

children.

"It can be confusing for children to watch these images, so make sure they understand what they are seeing." He also stated "Help them understand what has occurred and gauge what the child's reaction is. Help them process their emotions."

School-age children will likely have a lot of questions. Like everyone else, they want to know why terrorism happens and how they can be safe. "Be very honest, but at the same time, you want to be able to reassure them," he said.

"Explain what happened, but also reassure them at the same time."

The Drawings

*All of us were affected by the events of September 11th, 2001, but it was the youngest generation who was affected most of all. The innocence so profoundly disrupted that day is nowhere better demonstrated than in the drawings created shortly after the attacks by thousands of children. In their straightforward depictions, these works, both heartbreaking and heartwarming are testaments to the human instinct to bear witness, provide comfort, and attempt to make sense out of the unthinkable.

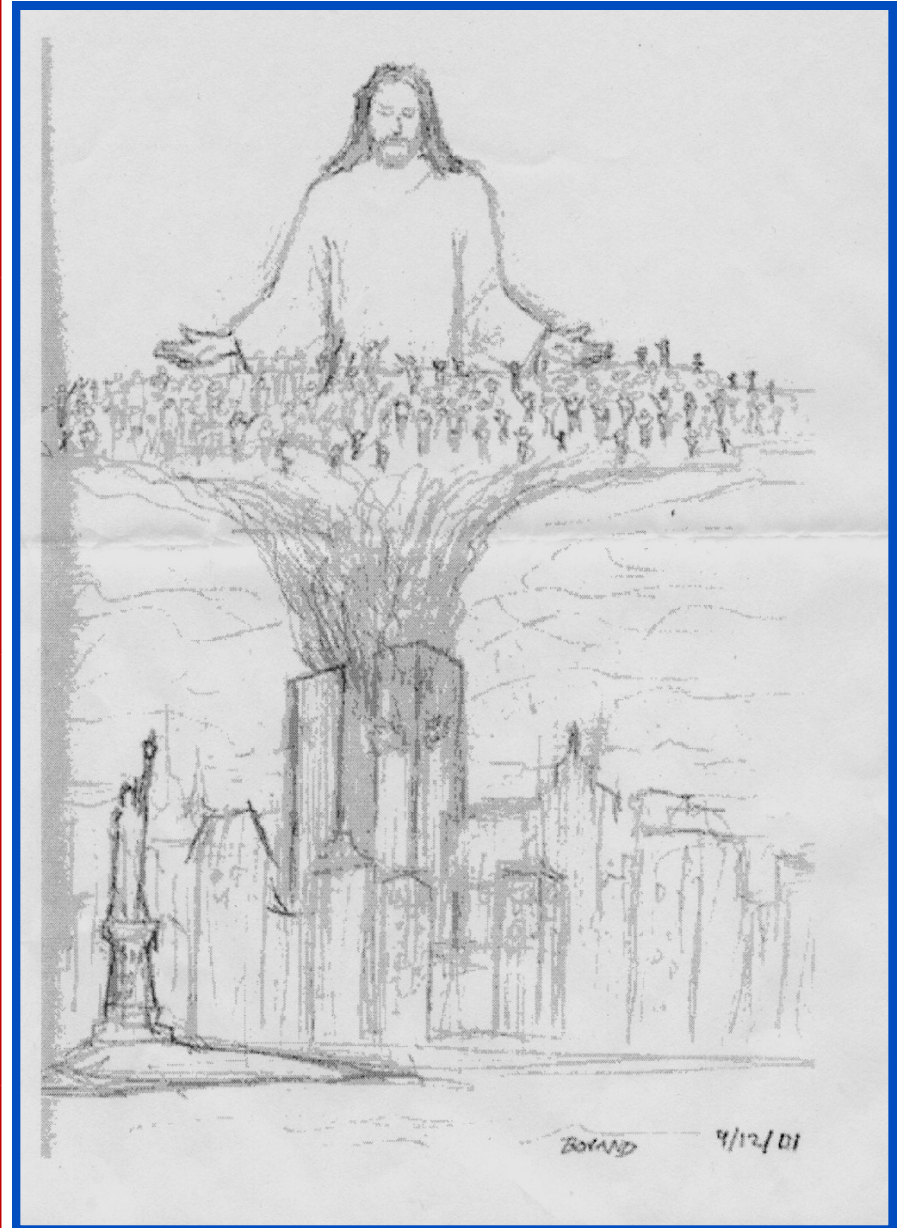


Commemorating the 10th anniversary of September 11th, there is a presentation of a collection of these drawings in Art for Heart: Remembering 9/11. This exquisite tome includes selections of artwork and messages from the New York University Child Study Center, the Art for Heart Program of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and Dear Hero and Notes of Hope collections, which have been acquired by the National September 11 Memorial and Museum.

*(excerpted from //www.artdaily.org)

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9/11 Tenth Anniversary



Through the eyes of a child.

A Flood of Hope

9/11 — Through the Eyes of Children

*In America's time of grief, their young words of wisdom echoed through the darkness.

Dozens of children wrote letters to the rescue workers who rushed to save those in need on September 11, 2001.

Whether they lived five miles away or 500, their sentiment hit home.

"Dear firefighters: I hope that you will help everybody that needs help. ...It must be hard not to cry because of everybody that is missing," wrote a ten year old.

Another wrote: "I admire your courage. I wish in some way that I could help you in New York... Your bravery is admired by millions of children in the USA."

Their letters said, in the simplest of ways, what all of America was thinking.

A seven-year old was living across the Hudson River in New York and here are his sentiments:

"We were close enough to smell the ashes and so close that we weren't allowed to go outside for recess the next day at school... and you could see the smoke and it was horrific," he wrote, chronicling the unforgettable images from ground zero.

A young girl remembers watching the horror unfold.

"I was in my first class in 5th grade and my English teacher, came in and she was repeating, turn on the TV, turn on the TV... It was scary because all the people were just running, trying to find their family members and it was so horrible."

A haven for rescue workers a block from the World Trade Center, the historic St. Paul's Chapel also became a clearinghouse of letters and drawings. Workers from the U.S. Postal Service brought 13,000 letters there. A twelve year old girl's letter was one of them, it reads as follows:

"When I wrote the letter, I was just, I was just hoping that maybe someone would read it, a firefighter and they'd be tired and they'd be sweating, and then maybe hurting and then sad," she wrote. "And they'd really be empowered by it and just give them a little strength to go back out there."

A nine-year-old little boys letter cried out for what everyone wanted: answers.

"I was a little sad at the moment and I really wanted to know why someone did this. Like who did it and why they did it," he said.

St. Paul's Chapel built an archive for these treasures. Many still hang there as a tribute to heroes, honor and hope.

"I never thought that my letter would be here," one little girl said. "It will always be a lasting memory for those who went through it and those who will come to know of it."

Helping Children Understand

In the post—9/11 world, it's inevitable that children will see images like those from ground zero and have questions about them.

A child psychiatrist at the NYU Child Study Center stressed that while adults should allow kids to learn about attacks by watching TV and seeing photographs, it is necessary to limit their exposure to images, particularly for young