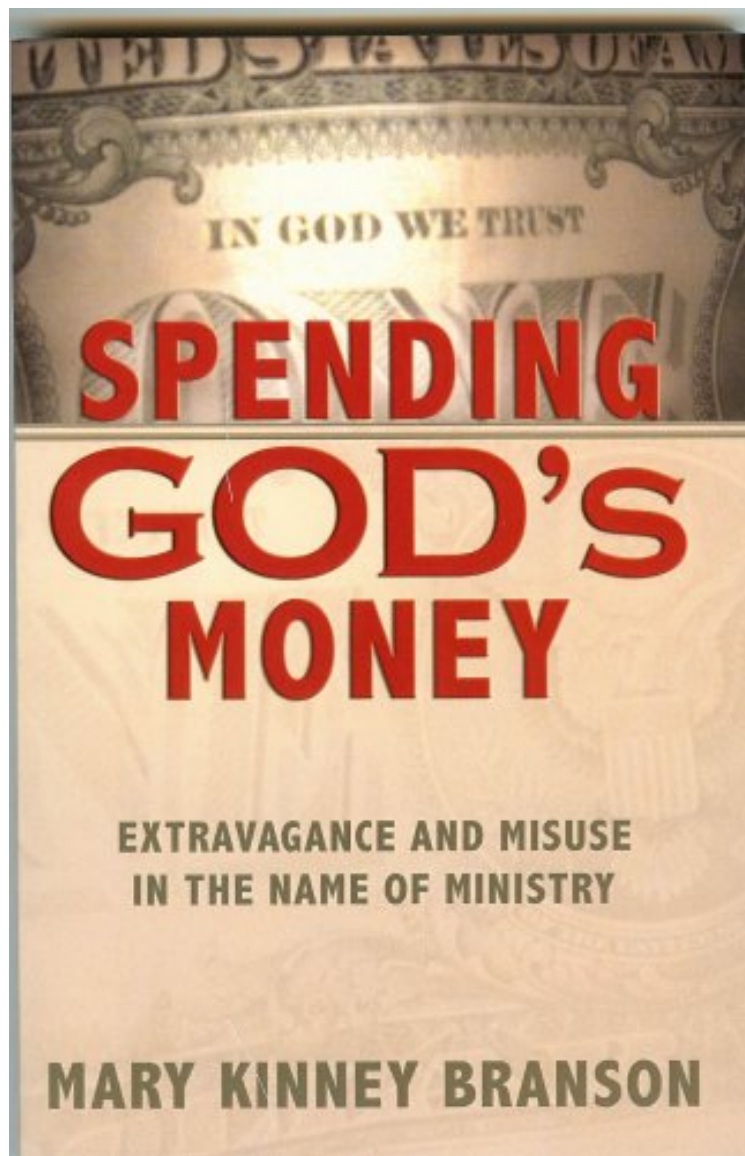


(Free pdf) Spending God's Money: Extravagance And Misuse In The Name Of Ministry-Fourth Revised Edition

## Spending God's Money: Extravagance And Misuse In The Name Of Ministry-Fourth Revised Edition

*Mary Kinney Branson*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2183845 in Books 2007-10-15 2007-01-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x 5.50 x .50l, Binding: Perfect Paperback250 pages | File size: 48.Mb

