



RETREAT 2017

“The Quest”

PRODUCTION NOTES

Characters:

Narrator

Mr. Swartz Sportz (white beard/goatee)

Rocky Rhodes (assistant store manager) loves the boss, thrilled to be his employee, enthusiastic about the business

Sarah Savvy - Glamorous/Worldly (glamorous, bling, high heels, dressed up)

Wendy Wavering - Doubter/Indecisive (unmatched shoes, mismatched)

Sheila SureFoot - Wise/Level-Headed (dress like native American)

Enemy - competitor to knock them out of business (dress in red or black)

Props:

Sign: Swartz Outdoor Sports

Nametag: Rocky Rhodes

Inventory of sports items, clothes and shoes, miscellaneous, displayed like a sporting goods store

**Everyone gets truth/promise boots...

Props - Act 1

Inventory of sports items, clothes and shoes, miscellaneous, displayed like a sporting goods store on shelves, clothes rack (compass, flashlights, etc. + toilet paper)

(3) shopping bags

Hiking boots (3 pair to fit the three characters)

Canteen, poncho, floaties

Socks

Backpacking backpack

Mirror

Water bottle (blingy)

(3) clipboards

Picture of interior of a sports store for projection (optional to make it look like a large sporting goods store)

(4) maps (one for enemy)

(3) Emergency packets with scriptures

Boulders

Props - Act 2

(3) signs labeled “Route 1,” “Route 2” and “Route 3”

(3) signs labeled “Bridge of Bad Debt,” “Torrents of Trials and Tribulations” and
“Precipice of Pain” (with stand for each sign)

Bridge

Torrents - blue plastic tablecloths

Precipice - brown plastic tablecloths, stools

Boat keychain

Boat “Grace and Truth”

Pictures for projection (view of large boulders in river bed, view looking down from
high point)

Props - Act 3

“Finish Line” sign



“The Quest” - Act 1 PREPARATION

Narrator: Each of us has a unique path to follow. Our paths have been influenced by our choices, both bad and good; some of us are on a path that we never anticipated, nor did we choose. Whatever the path, it is guaranteed that we will encounter obstacles, challenges and even impossible situations that can throw us off balance and cause us to stumble, slip or fall. Our human tendency is toward instability. God’s Word often addresses the causes and consequences of instability. The stability in our lives can only come from knowing who God is, and being established in the solid and unchanging Word of God.

Mr. Swartz: *(to audience)* Welcome, Ladies. Today I invite you to join me in a *quest* of sorts. But first let me introduce myself. My name is Sigfried Swartz, the founder and owner of Swartz Sports World Outdoor Outfitting Store, and developer of the wildly successful brand of outdoor gear of which I’m sure you’re familiar--“Swartz Survival” consisting of clothing, footwear and outdoor equipment. I know you’ve heard our slogan **“If you’re not swartzing, you’re not sportzing!”** But, back to the quest. I have dedicated my life to building this business but have not, however, been blessed with a wife and family. So, having no heirs, this quest is a search for a special person to inherit my fortune and my business. It can’t be just anyone. So I have chosen a somewhat unorthodox manner to determine who is worthy to carry on my legacy-- someone who not only embraces the outdoor lifestyle which is the foundation of my empire, but she must also be able to remain stable in the most trying and confusing of circumstances. Swartz Sports World cannot survive without a steadfast and well-grounded leader at the helm in these unstable times.

Rocky: Boss, five minutes to showtime! The three ladies you chose from the pool of applicants are filling out their waivers and paperwork as we speak, and are just about ready for their instructions.

Mr. Swartz: Okay. Rocky. Just a minute and I’m on my way.

Mr. Swartz: *(to audience)* So, sit back and join me as we meet and follow three potential heirs. They are unaware that an inheritance is awaiting them...IF they prevail through the challenges on the journeys on which they will soon embark. They think they are competing in an outdoor athletic event determining who will wear the crown of Miss Sportz World 2017. So, of course, they have no clue that a fortune is riding on their successful finish. This should be interesting. So sit back, tighten your knapsacks and get ready for this extreme test of wits.

