

IRAS LEVI completed his religious course of study and received his Rastafari Priesthood ordination on July 23, 1990. He has served as a volunteer contracted Chaplain for the Rastafari inmate community in the Federal Prison System since 1996. As a result of his demonstrated dedication to the Rastafari ministry, the administration of the United States Prison - Atlanta Complex, elected him the recipient of the 'Volunteer of the Year Award' in 2003.

He unselfishly absorbs all expenses – transportation and lodging – incurred while traveling to and from his visits with inmates housed in prisons located in various regions. These institutions include the following: Coleman Complex; Big Sandy; Oakdale; Pollock; Estill; Lee; Talladega; McRae; Petersburg; Colorado; etc. He serves as a valuable resource for other chaplains within the Bureau of Prisons, providing advice regarding the appropriate manner to negotiate the Rastafari faith inside the correctional setting. He also avails himself by participating in conference calls with inmates and chaplains.

Along with another Rastafari priest, he traveled to Albany, New York, to provide training about his faith, for approximately 150 New York state chaplains. After the in-depth three-day training, he was offered a full-time position as a chaplain, based upon his keen ability to establish good rapport, and his broad knowledge base.

For more than 23 years, Levi has worked as an educator in grade schools. He has chosen to work with youth enrolled in DeKalb County School System's Alternative School Program for the last 20 years. In 2012, he was selected as a 'Star Teacher', a Georgia statewide program which honors instructors who have been significantly instrumental in the academic development of an individual student. This particular honor is a source of great pride for Levi, because this nomination was generated from a youth he worked with very closely. The student wanted to acknowledge and express their sincere appreciation for the time, talent and energy Levi puts into his full-time profession.

His outstanding dedication has also been recognized by his fellow colleagues and the broader community. In 2013, a fellow teacher submitted his name to a local TV station - "11 Alive News". The station's program highlights a different teacher weekly, who routinely practices going above and beyond, to make a difference in the lives of our children.

To further develop his interpersonal skills, he completed specialized training with the National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI). This course of study focuses on providing greater insight in understanding, and use of best methods while interacting with individuals displaying signs and symptoms of mental illnesses.

Levi is very well known throughout the greater Atlanta-Metro community as a radio personality on WRFG (89.3 FM) since 1992, and for his promotion of hip hop and reggae artists since 1990. He regularly assists with fundraising efforts and bring general awareness about a variety of Georgia based non-profit organizations (i.e. Habesha; WRFG radio station; Malcolm X Grassroots Movement; etc.).