values: Education. Integrity. Faith. Freedom.

Key Offerings:

- 1:1 Financial Coaching
-
- Online Courses on Velocity Banking
-
- YouTube Education Channel
-
- Speaking Engagements and Workshops

WAYNE THOMPSON



Wayne Thompson

Innovator | Visionary | Builder of Systems and People

Wayne Thompson is a thought leader, innovation trailblazer, mentor, and problem-solving entrepreneur who stands at the intersection of technology, strategy, and human potential. As a multi-industry leader and founder of several successful enterprises, Wayne has dedicated his career to transforming ideas into sustainable solutions that drive progress, empower communities, and redefine excellence in business.

With a strategic eye for innovation, Wayne has launched and currently leads several companies that reflect his commitment to growth and advancement:

- Albion Ventures – A System Integration deployment and management company delivering scalable technology infrastructure and enterprise efficiency.
- Conspectus – A dynamic, collaborative Career Management platform empowering professionals to design and develop their career trajectories.
- AV Staffing Solutions – A staffing and recruiting agency connecting top talent with high-impact organizations.
- 7P – A platform for entrepreneurs to share, learn, and grow their businesses through collaboration and mentorship.
- Mandeville Properties – A real estate holding company focused on strategic investments and sustainable property growth.
- Strategic Opportunities Achieving Results (S.O.A.R!) – A nonprofit organization dedicated to mentorship, scholarship, and educational assistance for emerging leaders.

Wayne stands at the forefront of innovation, continuously finding harmony between product development and service delivery. His leadership philosophy centers on bridging creativity with execution, ensuring that every venture he touches operates with purpose, precision, and impact.

With deep expertise in systems integration, business strategy, and organizational development, Wayne is driven by one goal: to cultivate opportunities where technology, leadership, and innovation converge to create lasting results. Through his companies and mentorship initiatives, he continues to shape the next generation of thinkers, builders, and visionaries.

RiseUp LEGACY AWARDS



Riseup Legacy Award Honorees



Sandra Simmonds
Generational Trailblazer



Hassan Thomas
Iconic Man Of The Year



Jeron Ferguson
The Unsung Hero



Cherise Lenore Riley
Impact Award

Riseup Legacy Award Honorees



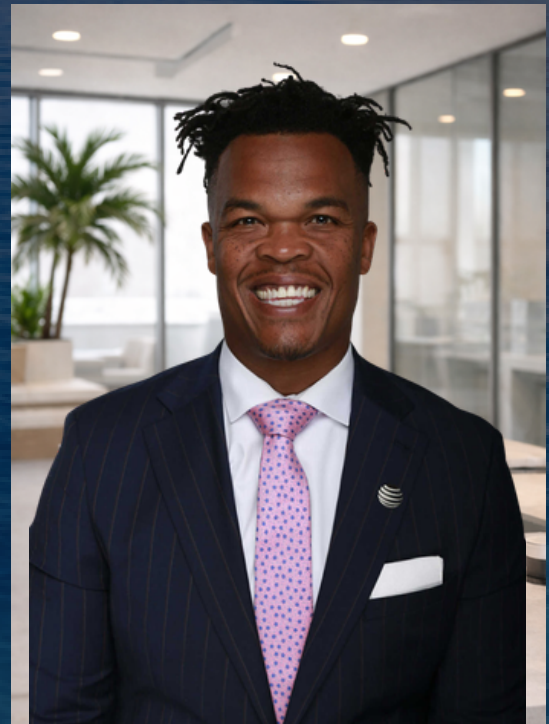
Xavier Jones
Men Empowerment



Cynthia L. Robinson
Community Pillar



Dr. Brian Hankerson
Generational ChainBreaker



Rashad Thomas
Youth Empowerment

Riseup Legacy Award Honorees

Michael Anderson
Iconic Man Of Legacy



Denise Thomas
Community Pillar



OUR SPONSORS



THE GENERATIONAL WEALTH PLEDGE

I pledge to...

- shift my money mindset from spending to building wealth.
- regularly check my credit score to ensure that it's at least 740.
- calculate how much I will need to retire and to contribute to a retirement plan.
- plan for my children's education.
- awaken the financial genius of my children.
- rely on more than one source of income for building my wealth.
- consistently allocate at least 20% of my income to savings.
- leave my family a legacy.
- consciously support black-owned businesses and boycott businesses that discriminate and dehumanize the black community.



Legacy Lives Here Inc
www.LegacyLivesHere.org