(ladies with clipboards and pens) (Rocky is nearby helping and picking up their waivers)

Mr. Swartz walks over

Rocky: Okay, here's the man, himself. Let me introduce you to the incomparable, undeniable and uncontested leader/guru of the sports world, our founding father and pillar of the outdoor world, Sigfried Swartz, the brains behind the brand! **"If you're not swartzing, you're not sportzing!"** (*gestures wildly*)

Mr. Swartz: Ladies...

Rocky: Mr. Swartz, let me introduce our contestants. (*looking at applications*) First we have Sarah Savvy. Sarah says that she has traveled the world, and feels that her street smarts will be the key to her victory. Next we have Wendy Willow. Wendy feels that her flexibility and willingness to easily change direction will be a key asset as she navigates the unknown path to victory. And finally, this is Sheila SureFoot. It says here that Miss SureFoot is a member of the Blackfoot Tribe. She grew up in the outdoors, and is the descendant of many generations of strong hunters and survivalists.

Mr. Swartz: Well, Rocky, we have quite a formidable group of ladies chosen to participate in our little competition. Welcome ladies, and may you all find your path to the finish line. Rocky, they're all yours. You know what to do next. Good luck ladies!

Rocky: Okay, ladies, your paperwork is complete. Now it's time to get you outfitted. I'm going to give you some freedom to express your personalities here. If you read the application carefully, you know that your journey will begin this afternoon, at the designated meeting point, and then you will each be assigned the trail you are to follow. So before leaving the store, each of you is invited to take advantage of Mr. Swartz's wonderfully stocked outdoor store and gear up as you see fit. The only thing that we insist upon is that you each take a pair of these fabulous shoes--our famous "Swartz Survival Faith-Walkers". (*hands each a shopping bag*) Otherwise, take a tour of the store and you are welcome to take whatever you feel would be necessary for your successful completion of your journey. The store layout is easy to follow. I will leave you now to do some shopping.

Sarah Savvy: Oh, I do love shopping, and I'm good at it--but lucky for me, I have quite the wardrobe at home in my closet. He says I have to take these shoes, but it doesn't mean I have to wear them. I've been walking in these stilettos half my life, and I feel as confident in these as I look. Look at this (*picks up poncho*)--this poncho is hideous. I couldn't be seen in public wearing the shades of bland in this store--it's just so 2013. Oh, but here, I could use this water bottle--it seems like my style, and it won't clash with my outfits.

Sheila SureFoot: That's all you're getting? Are you sure you have everything else at home? Your feet are very important on any trek like this. (*holds up faith walkers out of bag*) Look at the treads on these. They'll keep you stable if the landscape gets tricky. You're going to need good socks, and a hat, and....

Sarah Savvy: (*interrupting*) Thanks for your input. But I don't necessarily trust that you have my best interests at heart--this is a competition after all. I have socks at home, thank you very much. Those "faith walkers" do nothing for my legs and ankles--so I'll be bringing them just because it is required. Let's face it, with this group, I am the only logical choice when it comes to being Miss Sportz World. I would look great on a billboard or in a magazine spread, so I have to be extra picky about what I wear.

Shiela: Okay....

Rocky: (*Sara goes to checks out*) Sarah, you've got what you need--shoes and a water bottle? Okay, then. Here is your race packet. See you this afternoon.

Sarah: (*looks at race packet*) Oh, Route 1. I'm NUMBER ONE. Sounds very appropriate --and maybe prophetic. (*exits*)

Wendy: (*to Sheila*) You seem to really know what you are talking about. I'm just a little confused. I understand this is a competition, but I'm just not sure what I am going to need. Is it going to be wet or dry? Hot or cold? Climbing uphill or sliding downhill? Paper or plastic? Can you just give me a few tips?

Sheila: Well, what items are you looking at?

Wendy: My path could lead through water, so maybe I'll need these? (*holds up floaties*) But what if I'm wrong? Maybe I'll need to run (*holds up running shoes*). Will "faith walkers" work for any terrain I encounter? Will I need bandaids for blisters? Do I need some matches? Some camp cookware? A flashlight? Do I have time to run to Home Depot--I may need a hammer and nails to build a shelter or a raft. What should I get?

