



## **Centre for Reformational Urban Ministry in Africa**

*Dr. Buys and Mukhanyo Theological College are involved with a new venture in urban ministry in Africa. This new venture, CRUMA (Centre for Reformational Urban Ministry in Africa) began in 2005. We include this brief news clip from their brochure to inform our readers.*

*Editor*

### **Being the church . . . in the city . . . in Africa**

The whole world is in motion. A tidal wave of urbanization is not only flooding the whole of the Western world but is also actively changing the whole demographic structure of Southern Africa. South Africa will be 73% urbanized in 2010. Millions of people are streaming across South Africa's borders to find the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. On the other hand, more than a million people – those who were able to – have left the country to find a more secure living environment overseas.

To be Christ's church in the city was always difficult, especially since the traditional way of doing ministry was originally developed for a rural setting. This rural ministry model does not satisfy the needs of the urban context. Church leaders struggle to keep all the church members within their fold, while church members are complaining about the lack of personal attention paid to them by church leaders. The city does have a very cruel way of destroying relationships.

### **CRUMA and the Local Church**

- CRUMA wants to serve the local church within the African Urban context by way of relevant and practical theological research and training. Basic, refresher and further theological training is offered for pastors, church leaders, elders and deacons, as well as training for the laity that want to serve within their congregations and communities.
- Through a **Community Development Focus**, CRUMA wants to initiate and coordinate mercy ministries in order to address the diverse and growing needs within urban communities.
- CRUMA is also committed to the publication and distribution of Reformational research and books, particularly material that is relevant to Urban Mission work.

### ***CRUMA?***

CRUMA was formed in 2005 when two Reformed congregations in Pretoria (Rietvallei and Pretoria-Brooklyn), in close cooperation with Mukhanyo Theological College (Dr. Flip Buys) and Prof. Derrick Mashau (TSP-Potchefstroom), started to focus on the new urban realities that were facing the local church within the growing cities of Pretoria and Johannesburg.