**Mary Kinney Branson : Spending God's Money: Extravagance And Misuse In The Name Of Ministry-Fourth Revised Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spending God's Money: Extravagance And Misuse In The Name Of Ministry-Fourth Revised Edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Having been a part of the SBC and even received ...By PaulHaving been a part of the SBC and even received funds from the SBC to plant a church, I could see, even in my immaturity, the sloppiness with which the finances were handled. This explains why.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another source to find the truth about an organization.By John DonaldsonGood information to include as a source to evaluate how organizations are run and to see how ego takes over!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Mess in the name of ministryBy Christa BrownWithout accountability, power corrupts. It's a truth as old as time, and Mary Kinney Branson shows us that religious institutions are no exception."Spending God's Money" reveals how a powerful religious organization goes wrong when it is unaccountable to the people who fund it. As a former insider, Branson provides details that implicate high Southern Baptist officials, and those details are not flattering. They reveal financial excess, extravagance and mismanagement among religious leaders, who then conceal their misdeeds by inducing departing employees to sign secrecy pacts.Saddest of all is that this mess is made in the name of "ministry" and with "God's money." It's money that good hard-working people put prayerfully into church offering plates because they believe it will be used to spread the gospel and because they've been taught to tithe. But as Branson demonstrates, too many Southern Baptist officials have so little respect for "God's money," and for the work of the people who give it, that they fail all measures of moral stewardship and instead treat "God's money" as though it were their own personal entitlement. And the Southern Baptist system has so little oversight that it effectively indulges them.If you want to know where the offering-plate dollars go, then read this book. If you want to know the inside story on how the largest Protestant denomination in the land really operates, then read this book. Branson writes from the vantage of love for her faith, but she doesn't hold back in seeking to open people's eyes to the reality of how "God's money" is being spent.

What's Happened to Our Contributions? A hundred years ago, collective giving seemed the perfect solution. What one individual or church couldn't do, combined efforts accomplished with ease. National agencies sprung up, offering to spend on our behalf. And we embraced them. Flash forward to days crammed with emails, overtime, and endless commuting. Time is often more valuable than money, and the desire to delegate spiritual privileges and responsibilities is even stronger. Surely national agencies and the professionals who oversee them can carry out the Great Commission faster and more effectively than harried homemakers and stressed executives. But as our time shrinks, national ministries grow larger. What started as lean groups of roll-up-your-sleeves workers have become Paul Bunyan-sized agencies, with excess fat and an overload of middle men draining a big chunk of the money intended for spreading the gospel. Elaborate national headquarters have shot up across America, with presidential office suites rivaling those of top CEOs. And giving isn't the same. Sending a check to a faceless organization doesn't generate the same fulfillment as pressing money into the hand of a young person heading for the mission field. Now the only smiling faces are those of mega leaders. And recently, their smiles have been fading as disenchanting givers voice their displeasure with irresponsible spending. The author of this on-the-edge book proposes an answer. After opening readers' eyes to the tremendous waste of their hard-earned dollars, she offers ways to bring joy and effectiveness back into giving.

**BRANSON'S LAW:** Mary Kinney Branson's groundbreaking new book begins and ends with a statement that every Christian should learn about stewardship. She says: It all boils down to a simple formula: The extent of misuse is directly proportionate to the distance between the giver and the spender. Mary is much too humble to call it this, but I think it should be called Branson's law. She has spent years agonizing and analyzing what goes wrong when Christian institutions become so large and so unaccountable to the people who fund them, that they lose touch with the higher purpose that they were intended to serve. Branson is not talking about geographical distance between the giver and the spender. She's not talking about organizational distance or social distance either. She is talking about the most fundamental distance possible in a religious community---spiritual distance. The spiritual distance is enormous between the humble widows who give their last mites for what they believe is God's work and the arrogant denominational executives and wanna-be mega-church preachers who spend their money to brand their names in the Christian marketplace. **SPENDING GOD'S MONEY: EXTRAVAGANCE AND MISUSE IN THE NAME OF MINISTRY** ought to be in the library of every church and on the bookshelf in every Christian home. Every church and every Christian has a responsibility to make sure that the resources they give to God's work are spent wisely. --Dr. Bruce Prescott Mainstream Oklahoma Baptist  
**About the Author**Mary Kinney Branson served six years on a local church staff and a combined 16 years as Editing Director for the Home Mission Board and Director of Marketing for the North American Mission Board. She is the author of 17 books and is president of AptWord, Inc., a literary service that assists writers in preparing their books for publication.