

# Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion

Church Office Building Lobby and Auditorium

Registration – Salt Lake City, Utah

August 2, 2018

By Frances Orton

Thursday, August 2, registration before the “Greeting Meeting” began in the Church Office Building Auditorium Lobby. Many wonderful Smith Family members volunteered to help Daniel and Kris Patrick who were spearheading things during registration.



Don Blanchard and his wife Laura helping Kathy Ruggiero hand out leftover family newsletters, reunion memorabilia including Joseph Miracle Run medals, and videos



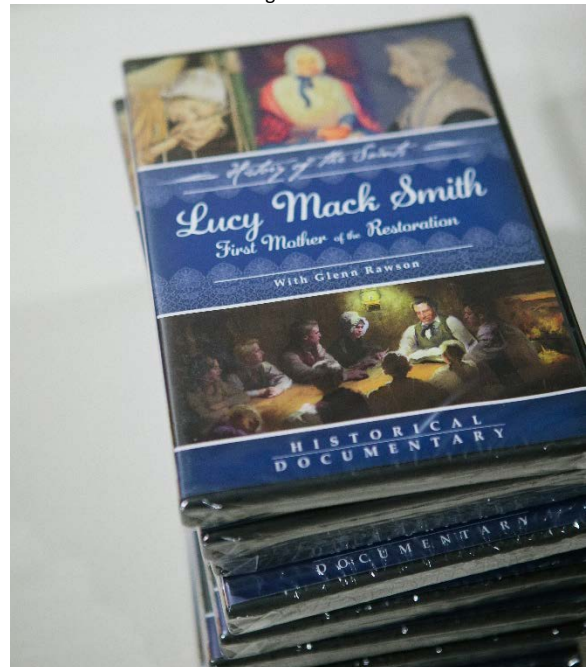
On the right behind the table Daniel & Kris Patrick and Kathy Ruggiero and Don & Laura Blanchard attend to the gathering family



Kris Patrick clearing up a registration question



Remaining Joseph's Miracle Run medals were given out during registration



The family was happy they had the opportunity to purchase this DVD at a great discount during the reunion

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Meet and Greet – Salt Lake City, Utah

August 2, 2018



Steve and Frances presented the roll call with **data taken from registrations as of Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at 7:00 pm**. When each family line was presented we had those families stand. This is a fun way to see who everyone is and make new connections.

Line	Attendees
Joseph - Joseph III	4
Samuel - Samuel	15
Joseph - Alexander	22
Hyrum - Sarah	31
Hyrum - John	39
Hyrum - Jerusha	46
Hyrum - Lovina	79
Hyrum - Martha Ann	132
Hyrum - Joseph F	163



Joseph Jr descendants through Alexander stand: Gil and Helen Mangels, Gracia & Ivor Jones, Kathy Johnson Emmett-Meek, Rachel Emmett & Mario F. López, and in the back Michael Jr. & Meagan Kennedy



The Church Office Building Auditorium was an ideal spot for our "Greet and Meet"



Frances Orton read a letter from William descendant Gilda Sundeen sent to be read at the reunion



Gwen Smith provided our piano music during the reunion



Elizabeth Nixon served as the chorister throughout our meetings





Gil and Helen Mangels from Montana stood to be recognized for being sealed in the Provo City Center Temple that morning but still making it to the reunion – Helen is a Joseph Jr. Descendent – their prize was a bag of Hershey's hugs

Steve asked several of our youth to come to the front of the room. Then as each state region was called the youth ran luggage tags with the Smith signature on it to those who travelled to be with us.



State	Attendees
Florida	1
New Mexico	1
Iowa	2
Kansas	2
Montana	2
Virginia	2
Washington	2
Missouri	4
Nevada	4
Oregon	5
Arizona	7
Ohio	7
Idaho	10
Michigan	13
California	62
Utah	411

Those from out of the country received a Utah Truffle candy bar.

Country	Attendees
Tokyo, Japan	3
Dubai, UAE	5

During the evening we recognized our oldest attendee: Edith Sharp at 98 years. She received a box of Good N Plenty candy.



