

# meet MARIA AMIHAN



## FAITH HOUSE THAILAND

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### her story

Maria Nelma Amihan is from the Philippines and originally worked in pharmaceutical sales. In the 1990s, God used the time she spent volunteering at her local church to stir her heart toward the country of Myanmar, which has the longest-running civil war in the world. Maria's initial attempts to follow her calling fell through, and so she sought God's direction, as she strongly felt that is where He was calling her. Then Maria was directed to the border of Myanmar, in Maesot, Thailand, where she saw the migrant children in such desperate conditions and knew that was where she was to fulfill her calling.

In 2002, Elpis Ministries was formed to begin to teach the children to read since they were not allowed to attend a Thai school. What began as a literacy program developed into a migrant school of 35 children, and today the school has 310 students!

Due to desperate conditions, many of these children's parents were not able to care for them, and so many were being forced into human trafficking. It was because of this that in 2004 Maria and her team changed course in their ministry and Faith House was born. The team initially identified two girls who were high risk and provided them with care, schooling, life skills, and the saving message of Jesus Christ. Upon entering Faith House, many of these girls were malnourished, sickly, insecure, and distrustful, but through the years Faith House has changed the trajectory of their lives. Faith House now cares for 30 girls, and many of them have become community leaders, Bible study teachers, and worship leaders. Someday, these young ladies may return to their homeland, and they are now equipped to reach Myanmar with the Gospel and continue the work that Maria began.

### recent prayer requests

Thank you for asking about our welfare. They have been talking what to do with our girls to minimize the danger of COVID-19. Some were able to go to relatives in the countryside but they advised those from the refugee camps to stay.

Thailand is requiring foreign nationals who enter Thailand to present a medical certificate showing that one is COVID-19 free and a \$100,000 medical insurance. It will be difficult to enter Thailand. Maria is currently in the Philippines and unable to return to Thailand at this time.

Praise God that Paw Poe, one of Faith House's girls, received her Myanmar ID card. She was abandoned by her parents and felt she didn't have any personal identity. She will be graduating high school this month and going to university.

Praise God that the Faith House girls were able to show the Superbook Bible stories in the Burmese language to villagers and show a Superbook movie to children who attend Saturday Children's church.

Praise God that four of the girls received cash gifts for their exemplary work in high school and eight will graduate middle school this month.

Pray for everyone at Faith House that they stay healthy during the Coronavirus. Also pray for them as they are disappointed that The Bible Chapel's team had to cancel their trip to Faith House this month.

Please pray for Isabel, one of Faith House's staff. She underwent thyroidectomy on February 14 and the biopsy came back malignant. She has asked for a one year leave. This leaves Grace as the only missionary left at Faith House. Because of this, Maria is considering going back to Maesot earlier. Please pray for all of the staff and the girls. They need God's strength, wisdom, comfort and healing.

March is final exam month for schools in Thailand. Please pray for their girls to pass with good grades.