Sheila: Well the point is, you need to make those decisions for yourself. I don't know what your path will be like, but you need to prepare for any condition. You don't want to fall and risk an injury just because you are not prepared.

Wendy: That's true! Oh wow! I'll need this, and this, and this, and this--I'll need a backpack to carry it all! Oh, I might need that waterproof wallet, and these knives. What about biodegradable toilet paper? Hand sanitizer? Mace? (*looks to Rocky*) Hey, we don't have to pay for this, right?

Rocky: Right. We are outfitting you for this competition. Take whatever you think you will need.

Wendy: Do you think I'm taking too much?

Rocky: I really can't advise you. But it seems like that would be a whole lot of baggage to have to carry.

Wendy: But I can imagine a scenario where each of these things would be crucial.

Sheila: Really? We'll be gone two days, max. You really think you will need 6 rolls of toilet paper?

Wendy: You're right--maybe I should take 7 just in case! That's just it. I'm just gonna go ahead and finish shopping. If push comes to shove, I'll use a backpack and a knapsack. Or maybe I can pull a cart. I'll work it out. I'm going to grab a few more things and then I'm done. Oh, and thanks for your help.

Rocky: *(Wendy heads to check out)* Okay, here is your packet. You are Route 2. *(Wendy exits)* Well, Sheila, it looks like you're the last one to get geared up.

Sheila: I've faced similar challenges, and what has always worked for me is to start with my feet. I've got the shoes, so now I need some thick socks that will wick away the moisture. Appropriate footwear for any journey is crucial. Whatever challenges lie ahead, I have learned that it all starts with my feet. No matter what the terrain, the stability of my walk depends upon the support I have. If my feet give out, I'm done for. If I take care of my feet, I can remain stable and competitive. *(picks up some socks and a few other things)*

Sheila: *(taking shoes out of bag and looking at "faith walkers")* These really look great! They lace up to give my ankles stability, the tread is appropriate for a variety of rough terrain, they are waterproof yet breathable, lightweight but sturdy. I'm glad to have these, for sure. I don't want to carry a lot of stuff, because extra baggage can throw me off-balance. Let's see, maybe a compass, a canteen, maybe a flashlight... This should get me through.

Rocky: Okay, then. Here is your packet. Looks like you have Route 3. I'll see you and the other girls this afternoon at the starting area. Good luck!

Narrator: Our hikers will soon begin their individual journeys. They think it is a simple competition--but it is oh-so-much more. Each thinks she is prepared to meet any

challenge. But they will be tested beyond anything they can prepare for physically. Their journeys will test their faith in what they can not see.



“The Quest” - Act 2

CHALLENGES

Narrator: All of our contestants have arrived at the trailhead, excited to see what lies ahead. Each will be following the individual path assigned to her, and each will encounter challenges and obstacles that she must overcome in order to finish her quest. The terrain will test their stability in the face of trials and temptations. Stumbling and falling could delay and possibly even prevent their successful completion.

Rocky: Glad to see you all again. We’re certainly excited for this grand adventure and challenge to find out which of you qualifies to be the next Miss Sportz World 2017! We have three routes ready. Each route has different challenges to overcome, but they are basically equal in length and difficulty. I am confident that you are all capable of overcoming the challenges you will meet, no matter which route you are given.

Sarah: I’m good. I’m not worried. When I know I look good, I feel like I can conquer the world. What do you think of my outfit? I did bring a mirror so that I can freshen up before I reach the finish line. *(she is checking in the mirror)*

Rocky: Not exactly the challenge I was talking about, but....

Wendy: *(gasp)* Duct tape! I forgot to pick up duct tape. Maybe I should have some lighter fluid. *(fumbling through backpack)* Did I put nail clippers in here?

Rocky: That backpack sure looks heavy! You have a lot to carry. Are you sure that won’t slow you down?

Wendy: Even with this backpack, I’m sure I forgot something that I need!

