

## Delightful possibilities are born from disaster

Remember my recent belly-aching about not being able to find work?

Well, fears about the stability of the U.S. economy have put some pressure on everyone's pocketbook and certainly compounded concerns for those who support missionaries. Everybody is feeling a bit tapped out these days.

This past week Gena and I had a pleasant, albeit unexpected, visit from her parents. Hurricane Dolly smacked South Padre Island a pretty good one and tore away part of my in-laws roof and rendered the whole region without electricity for pert near a week. So they ventured up to use some of ours.

While here they — not us — saw a tiny notice in a conspicuously obscure community newspaper. Under any other circumstances it would easily have gone unread. (But see, they had all this extra time on their hands.) Hence, I've contacted [kvpac.org](http://kvpac.org) and been invited to audition for an extended gig (of the paid actor variety) in "The Three Nasty Gnarlies" this Saturday. Now ain't that just one crazy set of "God-thing" coincidences for ya?

Granted the folks are still contending with rooflessness, but they now have lights...and more importantly air-conditioning! My brother-in-law is also in employment limbo, but nobody lacks any confidence that it's all going to work out all right for everybody in every way. Prayer is powerful!

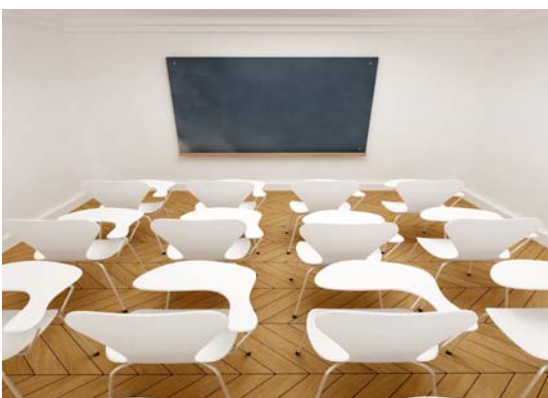
## Gena to attend a Beth Moore conference near the Alamo

Isn't this boon in blogging another baffler? Gena's had one of these dealy-bobs for some time and now I (sorta) do, too. But amazingly, I've seen many a visit to [ActofGraceRadio.net](http://ActofGraceRadio.net) originating from Gena's link...go figure.

Gena reads Beth Moore's [livingproofministires.blogspot.com](http://livingproofministires.blogspot.com) kinda regular like and responded to an offer for a free ticket to an event this month in San Antonio. Well, she got it! I'm making the three and a half hour trek with her...not to the conference (I don't have a free ticket) but in the meantime I'll be taking in some of the prevalent cultural ambience of "the Riverwalk."

## ACT offering "Arts Alive 08" in Nashville this month

The [Artists in Christian Testimony](http://ArtistsinChristianTestimony.org) home office presents an Arts in Ministry and Missions Conference the weekend of August 14 and 15. ACT president Byron Spradlin says, "We're committed to raising up and mobilizing a whole new breed of artistic ministry specialists. This event is a springboard to encourage and equip artists of all kinds in the crucial role they play in today's culture." He further noted, "A conference of this nature is long overdue." Click on the link to their website to learn more.



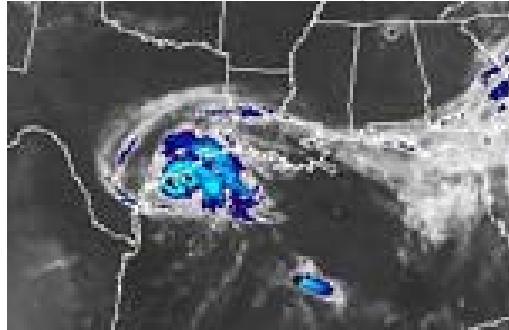
The class was dismissed early as empirical evidence introduced to deny the existence of God also proved grounds to challenge the veracity of the professor's brain.

## Etc., etcetera, &ct.

The personal chaos of recent months appears to be ebbing for now. This springs forth hopefulness that "@ the Rock Shop" can return to its intended schedule of weekly show changes. (Two weeks of me saying the same stuff has to try anybody's patience.)

Incidentally, AGR's annual retrospect program is being planned for upload at the end of the month. 9/1 completes two years of (semi) continual shows!

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**Holy smoke, here comes another one!**  
Today East Texas finds itself sandwiched between Hurricane Dolly last week and Edouard's arrival expected tomorrow. Yee-haw!!!

## What the Bible sez:

"And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying for the Spirit pleads for believers in harmony with God's own will."  
Romans 8:26,27 (NLT)

Many are familiar with, and often quote, the next verse that follows as if Romans 8:28 is somehow a "catch-all" explanation for every aspect of life that we can't understand, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them." But 8:28 isn't a stand alone verse. It's actually a vital segue between two incredibly significant statements Paul is addressing in this section.

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 3:17 and 2 Thessalonians 3:7 Paul suggests believers follow his lead "as I follow the example of Christ." Yet this portion of Romans comes hot off the heels of a chapter 7 confessional wherein Paul openly admits that "I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead I do the very thing I hate." (Rom. 7:15.)

Increasing knowledge provides us with no solution to this dilemma. Self-will simply isn't strong enough to stop our proclivity toward sin and trust in Christ hardly puts an end to acting upon temptations. What Paul wants us to realize is that the Holy Spirit's role is ever-present and always interceding for us. This is a foundational aspect for our "confident assurance."

Maybe try Galatians 3:3 on for size.