

breakingchristiannews.com

A conservative, Christian website that has made unsubstantiated and misleading health claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.



Proceed with caution: This website fails to meet several basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Ownership and Financing

Breaking Christian News is owned by Elijah List Publications. The company is the for-profit arm of Elijah List Ministries, a nonprofit based in Albany, Oregon.

Steve Shultz, a conservative evangelical writer who describes himself as a prophet, is the managing editor of Breaking Christian News and operates at least three other websites: The Christian video site ElijahStreams.com (previously known as Prophetic.TV), the health news website AmazingHealthAdvances.com, and Elijah List, a website that posts prophecies from leaders of Charismatic Christian churches. Shultz runs both Elijah List Publications and Elijah List Ministries.

Breaking Christian News generates revenue from advertisements and the sale of Christian books and products on the online store ElijahShopper.com.

Content

Breaking Christian News features the slogan “Be informed, inspired, intrigued,” on its homepage. The site primarily covers stories relating to religious liberties, the anti-abortion movement, U.S. politics, and Israel from a Christian, conservative perspective.

Most articles are republished from other Christian or conservative news websites, such as the Christian Broadcasting Network, LifeSiteNews.com, The Daily Caller, and Breitbart. The website typically publishes excerpts from the original article and provides a link to the website that initially published it. Some posts include the full article.

Breaking Christian News also carries some content from news organizations such as The Associated Press and CNN.

Score: 44.5/100

- ✓ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✓ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✓ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✗ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✓ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Typical headlines on the site include “The Exciting, Supernatural Revival Story Behind Donald Trump’s Personal Bible”, “Genocide Against Nigerian Christians Continues: A Report of Barack Obama’s Part In It”, and “Incredible Proof For Why You Should Have Faith In The Bible.”

Credibility

Most articles on BreakingChristianNews.com are published from other websites. Articles written by the website’s editors typically summarize news reports from other organizations, including Fox News and local CBS affiliates. “We are primarily an aggregate news hub, reprinting partial and full news articles from sources that have given us permission with full attribution and backlinks,” Aimee Herd, editor of Breaking Christian News, told NewsGuard in a 2018 email.

Spokespersons for news websites Faithit and CBN News, whose articles often appear on the site, both confirmed to NewsGuard that Breaking Christian News is allowed to reuse their content.

Breakingchristiannews.com has published several articles that have made unsubstantiated health claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example an April 2020 article headlined “‘Indisputable evidence’ that hydroxychloroquine, noted by President Trump, is proving effective at curing COVID-19,” promoted the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for the COVID-19 virus.

“Reports of patients around the world, and here in the US are mounting, who have taken hydroxychloroquine and that it truly made the difference in their recovery from COVID-19,” the article said. The article’s subheadline asked, “Is the left that rabid against this President that even a successful treatment for this horrible virus is being suppressed just because it was Trump who recommended it? Shameful!”

The article quoted excerpts of a One America News interview with a New York man who said he recovered from the virus after taking the drug. It does not refer to widespread reports of people around the world who have done so, and does not mention that international health authorities have not recommended hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for the COVID-19 virus.

In April 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said in a statement on its website, "Hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine have not been shown to be safe and effective for treatment or preventing COVID-19." Research into the drug's efficacy has also not been conclusive. While a March 2020 study by French researchers who tested the drug on 20 people showed that it could be effective, another March 2020 study conducted in China found that the drug was no more effective for 15 COVID-19 patients than a regimen of bed rest, supplemental oxygen, and antiviral drugs for another group of patients.

A March 2020 article republished from a site called Amazinghealthadvances.net, headlined "Health: Coronavirus Prevention And Symptoms: 10 Tips and When to Seek Medical Attention", recommended drinking water every 10 to 15 minutes to keep the coronavirus from entering the lungs. "Water forces anything in your mouth and esophagus down to your stomach, where you have powerful acid to kill viruses. Do not let your mouths become dry!" the author wrote. The article also recommended that people "choose warm drinking water over cold, and avoid ice water. All viruses hate warm water."

While doctors say that drinking water is helpful for overall health, it does not prevent the contraction of COVID-19, according to several health authorities. The World Health Organization said on Twitter in February 2020 that drinking water "does not prevent coronavirus infection." Trudie Lang, a professor of global health research at Oxford, told the BBC in March 2020 that

there is “no biological mechanism” that would kill a respiratory virus by just washing it from the mouth into the stomach.

The website has published several articles that make inaccurate claims about abortion rights legislation. For example in a January 2019 article published after New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the state’s Reproductive Health Act, BreakingChristianNews.com republished an article from Charisma News, saying the law “allows full-term, unborn babies to be aborted by even non-doctors for any reason up until the moment of birth.”

A January 2019 article headlined “Football great Ben Watson: ‘It’s a sad and evil day’ as New York legalizes abortion of babies up to birth,” republished by CBNNews.com, claimed that New York’s new abortion law “erases New York’s previous limitations on abortion, which restricted the fatal procedure past 24 weeks.”

New York’s Reproductive Health Act (RHA) broadened the exceptions for when abortions can be performed after the 24th week of pregnancy, but did not allow doctors to perform an abortion “for any reason up until the moment of birth,” as Breaking Christian News claimed. The new law allowed doctors to perform abortions if, according to the statute, “there is an absence of fetal viability, or the abortion is necessary to protect the patient’s life or health.”

The older version of the law allowed doctors to approve abortions after 24 weeks if they determined that the mother’s life in danger, contrary to the second article’s claim that the previous law had “restricted the fatal procedure past 24 weeks.”

