

## LANCASHIRE DISTRICT MISSION LINK – PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In February this year (2017), the Lancashire District sent a mission team of four people – Rev. Paul Davis (Chair of the District), Mrs Carolyn Hothersall, Rev. Janet Pybon, and Rev. Eddie Sykes – to meet with our partner church, the Utd Church of Papua New Guinea, and in particular to strengthen links with Rarongo School of Theology and Mission, whose principal, Garo Kilagi, served as a Minister in the Lancashire District some years ago.

From the day of our arrival in PNG until our departure, we were welcomed with such gracious hospitality throughout our visit. While in Port Moresby we met with senior officers of the UCPNG, including the Moderator – Rev Bernard Siai – who shared the challenges and joys they were experiencing in the life of the church. We were graciously welcomed as we visited nearby villages, and enthused by the worship in which we shared.



In Rarongo, we experienced daily life at the school including the power-cuts and lack of water. Sleeping under nets and lathering ourselves daily in oily mosquito repellent went hand-in-hand with the exhaustion of the heat and humidity. While there we were involved in leading worship, speaking to groups of women, as well as being involved in some of the theology teaching at the school. One of the aims of the visit was to raise the profile of women in church leadership roles, as these opportunities are only just emerging in PNG.



rewarding experience.

We were blessed richly by the community of staff and students, as we shared our stories and the faith we all proclaimed. We were showered with gifts of home-grown fruit from individuals and families, and many other gifts of beads, bags and for the women a specially made meri-blouse each.

It was an amazing time through which we learned so much. It has had a massive impact on us and we were privileged to have been part of such an uplifting and