



— From the Pen of —
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Getting Things Done Through Other People

Lawrence A. Appley says, “Management is getting things done through other people.” How is this important for us in Christian work? I am tremendously impressed with this. If ever anything is to be done in this broken world of ours, it is going to be done as we, who are called and sent of God, develop the awareness of the necessity for getting things done through other people. *We must* involve other people. I discovered soon after God saved me that I was never going to be able to accomplish the burden of my own life all by myself. I was going to have to become involved with other people. I couldn’t let myself and those entrusted to me do whatever struck my fancy, but *prescribed things* had to be done. It is so much easier, in fact, it is the coward’s way out, to conclude that we are going to do what we can do by ourselves and we are not going to worry about what anyone else does.

I had a friend, a pastor of a little church in Maine. He had been there for years preaching to a handful of people. I asked him one day, “What in the world are you doing?” He was doing every menial task in the church, many of which could have been turned over to high school students or other church members. His answer appeared pious and commendable. Actually, it was disheartening. He said, “I do everything myself. I run off my own little bulletins. I wash the windows in the church. I put out the hymn books. I do everything myself. This way I know it is done properly.” We must develop the mentality, the attitude, that makes us want to involve other people so that much more can be accomplished and sooner. Jesus Christ did this. Our ministry is not only directed to people but it also involves accomplishing our purpose through people. It is not only *my* ministry to this broken world, but it is my reproducing myself in people with whom I am closely associated so that they minister to this broken world, too. So, by way of definition I would insist that *management for the Christian worker is getting things done through other people*.