# 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.

# JANUARY 2024

### **PRAISE**

- ❖ Praise God that we were able to reach more than 1,000 children and adults for Christmas Evangelism and gift giving. We organized 4 Christmas parties with the outreach as well as visitors. We were able to give an invitation to received Jesus Christ. May those who raised their hands truly come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
- For Faith House, Christmas and New Year party was rolled into one. Praise God though we had fun, we were also able to pray and worship when the New Year broke.
- Six university girls came home on vacation from school.
- Visited and prayed again for Win Min Khant, a youth attending the church who has a heart problem. His doctor said that he has to go back to the hospital once every 2 months instead of monthly. Hallelujah!
- Namfon will have her graduation march on January 29.
- On New Year's Eve the college girls organized Miss Faith House competition. Six joined. It was hilarious!

## **PRAYER**

- Please pray that Vergie, a new volunteer, will be issued a long term visa.
- Those people who raised their hands to accept Jesus will truly get to know Him personally.
- Our goal is to expand our home Bible studies. Pray that God will bring more local staff.
- Paw Poe will be outstanding in her internship and will be able to find a job soon after graduation.
- Please pray for Win Min Khant, a youth attending our church who has a heart problem. Praying that he will be a recipient of God's miraculous healing.
- Next Meeting Wednesday, February 14, 2024@ 8:00 AM EST