

## 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.

## AUGUST 2022

### PRAISES + + +

- + Paw Poe was granted a scholarship by Wells Mountain Initiative. Praise God!
- + Hallelujah. Four girls passed the Placement Test and interview for university.
- + We were able to bring the girls to a resort and waterfalls during a long weekend.
- + The water system has been installed already. Now we can enjoy clean water. We still use our well.
- + Faith House church was able to organize a children's soccer football match. They really enjoyed it.
- + Growing number of children joining the Children's Church.
- + We were able to bring out of town the Wednesday Bible study group of Gigi. One said she has never been out of Maesot since she came 15 years ago. God again protected us from the police.
- + Faith House girls participated in the tribute to the king in their respective schools.

### PRAYER > > >

- > Please pray for our girls' safety as they travel to get a visa. Pray too for completion of school documents, and adjustment to university life.
- > Pray for Namfon in her last year in university. She has papers to finish and an OJT internship.
- > Pray for the children attending the Sunday School that they will not lose enthusiasm in coming to church. That we will be able to disciple and direct them in a way that will not depart from it.
- > Please pray for a staff or volunteer to help in driving as we get the children every Sunday. There are many more who want to attend church but Maria could only make 2 trips.
- > Pray for unity, understanding of purpose, commitment, enthusiasm, and God's power to work in the lives of the staff and missionaries. Good cultural understanding and communication.
- > Ajima and two other girls will join in the provincial dancing competition.
- > Pray for the girls' spiritual growth in the word, worship, praise, and thanksgiving. Also that they will be able to understand discipline in studies, given tasks and responsibilities.