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Dear Friends,

Electricity can ease manual labor, cook or cool food, enable communication to the other side of the world, run medical machinery and give light in the darkness. It's taken for granted in countries with reliable power. Some towns



Using calculators for a new way of reporting school progress.

in PNG have few interruptions of their power, while others have long blackouts. Most rural villages have no connection to an electrical grid. However, villagers can buy inexpensive hand sized solar panels to charge batteries on small lights or their basic phones. Unfortunately running a generator consumes expensive fuel so villages do without many of life's conveniences or improvements. It only power was free.

This is one of the challenges for PIM teachers at village schools. There is no power for a computer so they have never acquired any computer skills. PIM's three-week January course led by Anne Thomas and her friend Christine changed that. 40+ Teachers began practicing typing on the 4 laptop computers which were setup with the appropriate programs. For many it was their first opportunity to touch a computer. Teachers were instructed how to use a program to organize their written stories into booklet form. The photocopier and printers had a

workout keeping up with all their projects. Anne was thrilled that many also attended an optional advanced writer's workshop.

One of the participants gave a short description about what they learned. "Writing is all about the "W" questions, who, what, where, when, and why? Plus ending with, how." At the closeup meeting it was a privilege to hear the reading of a devotional written by one of the teachers, plus several more stories from other participants. Teachers have returned to their classrooms. Refreshed and beginning another year. Teaching when taken seriously, requires hard work because not everyone learns quickly. Patience and diligence by a teacher is needed throughout the school year. As Christian teachers



equip these young minds with tools they need for their future vocations, we trust that the Holy Spirit will also use what is taught and bring students into a walk of faith. Many things in life including power are not free, but this we know, that *the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Thank you for your part in the outreach of PIM,
Douglas Heidema



Christine showing teachers the BLOOM program for making books