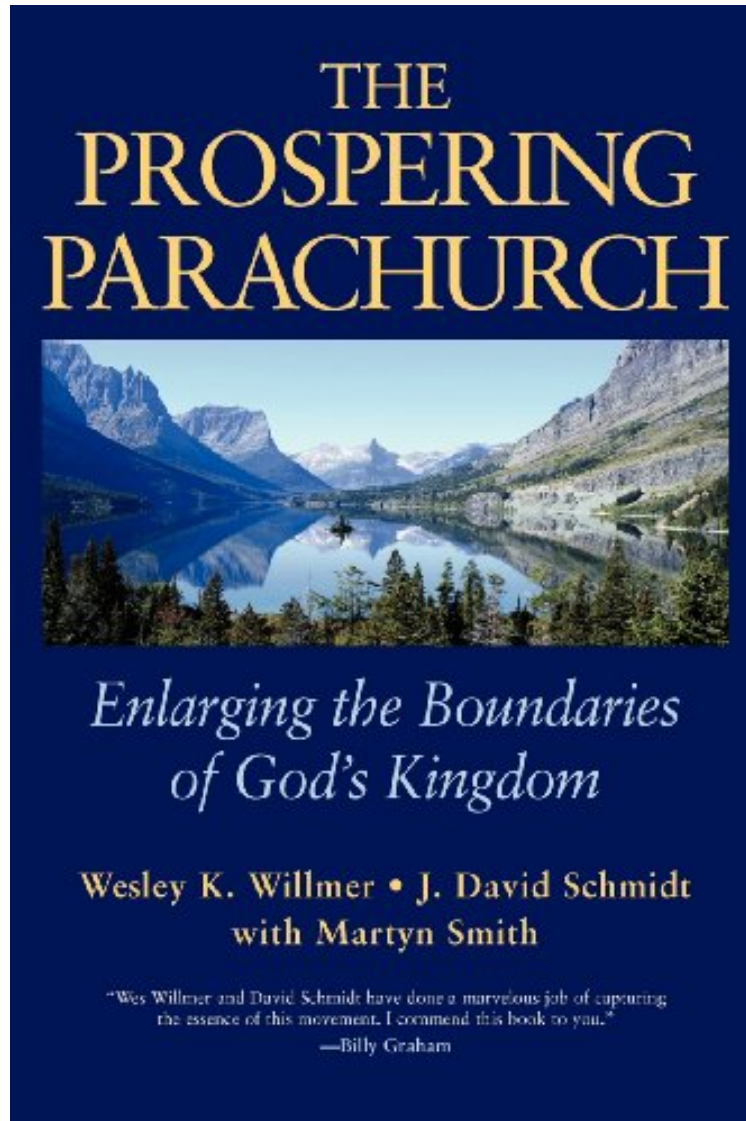


[Read free] The Prospering Parachurch: Enlarging the Boundaries of God's Kingdom

The Prospering Parachurch: Enlarging the Boundaries of God's Kingdom

Wesley K. Willmer, J. David Schmidt, Martyn Smith
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Wesley K. Willmer, J. David Schmidt, Martyn Smith : The Prospering Parachurch: Enlarging the Boundaries of God's Kingdom before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Prospering Parachurch: Enlarging the Boundaries of God's Kingdom:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Marriage of Parachurch, Church, and Denomination? By George Bullard It is time to take a new and unprejudiced look at the parachurch and its relationship to church and

denomination. This book makes a great contribution to this effort! North America is estimated to have more than 350,000 congregations. Alongside these congregations, there are estimated to be as many as 100,000 parachurch organizations. This book talks about the dramatic reshaping of the North American religious world that is happening through an ever increasing and ever growing collection of parachurch organizations. This is the "only book to look at the parachurch movement as a whole and describe what it is, where it came from, how it operates, who supports it, and what its future is likely to be." [xiv] The research that led to this book uncovers the movement's roots and clarifies the boundaries of the parachurch. The book is divided into four sections: What is the parachurch and why is it thriving? Who makes up the parachurch? How can the parachurch enlarge its impact? Where is the parachurch headed? An increasing percentage of services bought or used by congregations will come from the parachurch world rather than the denominational world. Denominations may actually broker many of these parachurch services. However, congregations are also willing to go directly to parachurch organizations to receive desired services. This book will either open up your eyes to this reality, or confirm what you have already known about this reality.

My friends and colleagues Wes Willmer and David Schmidt have done a marvelous job of capturing the essence of this [parachurch] movement. I commend this book to you. --Billy Graham The first book to take a comprehensive look at one of the profound paradigm shifts that is redefining religion--the parachurch: what it is, where it came from, how it operates, who supports it, and what is its future. Foreign missions, social services, health care, relief and development, camps, prisons ministry, evangelistic outreach, schools and colleges, rescue missions, and television and radio broadcasting are just a few of the forms that this burgeoning movement has taken. Willmer and Schmidt provide a new understanding of the transforming of God's Kingdom beyond traditional boundaries. They offer practical guidance to parachurch leaders on managing their complex mix of stakeholders in planning for a more strategic future. Those involved in both church and parachurch ministries and those who study religion will find the instructive text essential reading.

