

# IGLESIA CRISTIANA HISPANA (Discipulos de Cristo)

## SPANISH CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

RUBEN I. CRUZ  
PASTOR

October 10, 2002

Rev. Ruben Ismael Cruz served as pastor of Chicago's First Spanish Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since 1964. He is more prominently known in Chicago for his involvement in the media.

Rev. Cruz initiated his media career in the mid 1960's with WMAQ-TV, Channel 5, Everyman Program of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago. Then in 1970 he was invited to join WLS-TV, Channel 7, as producer of the popular "Oiga Amigo" show, the first television program on WLS-TV, that addressed the needs of the Hispanic community of the Chicago area. He received the Governor's Citation of the Chicago Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Science for his programs about Chicago's Hispanic Americans.

Later during the 70's he also wrote a column in the Chicago Sun Times, the first of its kind in Spanish in a major newspaper in a metropolitan area in the United States. In 1986 he became the co-host of "Ayuda", a Spanish language television program on WCIU-TV, Channel 26. This past May, 2002 he taped his last program as host of Esta Semana, one of the community affairs television programs of Fox Chicago, Channel 32. Rev. Cruz has now dedicated all his efforts to his work as pastor of his congregation in the northside of Chicago.

Pastor Cruz has gained local, state, and national recognition as one of the hardest working and most informative spokesmen for the Chicago area's Hispanic community. His concern for his community has motivated him to become involved in the initiation of many programs that have been of assistance in the development of the Hispanic community of this area. He is also working at the present time as Vice-President of Equity Research Corporation, an educational consulting firm, based in Washington, D.C. that endeavors to unify minority higher educational institutions with the government and private sector.