



**Figure 5.1 Reconnaissance: Stage one of the Action Research Model**

### 5.3 Getting to know street children

#### 5.3.1 Making contact with street children organizations

After making the decision with Magdel to make service to street children the basis for our further studies we set about trying to make contact with a group of them. This proved more difficult than expected because other than driving to the centre of Pretoria and looking for street children on the streets we had no idea of how we could get close to them. After trying for two weeks using various leads such as *Learn to Live* in Cape Town and the *Street Children's Alliance* in Gauteng we ended up frustrated and unsuccessful. It was however through a chance conversation with a personal friend that we heard of the involvement of the Doxa Deo Church's work with street children from Pretoria. We contacted Mr Johannes Earle and were invited to meet him and some of the executive members from POPUP (Pretoria Upliftment Project). Johannes explained that he was the "house father" to 30 street children who formed part of the POPUP project.

On 11 May 2001 we met with Johannes at the POPUP site near Salvokop in Pretoria. I explained to him who we were, what our background was, what knowledge and skills we had and the reason why we were investigating places to get involved. We asked him if he saw a role for us in his project with the street children. We mentioned very clearly that we wanted to parallel our