Because Breaking Christian News has published articles that advance false or unsubstantiated health claims, NewsGuard has determined that the website does not meet its standard for gathering and presenting information responsibly.

BreakingChristianNews.com did not respond to three 2020 emails seeking comment on the website's health articles, including its COVID-19 claims.

The website does not appear to have a stated corrections policy, nor does it issue corrections.

"Like any other media outlet, we're not perfect, however, if a mistake is made we would not hesitate to post a correction if needed," Herd said in a 2018 email, although she did not provide links to recent corrections.

Breaking Christian News does not disclose an overall perspective, although the site's name reflects that it publishes Christian-themed news. However, the website's news articles often include politically conservative opinions and anti-abortion views.

For example, a March 2020 article headlined "Shameful: Speaker Pelosi allegedly tried to sneak abortion funding into coronavirus bill, until Treasury Sec. Steve Mnuchin steps in," said that "pushing taxpayer funding of abortion is wrong in general, considering Americans don't want their money funding abortion." The article was not labeled as opinion.

An April 2020 article headlined "The power of President Trump's positive thinking" described the president in flattering terms, praising his "bravado and 'can-do' attitude." The article said that President Trump's approach to handling the COVID-19 pandemic "starts with something Trump learned a long time ago: positive thinking".

A February 2020 article, republished by website Charisma News, praised the Trump administration for the appointment of conservative federal judges, saying that before the president took office, "we had lost ground. We had lost many of our civil and religious liberties as activist, liberal judges rode roughshod over the will of the people."

The article, referring to U.S. Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion and same sex-marriage, continued, "America did not want Roe v. Wade, or

Obergefell v. Hodges. Those were agendas pushed upon our nation.”

Herd told NewsGuard in a 2018 email that opinion articles were marked as such, but did not explain why some articles that were not labeled as such still contained opinion. The website did not respond to three additional emails in 2020 seeking further comment on the site’s mixing of news and opinion.

While some headlines, such as on some articles cited above, advance false claims, NewsGuard found in a 2020 review of the site that most headlines accurately represent content and do not include false information.

Transparency

Breaking Christian News discloses at the bottom of its website that it is a division of Elijah List Publications Inc. Schultz, who owns the company, is also identified as the owner on the homepage.

The website publishes the names and photographs of its editor and Schultz, who is also the managing editor and founder, on the right-hand side of every page on the site. A Contact Info page provides the telephone number, general email, and mailing address for the company.

Articles are generally attributed to the authors and the organization that republishes it. However, stories, including those produced by the website, do not include writers’ contact or biographical information, which does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for providing information about content creators.

Advertisements are inconsistently labeled. Some sponsored content is labeled as “paid advertisement” at the top of the article. However, the site has published multiple articles promoting a social media network called XAPiT where readers “can talk about God, politics, abortion, and other issues without fear of being banned or censored”. The articles prompt users to sign up for the survey. Articles promoting the service have run under headlines such as “What’s HAPPENING? New Social Media that’s Conservative Friendly?” and

“HUGE! Bet You Didn’t See THIS Coming, Did You?”
Because these articles were not labeled as advertisements, Breakingchristiannews.com does not meet NewsGuard’s standards for clearly labeling advertising.

Breakingchristiannews.com did not respond to three emails to the site’s general editorial email address from NewsGuard in 2020 seeking comment on the site’s approach to labeling advertisements and revealing information about content creators.

History

Elijah List founder Steve Shultz started the company in 1997 as a daily email newsletter sharing prophecies. The email list now has 240,000 subscribers, according to an Our History section on ElijahList.com

BreakingChristianNews.com was created in 2004, according to its Facebook page.

Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on May 6, 2020, to reflect NewsGuard’s determination that BreakingChristianNews.com does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for gathering and presenting information responsibly, for revealing information about content creators, and for clearly labeling advertisements. The rating was also changed to reflect NewsGuard’s determination that the website no longer fails to meet NewsGuard’s standard for avoiding deceptive headlines. The criteria checklist has been updated accordingly.

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Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

Sources

Ownership and
Financing

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Victory! West Virginia votes to declare state constitution has no "right to abortion": "Outrageous abuse ends now." Nov 7, 2018.
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“Caravan reaches us border: Troops and border agents prepare to block illegals,” Nov 16, 2018.
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“Ohio House votes to ban nearly all abortions with heartbeat bill,” Nov 16, 2018.
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“Alert! Israel under attack this week after hamas fires 500 missiles into country: How you can pray.” Nov 16, 2018.
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“Strong new support for a pro-life bill as us bishops endorse the Heartbeat Protection Act,” Nov 1, 2018.
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“President Trump blows lid on illegal immigration in powerful announcement: "There's a limit to how many people a nation can responsibly absorb into their society," Nov 2, 2018.

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“I had faith in God”: NFL player makes amazing comeback after cancer battle,” Oct 11, 2018.

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Mysterious Blue Light Shines Over New York, “Startling” The City Dec 28, 2018

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'Defund Planned Parenthood': Abortion Killed 42M People Last Year, the Leading Global Cause of Death Jan 1, 2019

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Credibility

Email interview with Outreach editor Kelsey Straeter

Email interview with Breaking Christian News editor

Aimee Herd

Email interview with CBN News spokesperson Chris

Roslan

“Pro-life, pro-family media site, targeted by gay activist, asks for prayer,” Oct 29, 2018.

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https://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display__art.html?ID=29993
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Transparency

<http://breakingchristiannews.com/contactinfo.php>
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https://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display__art.html?ID=28552
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History

<https://whois.icann.org/en/lookup?name=breakingchristiannews.com>
<http://www.elijahlist.com/mission.html>
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