

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.

JANUARY 2023

PRAISES + + +

- + We were able to bring some members of the Bible study groups to La Or garden for Father's Day.
- + We were able to organize 4 evangelistic Christmas parties with a total attendance of 1,050 adults and children. Thank you Lord for the donors we were able to buy blankets, pillows, rice, oil and groceries. It exceeded our budget but also our expectation so we are so happy. The girls worked hard with staff.
- + The Principal of Maepa Nure Elementary School gave permission for Maria to pray and share the Christmas story. He also invited us to come next year.
- + In all four events Faith House girls presented songs, dances and a drama. The drama is about Jesus being there all along. It had a good impact on the audience.
- + Faith House girls were God's instruments in all our activities. They helped in carrying boxes, decors, ushering, handling the program, etc. We treated them to dinner for all their hard work.
- + Four girls from university were able to come home for Christmas and New Year. Khin Khin Wai got straight A mark during her first semester.
- + Thank you Bible Chapel for the donation of Christmas buckets to the outreach in Blessing and FH.
- + The Lord sent individuals to give to the Christmas bucket to Elpis School and Maepa Nure School.
- + Praise God for enabling us to be a vessel of Christmas joy and to declare Jesus this season.

PRAYER > > >

- > It is the cold but dry season in Maesot. It is also the flu and cough season. Many are sick.
 - > Spiritual growth of the teenage boys attending the adult service.
 - > For small children in different villages to be inspired to continue to come and join Children's Church.
 - > For increased spiritual gifts and creativity of staff to nurture the church members, and children
 - > Special prayer for our girl Saisudar. She has lost interest in school and spiritual things.
 - > Please pray for Ku Thang to be able to get his pink ID card and Thai driver's license.
 - > We need more ministry workers to help in Bible studies and follow up.
 - > Please pray for the graduating Ajima, Angema, Bang On and Wipa to be accepted in the courses and university they applied.
- We are blessed and protected by your intentional prayers. Thank you so much!