

# SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU SURVIVED

*By Elia Zedeño*

*May 17, 2004*

On Friday, I was able . . .

- To *stand* on solid ground where solid steel once stood simply because Tania survived;
- To *envision* myself standing by the copy machine on the 73<sup>rd</sup> floor simply because Gerry survived;
- To *internalize* the words “we don’t have to have all the answers” simply because Brendan survived;
- To *witness* the tremendous amount of energy spent in healing our wounds simply because Carrie survived;
- To *prepare* myself for delayed mental response simply because Holly survived;
- To *understand* that men do have feelings and should not be afraid to express them simply because Manuel survived;

You see, my newly found friends,

On Friday, I was able . . .

- To *recognize* that it’s okay to be a scary-cat;
- To *care* about others even if I do not know them;
- To *come to terms* with the suffering 9/11 brought to our loved ones;
- To *thank* all who witnessed the events I was to close and/or too scared to see for myself;
- To *practice compassion* for those who still feel the throbbing pain of 9/11;
- To *observe* that given the circumstances, all our feelings can be classify under one word: ‘normal’

. . . this simply because ALL OF YOU survived.