STUDENT AGENCY AND LIFELONG FAITH

Teacher-directed and student-led discipleship in PNG secondary schools

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1. WHY THIS RESEARCH

Problem: High youth disengagement and retention loss in PNG Adventist churches (PNGUM, 2025; Nebare, 2026), despite extensive school spiritual programming.
Gap: Limited PNG evidence links student leadership in school discipleship to faith ownership after graduation.

Aim: Examine student agency, faith formation and reported faith retention after school.

2. HOW THE RESEARCH WILL BE CONDUCTED

Design: Explanatory sequential mixed methods with a retrospective survey.
Sequence: Survey (QUAN), then case studies (QUAL) to explain survey patterns.
Analysis: ANOVA, regression and thematic analysis, integrated in joint displays.

3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

MRQ How does student agency relate to reported faith retention after school?

P1 Does faith retention differ by leadership involvement and school type?

P2 How do teachers support or limit student agency?

P2 How do students describe ownership of their spiritual lives?

4. PLANNED RESEARCH

P1: Survey: PNGATSA graduates, ≥217 valid responses targeted from ≈500 registrants.

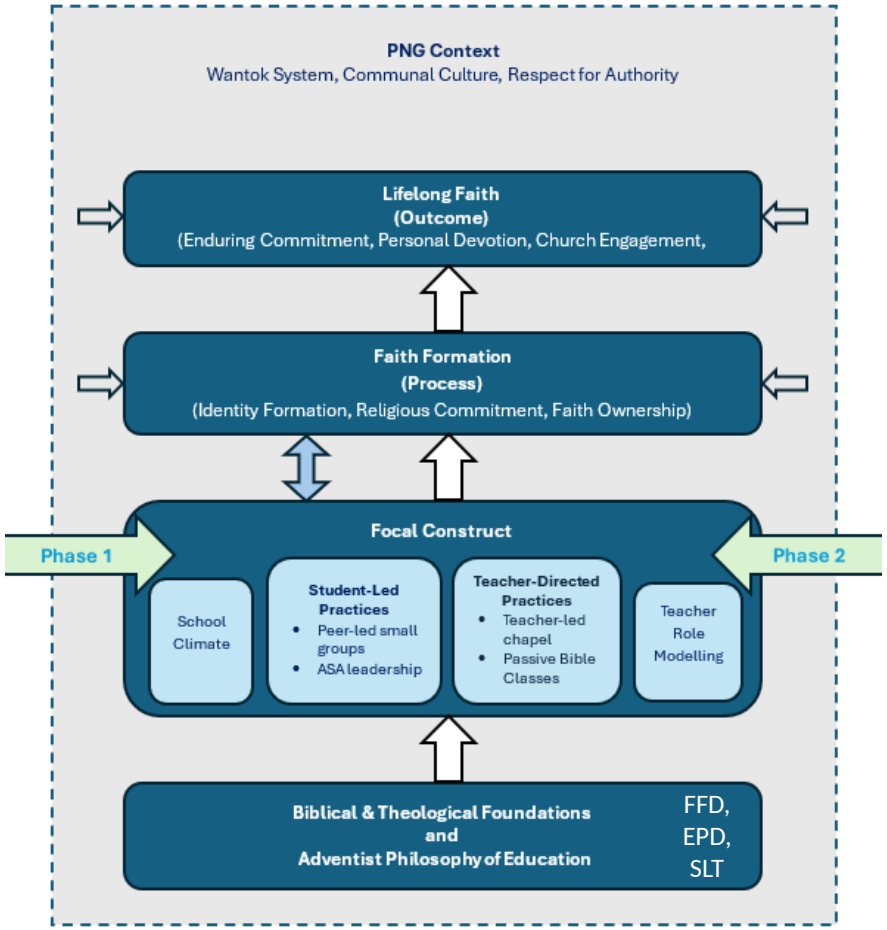
P2. Cases: 6 staff, 10–12 current Grade 11–12 students at Adventist day and boarding schools.

Purpose: Inform discipleship practice.

Limits: Associations, not lifelong or causal effects. May miss disengaged graduates.

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK: DISCIPLESHIP, FAITH FORMATION AND RETENTION

Hypothesis: *Greater student agency supports faith ownership and retention after school.*



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