Edith Sharp standing near the back of the room



Edith Sharp and Karen Sharp Foster



Left to right: Stephanie & Scott and Daniel Parker, Betty Briggs, Cleo K Huefner during the Meet and Greet Meeting





Kathleen & Eric Alvey were recognized as the first people to register for the reunion

### 2018 Smith Family Reunion Expenses

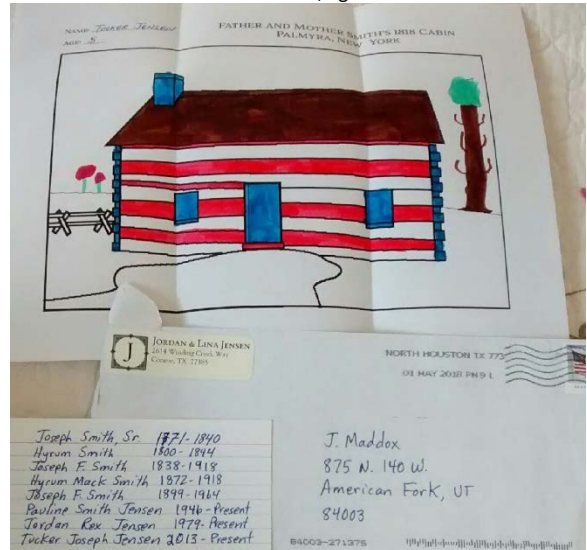
Reunion Expenses		Amounts	
This is the Place, Picnic Lunch		\$8,910.00	
Church Facilities, Staff, and Banquet		\$10,206.09	
Nametags, Programs		\$1,361.88	
PayPal, Ticket Tailor		\$901.50	
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$21,379.47</b>
Reunion Income		Fee	Qty
		\$40.00	525
		\$21,000.00	
		<b>Balance</b>	<b>-\$379.47</b>



Julie Maddox invited additional children to pick up a coloring page and enter the coloring contest during the reunion



Julie Maddox holds up the first place winner of the coloring contest - Tucker Jensen, age 5 from Texas



Tucker Jensen, age 5 was the only mailed in coloring contest entry



Karl Anderson giving the Nauvoo Smith Family Cemetery report

Karl Anderson stepped in for Dan Larsen to report on the Nauvoo Smith Family Cemetery. Karl said, "Dan is not here tonight. He had a critical situation arise and will not be able to be at our reunion this year. He called earlier today and said he felt like he was in the wrong place because his heart is with us." He attended the first reunion and has never missed any since. He sends his love and greetings.

Karl continued, "Dan Larsen is a descendant of Joseph Smith III and he is one of the biggest

supporters of the family. We do miss him. He promises he will never miss another and I told him he will die someday. He then said, "I will attend from the other side."

"I would like to give a report on the cemetery. Dan was in charge of construction initially 27 years ago. Dan continues his interest and involvement in the cemetery and in its maintenance."

"We met at the cemetery 2 years ago during the reunion. The cemetery was showing signs of aging then. The fence in particular has had to undergo major repairs over the years. It now needs to be replaced. So, our big project for this year is to install a new fence around the cemetery. The new fence is now designed and a sample section has been produced for approval. The new fence will be installed this coming fall."

"We are greatly blessed that an anonymous donor is funding the new fence and that has enabled us to do it."

"This past year we put in a new brick sidewalk that enables visitors to walk all the way back to Father and Mother Smith's graves. The new sidewalk looks beautiful."

"The flowers are gorgeous this year. With the new fence and sidewalk, it will be sparkling new."

"This family has supported the cemetery for all of these years. Most of you have made contributions and you can be proud of how it looks. President Ballard is especially grateful for all of you who have made contributions. If anyone wishes to contribute, further, you are welcome to do that. However, we are very fortunate in having the major gift that will fund the project" Of course, President Ballard's desire is that when Joseph, Emma and Hyrum rise in the resurrection to greet their parents and family, that they will have a beautiful garden spot in which to do it.

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## Michael Kennedy – Junior Family Organization Report

Michael and Darcy Kennedy stood up together.



Darcy said, "We do miss Omaha Bob. He was sure he was going to make it here. When I saw the picture up there I thought – he and Eldred are having a great time. How many Smith's are on the other side of the veil and having a great time being close and watching over everyone."

We are so blessed to have been able to go to the two sealings. Last week and this morning. What an amazing feeling that was to sit there and feel the Smith's on the other side. They are so thrilled to see our family grow."



Michael explained, "A couple of things. First the website that lists all the descendants of Joseph and Lucy <http://www.josephsmithsr.com> and <http://www.josephsmithjr.org/> are going through a major facelift right now. In 30 to 60 days from now there will be a new website. We are excited about the change that will take place. We have volunteers in place to contact you for your stories. That content can't be seen by the general public. This will be just a little life story about you so that the family can get to know a little more about you."

Tomorrow you will get to see a new movie we released, In Emma's Footsteps. The first movie we filmed was about the beginning of the church and the growth after from Emma's eyes. This film picks up at the time of the martyrdom and goes forward to about the time of the exodus. You get a feel for some of the decisions Emma went through.



