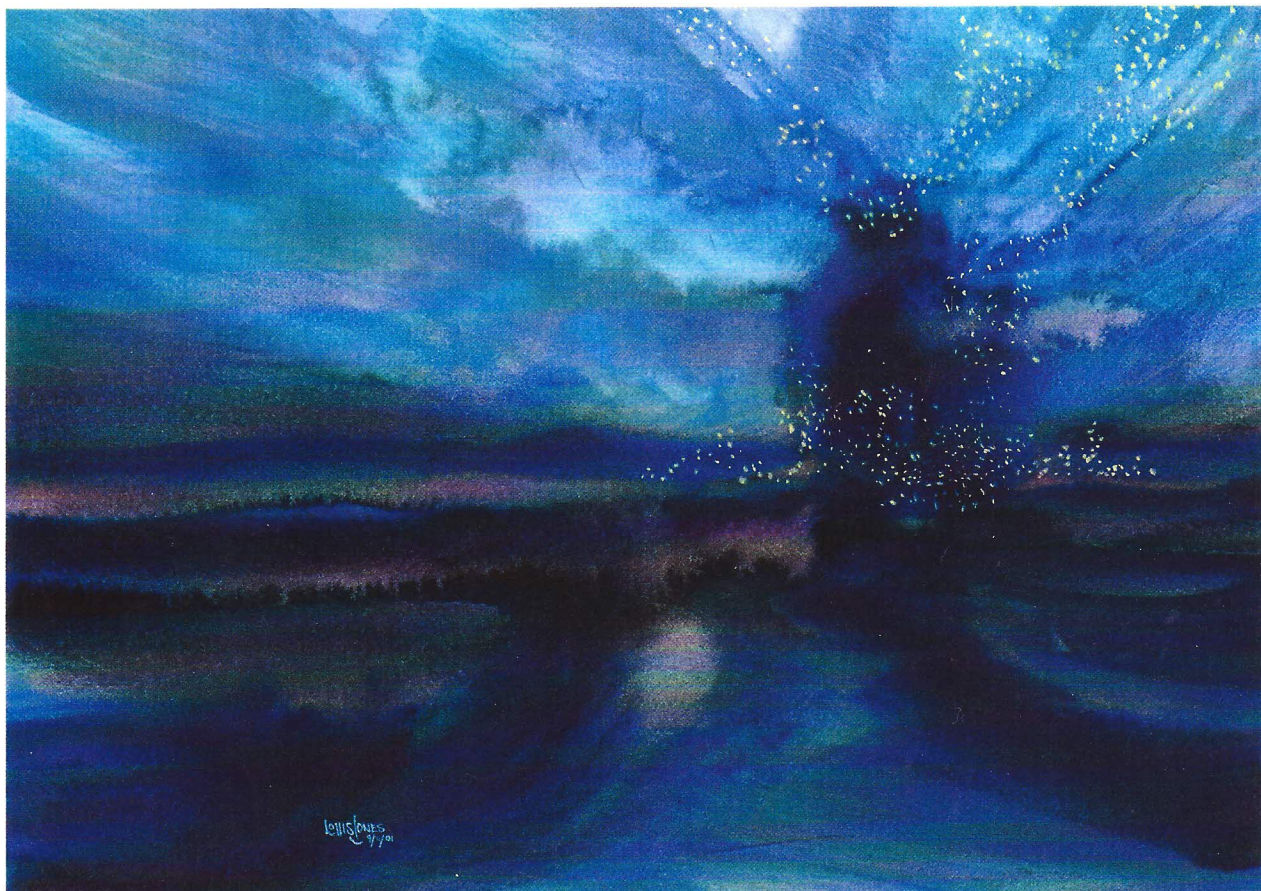


# THE DAILY BREAK



"9/11/01" © 2001 LOUIS JONES

## LOUIS JONES

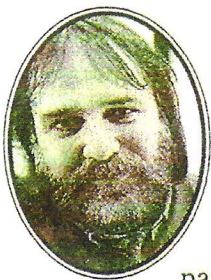
*"I wanted to let some of the pain go"*

**I** PAINTED IT before I went to bed that night, on the 11th. I was hurting so bad, like everybody else. I had to find some way I could live with it.

And I wanted to let some of the pain go.

In the painting, everything is dark. And yet, it was such a beautiful, blue-sky day. As my dad said, a bluebird day.

Then this tragedy, out of nowhere. The shock of it.



The painting is not about how things appeared, but how we felt. To me, that is when art is at its purest anyway.

And it was such a paradox: How can this be happening on this beautiful day, in America? Who could hate this much?

I couldn't think that so many people died and it didn't mean something.

That's how I knew I had to look at it as a beginning, not an end.

The only light you see in my painting are all these little, teeny dots of light. I'm not going to enforce my beliefs on anybody else, but I think we continue. I can't say how we continue, but we continue.

If you look at it as this is a beginning for those souls, and a new beginning for us, then it has more meaning. You have these little clouds of light, leaving the towers, almost swirling away from the towers.

I have it on display at our Lynnhaven Mall gallery. The second people see it, they know what it is.

It's about hope, and carrying on.

■ Louis Jones is a Virginia Beach artist and part owner of the Louis and Susan Jones Gallery at Lynnhaven Mall and Dominion Towers. His paintings are on the covers of the "Conversations with God" books. He has not yet reproduced his painting or set a price, but plans to have prints available later this month. All proceeds will go to the firefighters' families. Contact him at 463-1443 or 625-6505.