Sheila: Okay, I’m ready. Let’s do this!

Rocky: Wait just a minute. I have some further instructions and warnings for you. I have given each of you a map in your packet, and if you follow it, you will get to your destination. But you also need to be aware of possible perils that you may or may not encounter on your path. For instance, you could encounter a fork in the road which could cause a delay in your progress if you make the wrong choice. Consult your map! There could be extreme winds of adversity, mudslides of marital problems could really be a setback, besetting sin can entangle you, you could fall in a pit of debt, waters of fear have been known to overwhelm hikers in the past, and duststorms of discouragement can come up out of nowhere.

Wendy: Duststorms? I forgot a mask! Oh no!

Rocky: I have one more warning--my most important warning: Are any of you familiar with the outdoor store called Fakes and Knockoffs? The owner and manager calls himself The King of the Wild Outdoors, but his store carries vastly inferior products that he tries to pass off as the real thing. He's been known to try to sabotage Mr. Swartz and his customers over the years. You will run into him at some point, and I guarantee that he will be trouble. He wants you to fail, and any advice or direction he gives you is not to be trusted.

Sarah: How will we know if we meet him? What does he look like?

Rocky: That's a good question. He looks like a regular hiker. The only way you can recognize him is to compare what he tells you with what your map says. He will lie, and attempt to delay, distract, discourage and even destroy you.

Wendy: (*Gasp!*) Oh, no! Should I be worried?

Sarah: I've fought off ill-intentioned men my whole life. I'm not afraid, and these heels can be deadly. More than one cad has suffered serious injury from a poke from these.

Sheila: If I know my map and keep focused on the path, I'm pretty sure I won't fall prey to his schemes. His efforts won't succeed with me.

Rocky: Don't underestimate this enemy, Ladies. Stay alert and aware as you walk. Sarah, you have Route 1; Wendy, you have Route 2 and Sheila, you have Route 3. In your packets, along with your maps, you will each find an envelope of Emergency Truths. This is very important! Open it immediately if you find yourself in a situation that threatens your balance. You have a moment now to study your maps before I give the word to go.

Mr. Swartz: (*walking up*) Ladies, I see you are ready to go. I wish you all great success in overcoming the challenges of the journey ahead of you! Don't worry, I'll be keeping up your progress on the trail.

Mr. Swartz: (*to audience*) This is not a walk in the park. They don't comprehend what is at stake! They have no idea how much I want each of them to finish well. They have everything they need if they choose to take advantage of it. Before I could turn my empire over to any one of them, I need to know that they can press on and remain stable in the midst of hardships and temptations. I need to know they can endure through trial and testing.

Rocky: Okay, girls. Ready, set, go!

Sarah: *(takes off in wobbly heels)*

Wendy: *(looking all ways, confused)*

Sheila: *(walks purposefully)*

Mr. Swartz: *(to Rocky)* So what do you really think of these gals, Rocky? Is one worthy of my empire? You've seen their applications and talked with them.

Rocky: Honestly, sir, I think they're all worthy in their own way, but they will each face some obstacles in the path that will be challenging. Not to mention, I do think the enemy is going to cause trouble along the way. I hope they take advantage of the faith-walkers and the emergency bag we've provided.

Mr. Swartz: That "King of the Wild Outdoors" aka Hubert Poser *(sarcastically)*. That dirty rotten scoundrel has been nothing but trouble since he tried to open his own pathetic excuse of an outdoor store, carrying those shoddy unsafe products. Everything he sells is a cheap knock-off of the real thing. If I every meet that guy... *(getting fired up!)*

Rocky: Sir, remember your blood pressure. Your store will always prevail. He's nothing more than a nuisance.

Narrator: Our three competitors have begun their journey, uncertain of the future, but with every intention of persevering to the finish line. How will each respond to the challenges on her path? Will the uneven terrain, the rocky paths, the slippery paths prove too much? Will they slip? Will they stumble? Will they turn back? Now we'll focus on each of their separate journeys.