We are making an exciting announcement about another film tomorrow.

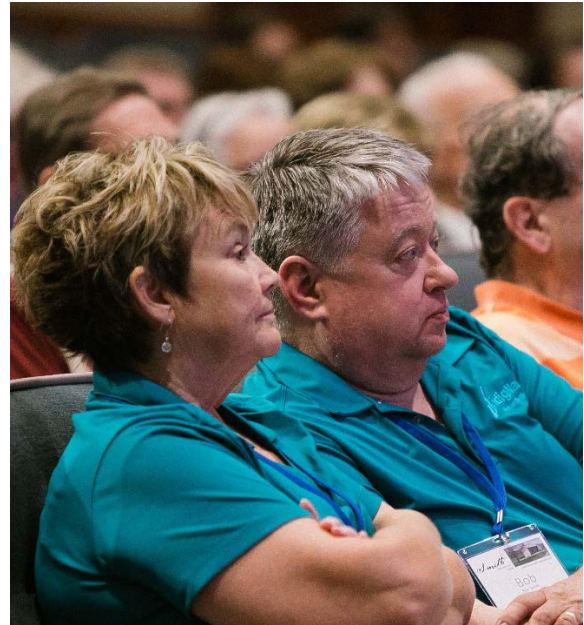
Other family projects are happening with Family Search. More will be coming out about that.

## Bob Smith – Samuel Organization and iDig Nauvoo Report

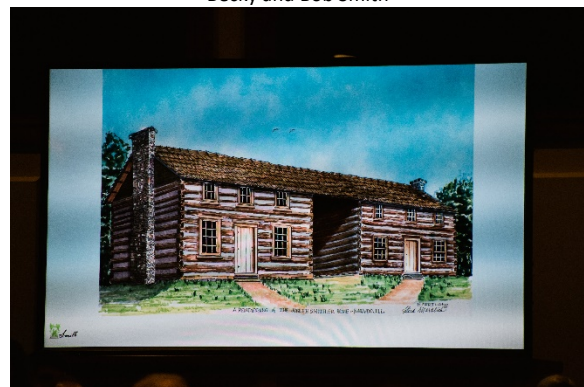


Bob began, “How many years have iDig Nauvoo been digging in Nauvoo. Seven years. This is a family sponsored dig. I don’t know anyone doing that much archeological work.”

Becky and Bob handed out nice blue iDig Nauvoo cups to those answering their questions during their presentation.



Becky and Bob Smith



The Joseph and Lucy Mack Smith home looked like this. We are going to build this in Camp Nauvoo. Our family will be able to stay here while in Nauvoo.

Robert Porter is a master model builder. He won grand prize for his depiction of the Red Brick Store. He produced this model of the Joseph Smith Sr. home. Approvals have been given to build Joseph Smith Sr. home at Camp Nauvoo.



Robert Porter showing his replica model of the Joseph Smith Sr. home



Robert Porter – a descendant through Hyrum’s daughter Sarah

Next year’s dig is May 14 – June 20, 2019.

Half of Samuel’s artifacts have now been shipped to the University of Idaho for analysis. This is exciting.

Bob asked the family, “How many years have we had a Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Grant Fund?” The answer was three.

“Let me tell you what that is. This is kind of fun. BYU Dining Services have an employee grant available. I don’t know if you knew this but Joseph Smith Sr.’s family were one of the first food trucks back in Palmyra. 1818 they were struggling. They had to try and bring in income. What they did is they had a handcart and filled it with gingerbread, boiled eggs, root beer, and cakes and that kind of stuff and sold it. What is interesting is, what do you do with a food truck? You take it to where the people are. Guess where the people were? They were at the revivals. This exposed the family to all the revivals.

What our family organization has tried to do is remember the significant events in our history. Then Bob asked for any 12-year old’s to stand. One girl stood and Bob had her come to the front of the room. Then he said, “Guess what you will be in two years?”

14. Guess what happened with Joseph when he was 14<sup>th</sup> year? The audience replied about his vision and he said, “Absolutely.”

At this reunion what we will be doing is you will see a handcart, you will see root beer, you will see little cakes, and tonight we actually have gingerbread cookies that we will hand out as we leave the building because we can’t have them in the building.

So when you bite into the ginger bread I hope you think about the Smith’s 200 years ago. That is a family value of pulling and working together.