"God has chosen to work in dramatic ways through the parachurch in the last half of the twentieth century to significantly impact the world for Christ. My friends and colleagues Wes Willmer and David Schmidt have done a marvelous job of capturing the essence of this movement. I commend this book to you." (Billy Graham) From the Inside Flap A new breed of nonprofit organization? the parachurch? is dramatically reshaping the religious world? taking religion beyond the walls of the traditional church and providing infinite ways for people to link their lives to God. Some estimate there are as many as 100,000 parachurch organizations in North America alone and the number keeps rising. With monetary donations approaching donations to traditional churches, many parachurch organizations rank among the world's largest, most influential, and thriving nonprofits, including Campus Crusade for Christ, Habitat for Humanity, World Vision, Christian Broadcasting Network, and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. These organizations, and thousands of other faith-based groups, provide a societal safety net? bringing their perspective of faith to bear on practically every personal or social issue imaginable, from education to disaster relief, from global evangelism concerns to personal counseling, from children's summer camps to the treatment of addiction. Expressed faith in God has found a new voice in the parachurch. What is fueling this dynamic and diverse movement? properly described as religion gone entrepreneur? What distinguishes those parachurch organizations that are most successfully enlarging the boundaries of God's work in the world? What challenges lie ahead? And how can all the stakeholders within these organizations? leaders, staff, board members, and the larger church community? work together to maximize these organizations' effectiveness in accomplishing their missions? In *The Prospering Parachurch*, Wesley K. Willmer and J. David Schmidt offer the first comprehensive resource for everyone with an interest in the future of parachurch organizations and the parachurch movement. They uncover the movement's roots and clarify the boundaries of the parachurch while providing a thorough and practical guide to the key issues facing every parachurch leader? remaining focused on the organization's mission From the Back Cover A new breed of nonprofit organization? the parachurch? is dramatically reshaping the religious world? taking religion beyond the walls of the traditional church and providing infinite ways for people to link their lives to God. Some estimate there are as many as 100,000 parachurch organizations in North America alone and the number keeps rising. With monetary donations approaching donations to traditional churches, many parachurch organizations rank among the world's largest, most influential, and thriving nonprofits, including Campus Crusade for Christ, Habitat for Humanity, World Vision, Christian Broadcasting Network, and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. These organizations, and thousands of other faith-based groups, provide a societal safety net? bringing their perspective of faith to bear on practically every personal or social issue imaginable, from education to disaster relief, from global evangelism concerns to personal counseling, from children's summer camps to the treatment of addiction. Expressed faith in God has found a new voice in the parachurch. What is fueling this dynamic and diverse movement? properly described as religion gone entrepreneur? What distinguishes those parachurch organizations that are most successfully enlarging the boundaries of God's work in the world? What challenges lie ahead? And how can all the stakeholders within these organizations? leaders, staff, board members, and the larger church community? work together to maximize these

organizations' effectiveness in accomplishing their missions? In *The Prospering Parachurch*, Wesley K. Willmer and J. David Schmidt offer the first comprehensive resource for everyone with an interest in the future of parachurch organizations and the parachurch movement. They uncover the movement's roots and clarify the boundaries of the parachurch while providing a thorough and practical guide to the key issues facing every parachurch leader—remaining focused on the organization's mission and vision, managing key stakeholders, strategy development, board effectiveness, financing, juggling multigenerational and cultural agendas, and the ever-present competition for volunteers and dollars. Although the local church will always remain central to Christian life, the growing array of parachurch organizations is a healthy reflection of the diversity of ways to meet spiritual needs in our society. Examining what lies ahead for the parachurch, this book will better equip those leading, volunteering, or interested in playing an active role in the strengthening of this burgeoning movement—enhancing the way people throughout the world will come to know and experience God in the twenty-first century. Play an Active Role in this Dynamic and Diverse Movement

The Prospering Parachurch is the first book to reveal the heart of this burgeoning movement and how that has enlarged the tent of God's work from primarily church centered to kingdom centered. "God has chosen to work in dramatic ways through the parachurch in the last half of the twentieth century to significantly impact the world for Christ. My friends and colleagues Wes Willmer and David Schmidt have done a marvelous job of capturing the essence of this movement. I commend this book to you."—Billy Graham "I've spent practically my entire career working for parachurch organizations. I consider *The Prospering Parachurch* a "must read" for parachurch presidents, board members, staff, and those serious practitioners that need to understand the revolutionary transformation caused by the parachurch movement."—John Pearson, CEO, Christian Management Association "This highly readable book describes why parachurch organizations have become so important, . . . and should be of interest to students of American religion, clergy, seminary faculty and students, and religious leaders."—Robert Wuthnow, professor and director of the Center for the Study of American Religion, Princeton University "A challenging and stretching book breaking new ground and offering practical insights from wise and seasoned leaders in God's work."—Roberta Hestenes, senior pastor, Solana Beach Presbyterian Church