A wife’s frantoic hope (continued from page A8)

through Manhattan to the Port Authority. By the time I got to the Port Authority, there at 42nd Street, no buses were running out of Manhattan. Everything was closed.

Over right behind that was the New York Waterway, they were like commuter ferries — 100 people, 200 people. I never saw the end of the line. There must have been 20,000 people in line.

Somebody said that Circle Line was running boats; they do tours, 500, 600, 800 people they hold.

“I got on the third Circle Line boat to New Jersey, and Cindy picked me up five miles out of the city. I was like in my house by 2:30 in the afternoon.”

Any disagreement they may have had was forgotten by this point.

“I tell him to this day, he didn’t make a wrong turn all day long,” says Cindy, who has since become a teacher.

“Whatever he did was the right thing to do because he made it home, and he was home early. He has friends of his who left, who actually didn’t get home until the next day. It was hope that he got home.”

Brian would say that his wife understated the matter.

“There were five of us that day: Bob, Joe and Steve died,” he said. And on the one hand there were two of us who live, me and Cindy. And they had 17,000 people who were evacuated and got out.

“For me personally, it was a very bad day. It’s been a very bad many years. But you really think that after something like this, you kind of put things in your life in perspective.

“For me, I was always the one owning a business, work, work, work, what you got to do. After that I became the father — I still work a lot — I became the father who did the bake sales at the school and the book sales, kind of things to give back a little bit because I always felt that was important. When they need something, I can take the time to do it. So I did change me for the better, I believe.”

The Brancos have one child, a daughter, who is 16 now.

“It’s changed our family,” says Cindy. “It was always about the nails, the shoes, the hair, the jewelry, whatever you could buy. Now I know you could buy.

“Things aren’t perfect — I don’t have a perfect marriage.” Cindy has been involved in the tours since last November, and gives up two weekends a month during the summer to guide visitors on a 75-minute loop. Brian works six or eight hours a month, he said.

“I feel it’s important for people to understand what happened,” he says. “We do appreciate everybody coming on these tours, because that shows you care and want to know what happened. For me, it’s one thing where you walk around with a guy with a flag and he can tell you the facts. Here I think it’s very important that you experience the personal connection. To me that’s very important, that you want to know — everybody can read the facts, the facts are the facts. It’s that personal connection, which to me was always very important. That’s why we’re doing it.”

There’s another reason, Cindy says.

“One thing that I ask of most of the groups that come through — don’t let what happen here stop you from doing stuff. The terrorists’ goal is to make you afraid. Their goal is to make you afraid to live, to travel, to go, to do. Don’t let them make you afraid. Because if they make you afraid enough not to do stuff, they win. I tell my daughter all the time, ‘We’re going to go and do, Angel, and we’re not going to be afraid.'”

Development of the World Trade Center Memorial and Museum, which will feature waterfalls cascading down the original footprints of the twin towers, surrounded by trees; in between, a museum; the Freedom Tower (tallest, at right), a transportation hub and a performing arts center.

SOURCE: www.national911memorial.org

## Final Project: A description with side effects you want.##

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