

Wallis vs. Reed

RELIGION: These two Christian soldiers will battle from opposite ends of the political spectrum

AS RELIGION CONTINUES its decade-long revival, the culturally conservative Christian Coalition can expect growing competition this year.

"The fact is they don't speak for very many of us, and they simply can't be the only voice being heard," says Jim Wallis, convener of Call to Renewal. "People of faith need an alternative."

Wallis, 48, was raised an evangelical; the tumultuous anti-war and civil-rights protests of the late 1960s had a profound effect on his religious and social views. Today, at 48, Wallis edits the progressive religious magazine *Sojourners*.

Call to Renewal brings together religious leaders from evangelical, Catholic, Protestant and black churches to focus on key issues and, like the Christian Coalition, distribute guides to help voters decide whom to vote for. "The environment is a good example," Wallis says. "It's God's creation, and we consider it our duty to preserve and take care of it."

Is the Christian Coalition, headed by Ralph Reed, concerned? "On the contrary — we're happy to see other people of faith, whatever their ideology, getting involved," says the Coalition's Monica Hildebrandt. **W** — Jerry Shine



Wallis



Reed

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