



The President's Perspective



IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

There is no such thing as coincidence or chance. Nothing happens accidentally or coincidentally. This fact was vividly underscored last week through the tragic incident that occurred in an Atlanta courtroom.

After killing three people in the courthouse and one outside, Brian Nichols was the subject of the largest manhunt in Atlanta history. For 27 hours, Nichols was a fugitive from justice, hiding out most of the time in the apartment of Ashley Smith, the 33-year-old mother of two. Many would say that Ashley, a committed Christian who just four years ago held her husband in her arms while he died, the victim of a violent stabbing, was in the wrong place at the wrong time. The fact is, she did not see it that way. Throughout her entire ordeal, she kept telling her captor that, "it is a miracle that you were not killed by the police." She reminded him that he had a purpose for living, and that it could be that he would experience God's forgiveness and minister to others in prison who were in the same situation as he was. I was amazed to watch Brian Nichols' hearing two days after his violent killing spree. The same man, who had been so violent two days earlier, was the picture of calmness. Had his encounter with Ashley, who read to him from the Bible and "The Purpose Driven Life" made Nichols realize that there was a purpose for him? I have heard from some, who are close to the situation in Atlanta that Nichols may have repented of his sin and trusted Christ. Whether or not that is true remains to be seen.

Reality is this, Ashley Smith was in the RIGHT place at the RIGHT time. She understood her purpose for that moment and lived it. In Esther 4:14, Mordecai reminds his cousin, Esther, that God had a purpose for her being in the palace at that time. His words ring loud and clear, "who knows whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this." Each of us are living in this time in history for a reason. May we, as Ashley Smith did, recognize our purpose for each moment and live it without hesitation. Then, we will certainly hear, as I believe Ashley will, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

Dave Kistler

President,

H.O.P.E. Ministries International
www.hopeministriesonline.com