

## 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

### PRAISES

1. Praise be to God who orchestrated all things so that Paw Poe will be given a 10 year ID. It was released last Oct. 1, 2021. Hallelujah!!! This ID is needed for girls to be able to enroll in university. It is also needed so that people can stay in Thailand legally.
2. Gigi & Maria are now in a quarantine hotel in Bangkok. They arrived Sept. 29. Praise the Lord. It was a long journey just to file for a visa and a certificate of Entry.
3. The team and the girls have resumed going to the village.
4. Three Faith House girls applied to work in packaging while waiting for their school to open face to face.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please pray for Paw Poe as she prepares to go to Chiangmai to attend face to face classes. Adjustment in new environment, adjustment with other girls in the apartment, and adaptation to speaking mostly Thai language.
2. Please pray for wisdom for the girls for career/ courses direction.
3. Please pray for Faith House staff Saya Naung Naung, Sayama Esther, Saya La Ring. They need more training in handling girls who had been abused or trafficked.