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## **Christian 'Bounty Hunters' Generate Income by Exposing Backsliders**

By Dan Wooding  
Founder of ASSIST Ministries

**IRVINE, CA (ANS)** -- For many years churches around the world have been drained morally, spiritually and financially from the internal decays caused by backsliders lurking within their congregations. (Backsliders are 'believers' who have lost their initial zeal for the more sanctified lifestyle, have perhaps fallen back into some old sinful behaviors or maybe have even gone so far as to renounce their faith altogether.)

But now, there's a unique opportunity for Christians to actually benefit financially from exposing backsliders – whether those backsliders reside within their congregations or not.

For numerous years, investigative journalist, Fred Popke, went undercover to understand the heart and the mind of the backslider. To his astonishment, he discovered that most backsliders actually belong to a very well-organized network.

"They are considered the fastest growing 'religious' sect out there right now," Mr. Popke noted. "They even regularly share their insights, tips and techniques with one another on how to become, and continue to live as, 'efficient' backsliders."

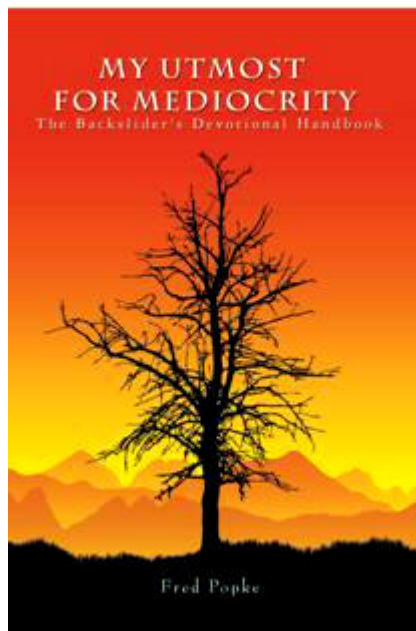
His "exposé", entitled *My Utmost for Mediocrity – The Backslider's Devotional Handbook* (available at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com), [www.AbeBooks.com](http://www.AbeBooks.com), [www.Alibris.com](http://www.Alibris.com) and other retail channels), is a collection of the "devotionals", or hidden secrets and strategies, that backsliders use to thwart the good intentions of any loved ones trying to bring the backslider "back into the fold".



**Fred Popke**

"I initially published this work so that Christians could understand what's taking place in the hearts and minds of the backsliders," Popke added. "I also meant for it to be a tool for those interested in reaching out to someone who was backsliding. Maybe a reason or a justification contained in the *Backslider's Handbook*, shared with a wayward son, daughter, husband or friend would spark some dialogue and ultimately lead to some significantly positive results."

However, he claimed, as soon as the “Backsliding Community” ([www.BackslidingInfo.com](http://www.BackslidingInfo.com)) learned of his exposé, they were “outraged and moved to block the book’s sale and public distribution.”



**Cover of Popke's book**

The organization cited that Mr. Popke had not given proper credit to any backsliding individuals, listing all of the contributors as “Anonymous”. The group also charged that Mr. Popke was not making any share of the royalties available to any contributing authors.

As a result of arbitration/mediation, Mr. Popke has been instructed to publish ongoing versions/releases of the work and incorporate new submissions from additional contributors. He has also agreed to enable contributing authors to receive compensation from future edition book sales.

“And therein lies the opportunity for Christians,” Mr. Popke pointed out. “I don’t believe that ‘backsliders’ are really going to make significant contributions to future editions of this work. So, any church, or Christian individual, who can write a paragraph or two, capturing an insight or a tactic that backsliders use, can earn a ‘bounty’ by ‘turning in’ these backsliders’ stories.”

Anyone wishing to contribute to the next edition, already being compiled, can find all of the pertinent information at [www.MyUtmostForMediocrity.com](http://www.MyUtmostForMediocrity.com).