

Feature Film Tells Tale of Miraculous Ending to Hostage Situation

When Paramount's new film *Captive* hits theaters Sept. 18, viewers can expect to see a thrilling drama about the power of God. But for Ashley Smith, the movie is simply a dramatization of her real life story.

In 2005, Smith was held captive in her home for seven hours by Brian Nichols, a murderer who escaped from the Atlanta courthouse. She spoke with Nichols, reading portions of Saddleback Church Pastor Rick Warren's book *The Purpose Driven Life* to him, and eventually convinced him to let her go, which ultimately led to his surrender.

The experience changed Smith's life. "As we began to talk, I began to realize that God had kind of orchestrated this night for me to either change my life for the better or for my life to end if I didn't make specific decisions that night," she told *Charisma*. "As I look back on that night, it's pretty clear that God was trying to get a hold of me."

Smith believes that the experience gave her several opportunities to share her faith, including her 2005 book, *Unlikely Angel*. She has traveled across the country, sharing her incredible story with others, and now *Captive* brings her story to the widest audience yet.

"I talked with the producers and the director several different times. They were really wanting to make sure that I was happy and that the story really told my true life story," Smith said. "I don't think they could have done a better job doing that than what they've done already."

She pointed out that if viewers watch the film carefully, they

can catch a brief cameo of Smith and her children. *Captive* stars Kate Mara and David Oyelowo and premieres in theaters Sept. 18. —*Taylor Berglund*