

Other editions: [Mobile](#) | [News Feeds](#) | [E-Newsletters](#) | [Subscribe to the Free Press](#) Find it: [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Apartments](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Classifieds](#)

Freep.com SEARCH DETROIT

SPONSORED BY: BUY MOVIE TICKETS!

HOME LOCAL NATION/WORLD SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT AUTOS/BUSINESS LIFE TRAVEL OPINION OBITUARIES EXTRAS

Site Index Photos Videos Add your photos Lottery Past headlines Weather Subscribe to the Free Press Site Services Contests

Comment, blog & share photos Log in | Become a member

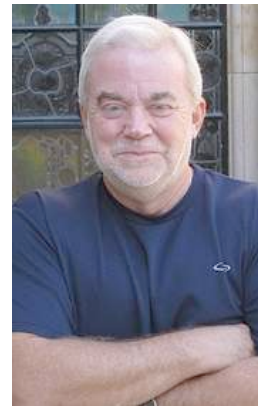
POWERED BY YOU AND THE **Detroit Free Press** ON GUARD FOR 177 YEARS

Evangelical leader talks about metro roots

BY NIRAJ WARIKOO • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

Read Comments(4) Recommend(3) Print this page E-mail this article Share this article:

Born and raised in metro Detroit, the Rev. Jim Wallis is now a noted evangelical leader who spoke at both the Democratic and Republican national conventions last month.



The Rev. Jim Wallis, an evangelical leader and native of metro Detroit, at the University of Detroit Mercy.
(NIRAJ WARIKOO/Detroit Free Press)

ADVERTISEMENT

He's been pushing the evangelical community to embrace social causes such as poverty, the environment, and health care.

The author of best-selling books about religion and politics, Wallis is non-partisan and has advised political leaders from both parties, though he is embraced more by liberals. He is president of Sojourners, a group based in

Washington D.C.

Wallis spoke with the Free Press on Thursday at the University of Detroit Mercy, where he was scheduled to deliver a talk Thursday evening. He also spoke earlier in the week at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. Here are some excerpts from the interview.

On growing up in metro Detroit

"I grew up in white Detroit: white churches, evangelical churches, and schools. And I began to ask, how come we live the way we do in white Detroit, and why is it so different in black Detroit, just a few miles away ... Detroit is my hometown. I feel a lot of connection to it, a lot of loyalty. I've learned a lot, the truth about racism, the truth about how many people are poor in this country, the richest country in the world. So Detroit has been very formative in

RELATED NEWS FROM THE WEB
[University of Detroit Mercy](#)
[Calvin College](#)
[US News](#)
 Powered by Topix.net

More Local News headlines

- Cockrel will replace former deputy mayor (33)
- Analysis: Crises put spotlight on Obama, McCain (64)
- Cockrel asks for hope after taking oath (63)
- Former Kilpatrick bodyguard's handgun found clean (20)
- Changing of the guard begins (62)

my life. It's been kind of a school."

On abortion

"Reducing abortion should be a non-partisan issue and a bi-partisan cause. Both sides should embrace that ... let's try to work pragmatically for results, to reduce abortion in this country, which I think is where most Americans want to go with that. We've got to find this common ground between pro-life and pro-choice, which is abortion reduction, because there's a shouting match going on."

On the presidential race

"In the recent past, only one party has done any outreach to the faith community, the Republican party. This time, the Democrats are also doing faith outreach ... God is not a Republican or Democrat. And people of faith belong in no party's political pocket."

On being an evangelical

"There's a tradition of evangelical revivals that start social change," such as the anti-slavery movement.

"So how did evangelical come to mean, pro-rich, pro-war, and only pro-American? It's a very recent departure from the original and authentic history. How did we ever think there are only two moral values ... gay marriage and abortion?"

Contact **NIRAJ WARIKOO** at nwarikoo@freepress.com or 248-351-2998.

In your voice

[READ REACTIONS TO THIS STORY](#)

Newest first

POWERED BY



urbanlegend wrote:

Why does anyone need someone to tell them what to think and believe?
09/19/2008 12:12:26 p.m. EDT

Recommend New post Reply to this Report Abuse Post



murchman wrote:

Replying to Biggreyoldman:

I don't trust evangelicals. They worship their religion instead of God. They have copyrighted, trademarked, and patented God for themselves. If you don't go lockstep with them and their beliefs they do the only thing they can do, they sentence you to hell to burn forever, with Gods love of course.

