Writing a book about journeys and connections caused me to make many of my own. I began working on it as a fellow of the National Humanities Center, to whose donors and staff I give my earnest thanks and offer this belated evidence that I did in fact get something accomplished. Over successive years, I benefited from the American Council of Learned Societies’ Ryskamp Fellowship, the University of North Carolina’s Spray-Randleigh Fellowship, UNC’s Institute for the Arts and Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation. These fellowships, along with grants from UNC’s African Studies Center, Center for Global Initiatives, and College of Arts and Sciences, enabled research in four countries as well as periods of intensive writing, without which this book would not exist.

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Church Vaughan’s early days in Yorubaland first came alive for me in the archives of the Southern Baptist Convention, both at the International Mission Board (IMB) headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, and especially in the archives of the IMB in Richmond, Virginia. My heartfelt gratitude goes to Edie Jeater, Jim Berwick, Scott Peterson, Kyndal Owens, and the rest of the talented staff there, as well as to Bill Sumners and Taffey Hall in Nashville. More scholars should use those terrific archives! At the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary’s library in Ogbomoso, Nigeria, I thank Elizabeth Adetutu for her help with my research and her tolerance when I was reluctant to attend mandatory chapel services. I remain appreciative of the work of the staff at the Ibadan branch of the Nigerian National Archives and the special collections of the University of Ibadan Library, including Mrs. V. O. Aribusola and the capable Mr. Mike. Èṣé púpọ̀ to my academic hosts and friends in Ibadan and Lagos, beginning with LaRay Denzer and the late Folayegbe M. Akintunde-Ighodalo, who first put me on the trail of the Nigerian Vaughans, and including the late Professor and Mrs. Jacob Ade Ajayi, Professor Ayodeji Olukoju, and Dr. Funke Adeboye. Dr. Duro Adeleke painstakingly translated and interpreted the Vaughan family oriki. Professor Olutayo Adesina deserves special thanks for his repeated hospitality, academic inspiration, good company, and willingness to explore Ijaye on a hazy harmattan day. Chris Bankole’s warmth and good humor make her house a special oasis in Ibadan; big, grateful hugs to her, and kind regards to Aunty Gladys as well.

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