

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.

prayer requests

Maria praises God for this past weekend's team building retreat! It was a great weekend of encouragement for everyone. She thanks The Bible Chapel for funding the weekend and for our partnership with her.

Faith House recently had a team building retreat for 32 girls, four missionaries, two pastors and their wives - 40 total people. Pray that God continues to bear fruit in each person's life as a result of the weekend, and that God would grow the people in even deeper love and unity with each other.

Pray for the 32 girls that are in the care of Faith House. Pray that the leadership can continue to instill in them the love of Christ. They have many temptations and can make the decision to leave at any time. Pray also that the families allow them to stay. Pray that God draws each one to Himself and that they understand the deep love of their Heavenly Father.

Pray for Faith House's Bible study outreach. The girls teach the Bible to young children in the area. Pray that God opens the hearts of the children to learn more about Jesus and accept His gift of salvation. Pray for the girls as they learn to love and serve with God and other with good deeds.

Pray for the staff at Faith House. This is very stressful work. They don't often hear words of encouragement. Ask God to assure all of them that He will be with them and He will fight for them.

Pray for a girl named Rit. She is a street girl, an abandoned child and they are having difficulty with her. Due to her deprived background she steals things from other girls. This makes the other girls not like her which in turn makes her feel more unwanted. At times she fights with other girls.