

WHAT'S IT STAND FOR?

I'm big on acronyms – you know, that handy way of remembering who or what things or people represent. My appreciation for those crafty identifiers began in high school when a chemistry teacher gave us a quick and easy way to remember some kind of significant sequence. I remember neither the series nor the contraction it bore but I do recall holding my teacher in high esteem for making at least one thing less confusing for me. (Science never was my strength!)

I do better in my current circumstance: for example in some cases I know companies more by stock market tickers than by product usage. I've enjoyed working for our local Powell River Economic Development Society (PRREDS) and San Francisco-based OTR (Off the Record research). It's no surprise then that my company name, Words of Worth, sports its own abbreviation – W.O.W! (Emphasis added by me)

We're rapidly approaching Christmas 2009 and I'm wondering what shortened form could ever encapsulate the awe and wonder of that event. I know enough history to realize December 25 of any year was not the actual birth date of Jesus Christ. I know, too, that early Christians took advantage of a Roman holiday so they could celebrate on the few days they had freedom to do so. Perhaps we could start with WONDER

That first Christmas was bathed in **W**orship for the **O**ne who was born to die; centuries later the prospect of a **N**ew beginning brings hope to those burdened by guilt, fear and sorrow. The mystery of **D**ivine intervention in a broken world and the promise of **E**verlasting life make every festivity pale beside such love and grace. **R**ejoice – Christ has come.

"... thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."
(Matthew 1:21)

WONDER of wonders – for time and for eternity.