

"RAPHAEL" A HAVEN IN A SEA OF MISERY

At a place called Dehra Dun, in the north of India, there is a spot known as "Raphael" (named after the Archangel of Healing). It was founded by Group-Captain Cheshire, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C. and his wife, Mrs. Sue Ryder Cheshire O.B.E. As well as being the Headquarters for the Far East and South East Asia Homes, it serves as a model for all established and future Homes in these countries.

To have fought for liberty and justice was not enough for Cheshire. After the War, he wanted to do something positive, to preserve the things he had fought for and to help build a better world. Thus, he was inspired to establish the Cheshire Homes, now spread to many countries, for the relief of suffering.

Living at "Raphael", there are approximately 120 people in the Leprosy Colony, 70 children in the Mental Unit and 54 normal, healthy but destitute children in the "Little White House", as well as a 40 bed ward and a T.B. unit in the hospital. The Cheshire's hope eventually that there will be 600 sick and destitute being cared for at the International Centre.

Any of the patients or children at "Raphael" may be "adopted" or "endowed" by a group, club, school or by an individual, the annual cost ranging from \$50 to \$100. "Adoption" covers food, clothing, medical attention and schooling, - "endowment" covers the cost of accommodation and the very necessary maintenance on existing buildings. In each case the sponsor receives a photograph, details of background and regular news of the patient or child. With a number of people contributing (e.g. 10 people at 20 cents weekly, or 40 at 5 cents) the amount of money outlaid by each person is small, compared to the warmth and satisfaction of knowing you have relieved suffering and probably kept alive a human being who might otherwise have died in degradation and despair. Also apart from the money it is wonderful for these people to know that someone really cares about them.

Since "Raphael" is not situated in a town or a City, as most other Cheshire Homes are, International help had to be sought, and, therefore, Australia, as well as New Zealand and England, has the privilege of assisting

stations, in the streets, left to fend for themselves by begging - or taken to "Raphael" in desperation by families who, through illness, death or poverty, were no longer able to look after them) also found a home at "Raphael", where they are loved, cared for properly and educated, so that they can eventually go out into the world and make a life of their own.

The people now living in the Leprosy Colony were found by Group-Captain Cheshire, at the garbage tip, which was the "home" to them at that time. Shocked at the conditions under which they were compelled to live, he decided to try and help them. Many people in India cannot understand that leprosy can now be cured and, out of fear, refuse to have anything to do with anyone suffering from the disease (which, by the way, is not as contagious as T.B.). At "Raphael" - their new home - they are cared for and given every opportunity and encouragement to help themselves as much as possible. They are now able to live and function as human beings, instead of existing as cast-offs from the human race.

It is a sad fact that large numbers of people in certain countries of the world will die from starvation in the not too distant future. India will be the first and most badly affected country. It is already impossible to avert this disaster, no matter what help is given, but we can, in this small personal way, help to stem the tide, at least. No amount is too small. Distributed over many people, the results can be surprising.

Won't YOU please join us in this rewarding work?

For further information please contact :-

Mr. J. Graham,
5 Bradford Avenue,
KEW. Vic. 3101.

Miss J. Collins,
70, 587 Toorak Road,
TOORAK. Vic. 3142.