

The

COMPLETE GUIDE
to

LITERARY AGENTS

Who Represent
CHRISTIAN AUTHORS

2014



EDITION

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FOREWORD

Thanks for downloading this resource guide. I don't know of anything else like it available anywhere. Let me tell you how it came about.

Several years ago, when I was the Chairman and CEO of Thomas Nelson Publishers, I was routinely asked by authors for agent recommendations. Like nearly all publishers today, we didn't accept unsolicited proposals or manuscripts. They had to be referred by a literary agent.

That put me in a quandary. As the largest Christian publisher in the world, we did business with *all* the agents. I didn't want to recommend my personal favorites and risk alienating the others. Instead, I wanted to refer aspiring authors to an official list of recognized agents. From there, they could make their own connections.

Only one problem: I couldn't find such a list anywhere. As a result, I decided to create one.

Using my blog, I put out a call for interested agents to submit their contact information to me. In order to ensure that I only included legitimate, experienced agents, I required each one to provide a list of at least three clients for whom they had secured traditional publishing contracts.

I published that first list in 2007. I have updated it every year since then. The resource you are reading now contains every agent active in the Christian book publishing market today. (The only exception are two or three agents who are currently not accepting new clients.) My goal is to save you the enormous effort it would take to create this list on your own.

Now, before you start emailing or contacting the agents on this list, let me provide a few suggestions:

1. **Understand what agents want.** The competition for agents is fierce. There just aren't enough legitimate agents to serve the army of aspiring authors. Therefore, they can afford to be picky—and are.

Recently, I asked the agents on my list to tell me what they look for in prospective clients. These ten attributes came up over and over again.

- a big, compelling idea
- a well-written proposal
- a defined audience
- a strong platform
- a fresh approach
- a well-designed website
- relevant credentials
- a teachable spirit
- a strong work ethic
- realistic expectations

2. **Prepare a formal book proposal.** I provide explicit guidance in [my two e-books](#), one for fiction and one for non-fiction. These will enable you to put your best foot forward and answer the questions that most agents ask. Please note: if you are writing fiction or a memoir, you will also need to provide the full manuscript. If you are writing non-fiction, you only need to submit two to three sample chapters.

3. **Avoid these negative triggers.** Agents look at thousands of proposals a year. They become jaded and adept at spotting patterns. Certain words, phrases, or claims immediately set off alarm bells and will trigger a rejection. Specially, avoid these twelve:

- “Dear Sir or Madam” (use the agent’s name instead)
- “God told me to write this book.”
- “God wrote this book through me.”
- “God told me that you’re the agent to represent me.”

- “My book is guaranteed to be a bestseller.”
- “This is a book for everyone.”
- “There’s nothing else like this book in the marketplace.”
- “This book will not require any editing.”
- “I have already designed the cover.”
- “This book needs to be published immediately.”
- “I don’t think I need a platform; that’s the publisher’s job.”
- “You’re my last hope.”

4. **Send your proposal in batches.** Don’t send your initial proposal to every agent on the list. Instead, research the agents and pick three to five that appeal to you. Send your query letter and a proposal to them. You will likely get important feedback that will enable you to fine-tune your proposal before sending it to the second batch. Work your way through the list, tweaking as you go.
5. **Be patient.** The publishing process is incredibly slow. It is not unusual to wait six weeks before hearing anything. If you haven’t heard by then, you can send a follow-up email. Resist the temptation to do it before then; otherwise, you will be pigeon-holed as a “high-maintenance” author and be rejected—or ignored.

LITERARY AGENTS

Please note: the links below are “clickable.” Simply click on the link to visit the agent’s website or write them an email.

Maurilio Amorim
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[Website](#) | [Email](#)

Sally Apokedak
The Leslie H. Stobbe Literary
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Karen Ball
The Steve Laube Agency
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