Sarah's Challenge

Sarah: *(comes to bridge with sign "Bridge of Bad Debt" and stops)* Oh my goodness! The Bridge of Bad Debt! I don't want to go there! There must be another way. *(looking around)* I guess this is partly my fault--I do love shopping. But I never thought it would catch up with me. Look at that deep pit below. If I fall, those boulders of bankruptcy could destroy me *(takes one step on bridge, and it is swaying back and forth. She begins to wobble.)*

Enemy: Wow. That bridge is sure rickety! And it is swaying. I can't imagine that you will survive if you try to cross it. How did you end up here?

Sarah: Well, there were some bad decisions, and then some credit cards, some unexpected bills, and my clothes addiction doesn't help. I can't believe I'm here, and those boulders are menacing and the bridge will be hard to walk on, and I feel very unsteady. (*wobbling more*)

Enemy: You'll never pay off all those bills. You're going to lose everything. You need to do something.

Sarah: But what can I do?

Enemy: Oh, I have a few suggestions, since you asked. These detours will help you avoid crossing this. They won't cost much. Why don't you try your hand at buying some lottery tickets? You could be lucky! Someone has to win all those millions. Or, you've read how you can get-rich-quick, haven't you? Fudging on your taxes always helps. You don't want to walk across this bridge! Come my way instead!

Sarah: But, I'm not innocent in all this. This is a consequence of some of my bad decisions, and I know it.

Enemy: It's not your fault. You don't deserve this. How could anyone resist those name brand bags on sale? And you need money--can't live without it. If you start paying back your debts, you won't have enough to live in the manner to which you're accustomed! Follow me, I have schemes and devices you can try.

Sarah: (*wobbling more*) If I follow your way, will it get me out of debt?

Enemy: (*shrugs*) Ehh!

Sarah: Wait a minute! I almost forgot that I have Mr. Swartz's emergency pack, and this is an emergency if I ever saw it.

Enemy: No, it's not an emergency yet; You've got time before those bills are due, and I'm sure everyone will extend their due dates.

Sarah: I'm going to open it. (*pulls out emergency truths*)

- "One's life does not consist in the abundance of things you possess!"
 - "Owe to no man anything but love."
 - "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (*stops wobbling a little*)
- That's true! I will start paying everyone off, little by little, and live on less. If I put on these horrid looking "faith walkers" and believe this, I think I can cross this bridge!

Enemy: You're making a mistake! I could turn things around for you and make your rich!

Sarah: No thanks. I'm choosing to believe these--oh, hang on, there's something else in here. "The love of money is the root of all evil."

Enemy: *(hands to ears)* I'm out of here!

(Sarah puts on shoes and confidently walks across the bridge and off stage)

Wendy's Challenge

Wendy: *(comes to a river, with a sign identifying it as "Torrents of Trials and Tribulations")* Torrents of Trials and tribulations? Oh, no! I don't know what to do!! This is more than I can handle, and it looks very wet. Let me see what I have--surely I've packed something that will get me through. *(opens backpack)* I have these floaties--but I'm not sure they would hold up in those waves. What am I going to do?

Enemy: Hey, you look like you're facing some real trouble. Mr. Swartz sent you on this route, right? What was he thinking? I bet you're the only one with these trials and temptations!

Wendy: I think I could handle a small trial or tribulation. But torrents of trials and tribulations? Just looking at that rushing water makes me dizzy! *(she starts to wobble)*

Enemy: That's true! How can you possibly cross that torrent? Those waves will drive you and you will be tossed by the wind. Look how you are already wavering and unstable. If I were you, I would just give up now. Even if you figure it out, and get across this river, there are probably worse trials ahead. Go back now, while you are still dry!

Wendy: I've got a hammer and nails, maybe I could build a boat. Or maybe I could find a shallow area and take my chances walking across; Or maybe I could find a narrow spot and jump over it...*(wobbling)* Oh, I don't think I can do this!

Enemy: Oh, yeah, those are really good ideas. *(sarcastic)* You're wobbling right now, and you haven't even gotten your feet wet! Those torrents will sweep you you off your feet and wash you downstream. You're a goner!

