

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

Praise God that the Thai government schools opened even though the Burmese schools have not. Maria thanks God that the teachers from the girls' school come to Faith House every Wednesday to teach.

Maria praises God that Paw Poe passed her university interview. She is planning on going to the same Chiangmai University that another FH girl, Namfon, is studying at.

Praise God the Covid has calmed down in Thailand and the government might be lifting the lockdown on August 31. Maria is thankful that the girls and staff have restarted their outreach in the local villages.

Pray for Maria and Gigi to successfully get a new Thai visa so they can return to Thailand from the Philippines.

Please pray for Isabel who is also in the Philippines. She finished radiation for her thyroid cancer. Pray that her scan and blood test results will all come back negative.

Please pray for protection from the dengue, chickungunya and zika viruses. The rainy season is coming and it brings with it a lot of mosquito borne diseases. Last year was a very difficult year as the staff nursed eleven girls who had dengue & chickungunya fever.

There are still some FH girls stuck in Myanmar. Please pray that the border of Maesot and Myanmar will open so that they can get back to Faith House. Pray for their safety while they are in Myanmar.

Pray for Paw Poe, that she will adjust easily to university life. She has only lived in the refugee camp and at FH. Pray that Namfon will be a real help to her and ask God that these two girls will continue to be in God's Word and follow Him with their whole heart.

Pray for proper medical care for Aye Sandar Myint as she will have to have surgery because of an infection in her ear and a lump in her underarm. Pray that she will get a definite surgery date and that it will resolve her health problems.