

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

Maria praises God that Covid 19 hasn't limited God from moving in their ministry. He has been abundant in faithfulness, joy, peace, goodness and provision.

Faith House praises God for their partnership with The Bible Chapel and for the recent financial gift which has paid school fees.

Namfon, who is studying at Chiang Mai University, had to leave school because of the virus and couldn't get home to Faith House because the bus service isn't running. Praise God she was offered a place to live.

Maria thanks God that Faith House was able to buy rice to give to migrant families.

Praise God that house parent, Saya Naung Naung, and the girls have been able to work in the vegetable garden.

Maria is still in the Philippines recovering from injuries she suffered after being hit by a motorcycle. She is now wanting to return to Thailand but her visa expires on May 28 and Gigi's on May 18. Thailand now requires people to pass a COVID-19 test and put up a \$100,000 insurance policy before entering. Please pray for God's provision as they wait on the Lord's timing.

Please pray for Saya Naung Naung and Sayaman Esther, that a 10 year Thai ID will be approved for them and they will be able to stay in Thailand.

Pray for creative ways for the staff to teach the girls while they are all together. Pray that they won't become restless.

Pray for Isabel, who is in the Philippines, and needs treatment for Thyroid cancer.

Pray for two girls studying in university in Myanmar that they will continue to grow in the Lord even though they are away.

There's no clear announcement from the schools yet as to when they are opening. Pray for the girls to be patient and grow in the Lord as they wait.