

## **The Rise in Mobile Game Spending**

**Spending on mobile games rose 53% this past holiday season!** Smartphone and tablet users spent a record \$967.6 million dollars on game apps between Christmas and New Year's. That time span is the biggest week for mobile games for two reasons. First, many people get tablets for Christmas and download apps. Secondly, people have time off which gives them time to play games.

**\$36.9 billion in 2016 is what was generated in revenue world-wide through games on smartphones and tablets!** That makes mobile games the largest sector of what is roughly a **\$100 billion** a year video game industry. That is a lot of game playing!

Let's put this into context. **Americans give about \$115 billion annually to churches in any given year.** Tragically that amount had been decreasing each year. At the present rate of decline and the continued increase in video gaming revenue we are seeing about the same spent for each. Let that sink in.

Let me just say that I have nothing against playing games. I get bored like you and sometimes I too play a game on my phone or tablet. Yet I never lose sight of what is important in life. Video games might be fun but they don't change our world. Churches doing the work of the Kingdom do! Every day in multiple ways we here at OUR CHURCH work to extend the Kingdom of Peace and Hope to those without peace and hope.

A game on your app might be fun. Yet a Savior in your heart WILL produce the peace and hope you seek. Have fun playing but keep not just playing in context but the amount of money you spend in context. A gift to OUR CHURCH impacts not just the present but eternity. So, let's give generously this morning because we know that life is not a game and people need more than the latest app on their phone. They need Jesus!