The other thing we have been doing the last four years – we have sponsored the LDS Film Festival Family Film Competition. Why are we doing that? Because film is a wonderful mechanism of capturing memories and legacies. So, give yourself some applause as a family organization to be doing that.

## Daniel Adams – Senior Family Organization Report



Daniel Adams



Daniel said, "I want to take us back 200 years to a momentous time in our family history. I want to set the stage for you which is why I have this picture up here. I took this picture in Palmyra this last May.

This is the interior of Hyrum's cabin. After the Smith Family lost their land and Alvin's home and were unceremoniously evicted from it this is the cabin they went to. It was Hyrum's and his new wife's home.

All of these amazing things happened here in this cabin. I hope we can feel the warmth and the spirit that is associated with this because 200 years ago the foundation that literally defines the covenant for this family was happening.

In 1818, the Smith family had been driven by circumstances out of West Lebanon, New Hampshire to Palmyra NY. As you know, Father Smith leaves before Lucy to come to Palmyra and find this land. Lucy has to gather the family, the furniture, and everything and she is swindled by a teamster. Finally, she gets her family to be with her husband in Palmyra and she has two cents to her name.

Immediately the family starts working together. They are homeless at this point. They are trying to build the log cabin, they are trying to get established for their home. She starts painting oil cloth coverings for floors and they were doing tremendous industry.

Back in the early 1800's the average height of a man was about (holding up his hand to about 5'7") this high. Father Smith was a very handsome man and he had his six sons. Joseph was the shortest of his sons and a powerfully built man. Don Carlos was 6'5". These are huge men back in the early 1800's.

They set about clearing 100 acres. They were going to leave 40 of those acres for maple sugar. The other 60 acres they were clearing. You have to understand that these trees were 100 feet high. Many of them were 6 feet in diameter. Can you imagine a tree that big? They planted 200 apple trees in an orchard. They raised a threshing barn. They have a cooper shed. Alvin starts to build the house. They have this beautiful little creek that runs through their farm. You can see that Joseph knew what he was looking for. He had prime land. By their industry they had produced one of the most productive farm lands in upstate New York. You can look at the census county records on the taxes and see it was higher than other farms because they were such diligent hard workers. They finally felt like they had come to a place they felt the Lord was smiling upon them.

In just a few short years when they were working on Alvin's house, Alvin was going to die and the very man who was a carpenter who helped build Alvin's house fraudulently takes that house from them and they are again refugees.

An interesting thing to me is the only way they are able to survive and endure this is because they understood the power of the covenant. Because of the struggles they had gone through they were able to glimpse and taste eternity and the tree of life that Father Smith had seen a few times in the miraculous visions that he had.

The family saw that nothing else really mattered. This is where we come to this tiny log cabin when they are evicted from Alvin's home. They had to live with Hyrum and his new wife, Jerusha. Hyrum had 80 acres next to their 100 acres. They were able to get to an agreement like share croppers, they would work their own land they had already cleared so they could live there.

This is a beautiful home and the hearth where Joseph would pull the bricks out and hide the golden record.

Here is the attic room where Joseph sees the Angel Moroni. This is a beautiful small home but one where when you step inside the spirit is so strong you realize what a beautiful family this is.

This is the idea of a covenant. That God requires that we give up all of our worldly possessions. When we realize we can set our hearts on a heavenly home we can start to glimpse eternity and Heavenly Father gives us a taste of salvation. This is what Christ desired so greatly when he came in the meridian of time. He goes upon the Mount of Beatitudes and says, "This is the new covenant that I am going to teach you." It is the covenant of how to become like him. He also tells them that when they enter into this covenant Satan is going to persecute you. This is what he says,

Blessed are ye that,

10 And blessed are all they who are persecuted for my name's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 And blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake;

12 For ye shall have great joy and be exceedingly glad, for great shall be your



reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets who were before you.

This is the way it was for Father and Mother Smith. They were driven from their home and family. They were reviled and persecuted until they were really divested from all their worldly hopes and dreams. It is these very trials that force them to turn to their Heavenly Father and as a result glimpsed what their heavenly home could be. This gave them the strength to endure.

Even though in just another few short years they will be pushed from their home in Palmyra again we can see this happens multiple times. They have enough time in Palmyra to solidify that covenant with their family.

Here looking at this picture is where Father Smith tells his young children about the remarkable dream he has about this tree of life and about the restoration. It is here where Mother Smith, Lucy, tells her children about desperate pleas in a grove where she goes to ask Heavenly Father to help her with her worries about her husband about if he is going to accept the gospel and live that religion that would serve Heavenly Father best. Joseph Smith reads the invitation of James the apostle to go and ask God what he should do. Here the heavens were rent in an upper room and Moroni would come down and reveal to Joseph a marvelous work and a wonder.