Wendy: *(gasp)* Oh, I almost forgot! My emergency bag! *(pulls out emergency truths)*

- "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."

- "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you."
- "The peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

And what is this (*pulls out boat keychain*) I wonder what this key is for?

Enemy: Let me take that! (*tries to grab key*)

Wendy: No! I think I will need that key! Now I'm going to stop and put on these faith-walkers and then I'm going to step in! (*takes off shoes, puts on faith-walkers*) Oh, I can feel the difference already. Now these waves won't knock me over. (*walks steadily in the water*)

Enemy: You're crazy.

Wendy: (*walking through water and sees a boat*) A boat! That's what the key is for! Now I know I'll make it! Thank you Mr. Swartz! (*takes off in boat*)

Enemy: (*leaving*) I hope you sink!

Sheila's Challenge

Sheila -(*comes to a cliff, with a sign identifying it as "Precipice of Pain"*) Precipice of Pain!! (*shocked*) I never expected that my journey would end up here. I was so sure I could handle any challenge. But not this! I don't want to walk that path!

Enemy: What's wrong? Why have you stopped. I thought you'd be crossing the finish line now.

Sheila: This precipice of pain--I can't face it! I can't believe my journey has taken me here. It is such a narrow ledge! I'll never make it! (*starts to wobble*).

Enemy: That's right. Life as you knew it is over. That precipice of pain is what is in front of you and that ledge goes on forrrrr-evvv-er. (*Sheila strains to look*) You may be walking that path for quite a while--maybe for the rest of your life.

Sheila: Oh, no!

Enemy: You might be from the "SureFoot" family, but you are nothing like Grandma Running Deer who had feet like a deer and walked on high hills.

Sheila: *(weakly)* How do you know about her? My family always told me I was like her. I wish I could find a high hill I could walk on to avoid this!

Enemy: Who put you on this path? Why would Mr. Swartz arbitrarily make this decision for you? You didn't deserve this. It's not worth it--whatever he's promised you. And now, how can you trust him? What possible purpose could he have for this pain? What's the use of following his path? He can't be trusted. Come with me. We'll have a pity party! We'll have cake.

Sheila: *(wobbling)* I don't know what to believe. *(wobbling more)* But when I met Mr. Swartz, he said he had a plan.

Enemy: And this is his plan? Come on! What if this path leads to even more pain and loss? Doesn't that make you question his motives? He only cares about his business.

Sheila: *(wobbles more)* I can't believe how wobbly I feel right now. I will never be able to cross the precipice like this--I'll fall for sure. I'd better start by putting my faith-walkers on. *(puts on shoes)* Wait a minute! I was given an emergency pack, maybe it will help.

Enemy: *(to audience)* Another emergency pack. *(to Sheila)* Give me that *(tries to grab emergency packet)*

Sheila: No, it's mine! *(opens emergency pack and pulls out strip of paper)*

- "I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."
- "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."
- "But He knows the way that I take: *when* He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold." *(stops wobbling and calms down)*

Enemy: Fool's gold! I give up...for now. Maybe I'll go find another hiker that I can disillusion and discourage. That will cheer me up! *(leaves)*

Sheila: Okay, I can do this. I'm wearing my "faith walkers" and I'm going to believe that Mr. Swartz knows and He has a good plan. *(starts walking steadily along the edge of the precipice)*

Narrator: All of our hikers survived their biggest challenge thanks to their Emergency Truths. They will face more challenges on their journey, but they have learned that their

stability does not come from their own strength. Thank goodness for the truths that bring stability in the most dire of circumstances!



"The Quest" - Act 3

INHERITANCE

Narrator: The ladies have made it to the end of their journey. We only saw their biggest challenges, but there were many other trials and decisions along the way. Each of them managed to persevere to the end, despite their moments of unsteadiness.

Rocky: Ladies! You made it and you survived the trail. Congratulations. How was it?

