

# 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

On September 26, Maria and Gie Gie, a Faith House staff member, were struck by a motorcycle while attempting to cross the street in Chiang Mai. Maria sustained a severe back injury and Gie Gie has a concussion. Praise God that they both survived. Also praise God that a Go Fund Me page raised all the money needed for Maria to have the needed back surgery.

Maria had spine fusion surgery at the T12 vertebrae which is just above the lumbar area. She is in a rehab facility for about the next four weeks and is making progress. Pray that she gets wonderful, compassionate care, that she can rest and recuperate and that she will make a full recovery. Pray that she will be a strong testimony of the love of Jesus to all she comes into contact with. Pray that she will have peace of mind and heart, knowing that God is in control of this entire situation and she can rest in Him.

Gie Gie has a concussion and had a brain bleed. Pray for her full recovery as well. Pray that she gives herself time to completely heal so the concussion doesn't cause further problems.

Please pray for Grace as she takes over operations of Faith House in the interim. Pray that she will look to the Lord for His wisdom, guidance, and strength. Pray that the girls are on their best behavior and that they see this as their opportunity to serve more at Faith House. Pray that the girls joyfully take care of each other and mature in their faith and personal responsibilities through this difficulty. May God be glorified in this!

Pray for Grace and Isabelle as they struggle with their memories of the accident. They were there that night and saw the accident and are struggling emotionally.

Pray that people in the community and the church would step up and minister to Maria and everyone at Faith House at this time. They specifically need help driving students the last week of October. Pray that fellow Christians will minister selflessly and that God will be glorified in all of this.