I like what you said about people worshipping their religion instead of God. I've never heard it put that way. It fits.
09/19/2008 11:11:47 a.m. EDT

Recommend New post Reply to this Report Abuse Post



Biggreyoldman wrote:

MOST POPULAR

MOST E-MAILED

1. Kilpatrick takes a plane to Dallas
2. Matt Millen says Lions have his back -- and they can win this year
3. Michigan gains another commitment from highly touted defensive end
4. Judge anticipates tough jury selection for Beatty
5. Bing is ready to run for mayor
6. Michael Curry: Rasheed Wallace, Pistons need to get in better shape
7. Animated cartoon: Farewell, Kilpatrick
8. Magglio Ordonez hoping to close the deal on another batting title
9. Electric rates to see big increase
10. Freddy Garcia hopes to be a part of Tiger rotation next season

ADS BY PULSE 360

[Get Listed Here](#)

Obama Voter Registration

If Youre Not Registered, You Cant Vote. Register to Vote Today!
Michigan.VoteForChange.com

Alternative to Open Back Surgery

Gentle Arthroscopic Solutions For Back & Neck Pain.
www.laserspineinstitute.com

What's Your Credit Score?

The US average is 692. See yours online instantly for \$0. Check now!
www.CreditReportAmerica.com

I don't trust envangelicals. They worship their religion instead of God. They have copywrited, trademarked, and patented God for themselves. If you don't go lockstep with them and their beliefs they do the only thing they can do, they sentence you to hell to burn forever, with Gods love of course.

09/19/2008 10:11:41 a.m. EDT

Recommend(2) New post Reply to this Post Report Abuse



DNativeDan wrote:

Pretty light on content here. Oversimplification of issues doesn't really help move two opposing sides together -- it just indicates he may be out of touch with BOTH sides!

09/19/2008 9:21:34 a.m. EDT

Recommend(1) New post Reply to this Post Report Abuse

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

1000 characters left

INSIDE FREEP.COM



FREE PRESS EXCLUSIVE

Edwards speaks out on affair

Elizabeth Edwards spoke to the Free Press about coping with Stage 4 breast cancer and her husband's infidelity.



MIKE THOMPSON ANIMATION

Kilpatrick sings his farewell

Free Press cartoonist Mike Thompson offers his musical take on former Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's good-bye.



PHOTO GALLERY

See inside the Manoojian

Ever been curious what's inside? Check out our archival photos taken inside the Manoojian Mansion.



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

See U-M, MSU video highlights

Watch these video highlights from U-M and MSU football each weekend right here on freep.com.



PHOTO GALLERY

Metro Detroit's best sandwiches

Hungry? You will be after you see a special gallery of the best sandwiches the area has to offer.

SITE INDEX

Home

- Photos
- Videos
- Add your photos
- Lottery
- Print edition
- Contact us
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Help

Local

- Detroit
- Wayne
- Oakland
- Macomb
- Metro
- Michigan
- Election 2008
- Driving & traffic
- School closings
- Columnists

Nation/World

- Top stories
- Lotteries
- Election 2008
- Nation/World
- Business

Sports

- Lions
- Pistons
- Red Wings
- Tigers
- U-M Wolverines
- MSU Spartans
- High School Sports
- Scores
- Columnists
- Shock
- Outdoors
- Olympics sports
- Golf
- Auto racing
- Detroit Marathon

Entertainment

- Search for events
- Things to do
- Celebrities
- Movies
- Music
- TV/Radio
- Casinos
- Theater/Arts
- Dining
- Video games
- Metromix.com
- Photos

Autos/Business

- Auto news
- Business news
- Markets
- Auto reviews
- Technology
- Detroit Auto Show

Life

- Travel
- USA Today Travel
- Shopping
- Relationships
- Food
- Pets
- Health
- Columnists
- Technology
- Twist

Opinion

- Editorials
- Blogs
- Cartoons
- Letters to the Editor
- Columnists
- Forums

Obituaries

- Death notices

Extras

- Photos
- Videos
- Databases
- Digital Free Press
- Forums
- Lottery
- Comics
- Scores
- Contests

ADVERTISEMENT



Partners: Jobs: CareerBuilder.com Cars: Cars.com Apartments: Apartments.com Shopping: ShopLocal.com

[Home](#) | [Local](#) | [Nation/World](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Autos/Business](#) | [Life](#) | [Travel](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Extras](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Copyright ©2008 ...

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) , updated March 2007.