Sarah: Well, my journey was easy-breezy at the beginning. I loved my outfit, and I just generally felt good. But then I came to the bridge of Bad Debt, which spanned a pit of the boulders of bankruptcy. It was so scary! I wished I could go any other way, and that guy you warned us about showed up and offered some alternatives. But the turning point came when I put on my those dreadful-looking shoes and believed the Emergency Truths would get me through. And they did--there is no other explanation. And I kept walking steadily, even though I passed through the Valley of Discouragement.

Wendy: Yeah, I had a similar experience. I had good weather and perfect hiking conditions. My backpack was heavy, but I felt strong until I came to the Torrents of Trials and Tribulations. The water was rushing so fast, and it could have swept me away. I thought I could figure out a way around it and that same guy came along with crazy ideas for me to get around it, but in the end, it was those Emergency Truths that guided me to the S.S. Grace & Truth and that boat carried me through the torrential waves. And when I finally passed through the trials and tribulations, I kept walking steadily even though the vines of besetting sin threatened to entangle me.

Sheila: Wow! The scariest part of my journey was when I reached the Precipice of Pain! Up until then, I was walking pretty steadily and it was so unexpected to encounter pain. I started to question Mr. Swartz's plan. Was I as strong as I needed to be to cross this precipice? Having the name SureFoot gave me a false sense of security. The guy you all are talking about showed up and tried to convince me that Mr. Swartz couldn't be trusted. The turning point in my journey came when I decided to fully trust Mr. Swartz and his plan by wearing my faith walkers and believing those Emergency Truths no matter what. Then I was tough and strong and steady when I passed so close to the quicksand pit of pride.

Mr. Swartz: I'm proud of all of you. You learned to walk steadily by faith and not by sight. You were each confronted with a serious obstacle, and I am impressed with your steadfastness and perseverance. Now I have a confession to make. My dream for you

is much bigger than being Miss Sports World 2017. This has been, in fact, my quest to find the one who would inherit my fortune. But as I observed each of you in your journey, I have found three worthy heirs to my kingdom.

Wendy: I’m confused. All three of us won?

Sarah: So I’m not getting my billboard after all?

Sheila: Oh, that makes more sense! No wonder we faced such difficult situations!

Mr. Swartz: Yes, I had to test your faith to see if you would actually wear your faith-walkers, that you would use the Emergency Truths when you needed them, and that you would rise to the challenge of completing the course. In short, that you are as dedicated as I am to the furtherance of my empire.

Sheila: So how can you use all of us?

Mr. Swartz: You all have valuable qualities essential to running my business. Sarah, going over that Bridge of Bad Debt helped you learn to handle money in an honorable way, and to recognize that your integrity is worth more than any amount of money or possession. I want you to be my CFO. *(Sarah responds)*

Mr. Swartz: Wendy, in facing the Torrents of Trials and Tribulations, you learned that you could find a way to stand firm, even in the midst of a situation where you could have drowned in your problems. I’m proud of you. I would be honored to have you as my CEO. *(Wendy responds)*

Mr. Swartz: Sheila, as you crossed the Precipice of Pain, you learned you could move forward regardless of your personal discomfort. Along the way, you learned compassion for those who are hurting. I need you to be my COO. *(Sheila responds)*

What do you say, ladies? Will you accept my offer?

(all agree, “wow!” “sounds like a dream!” “I can’t believe it!”)

Sheila: I bet you want us to wear our “faith-walkers” to work every day!

Sarah: They’re kind of growing on me. But at my first staff meeting I’m going to recommend that we expand our inventory to include more colors, PLEASE.

Wendy: The wisdom and knowledge we have gained will provide us with the stability to run this amazing corporation.

Mr. Swartz: With you ladies on the Swartz Sports team, I look forward to watching the my company thrive as we together tackle new endeavors in the outdoor world.

Narrator: Our girls completed their journeys successfully. But we observed their instability at crucial points along their trails. We could all breeze through our journeys if we didn't meet obstacles and challenges that threaten our stability. Those testings we meet along the way try our faith; as we choose to believe in the truths which we cannot see or touch, our faith-muscles get stronger, and we can keep our balance when the path gets hard. Remain faithful, press steadily on....and you also will inherit the kingdom!