This is where the Smith family would gather nightly and they would listen to Joseph tell remarkable stories about the ancient inhabitants of this continent. Their parents would read the scriptures to them and they would say their prayers. Their boys and their girls grew up strong in the faith. In the work they believed Heavenly Father would watch over them no matter what would come.

This is not the actual cabin but it is the closest they could come to a replication of that cabin. The house that Alvin built that is the actual house.

This place more than any other place to me symbolizes the meaning of a covenant family. No matter the coming persecution, trials, and difficulties, they and we, can remain fixed on what can be ours when we dream of a heavenly home. That is the theme of our reunion this year.

Our reunions really are about the covenant because we are all family. We look at the great sacrifices and the incredible things our ancestors did and we start to comprehend what you can do when you realize you

are literally children of our Father in Heaven, if you do live a covenant life. When you live a covenant life God will watch over you. That is a beautiful thing.

We are descended from these people. We have their blood in us. Joseph was a handsome man like Father Smith. It is a charitable blood. It's the blood of Christ. It's the blood that allows us to reach out and love each other and gather our family back together.

I think that this a beautiful thing that we are bound together because of the sacrifice of our ancestors. This is a momentous time. I want to read some of the things that we have done over the past few years as we have our eyes set toward a goal.

This is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary and that is so cool to me.

Dan asked for a show of hands for those who participated in this reunion.

In 2013 we had this Joseph's Miracle Run. That was a glorious occasion. We raised a tremendous amount of money, for the Smith Family who was always destitute and didn't have a lot of money, we raised a lot of money and we gave it away. Just like the Smiths do. Because we went to Dartmouth and we said, "We would like to thank you for Nathan Smith who started Dartmouth College and we would like to give a scholarship in the name of Joseph Smith. That's pretty cool.

Then we look at 2018 and that commemorating the Smith's settling into Palmyra and they are homeless and refugees. That is why we are building bunkbeds for refugees.

We also look towards 2020 for our next family reunion. When we look toward when this glorious gospel message comes and we realize we are sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. We do these podcasts trying to engage our family. We would encourage you to watch these podcasts. They are faith promoting and interesting. (Daniel humorously said there was a really famous person who looked like Father Smith doing the podcasts.)

Then he continued, "Our last one was Dreaming of a Heavenly Home. There are new ones. Our Grandparents Pattern for Life a Visionary House.

Every reunion when we bring each other together. Remember when Frances and Steve put up the costs? This is how much it costs to put this on. It is amazing what they accomplish every single year. When you

look at church history tours that people take and it is thousands of dollars and you hear the same speakers we get at our reunions. We enjoy the same activities and to see things that nobody else gets to see, but the Smith family gets to see and participate in. I think that is really exciting.

This year we are hearing from Lach Mackay as his mother Anina Mackay Luff is giving his message. We have Elder Ballard, we have Brad Wilcox, we have Karl Anderson, and we have Sharon Eubank all speaking to us.

Every year we do an incredible service project.

In 2016 we had a new gathering at the Smith Family Cemetery because we finally secured a perpetual upkeep of that cemetery. It has been 25 years our family has been helping with the care of the cemetery.

In our effort to reach out and engage our youth we are doing something really exciting. We have a scholarship program. This is open to anyone. The applicants don't have to be descendants of Joseph and Lucy Mack Smith. We are offering scholarships to Jr High School, High School, and College age students who can learn about our ancestors and the great values they instilled and their sacrifices and what a covenant truly means. That's a way we can engage our youth and get them to think about the importance of covenants. We are going to announce the winners to those scholarships tomorrow morning.

This work goes forward. We do great things. We learn about our ancestors. We strengthen our own values in understanding that. We look forward to going further and further and further in doing wonderful things with the Smith family. We cannot do it without your help. We appreciate you.

I want to reiterate the great importance that we start to understand what a covenant can be. What we can be when we dream of a heavenly home.



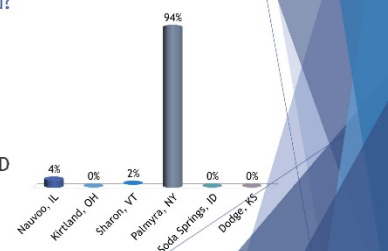
Frances and Steve wrap up the Meet and Greet Meeting getting some feedback from the family for the upcoming 2020 Vision Reunion in Palmyra.

Steve had the family participate by using clickers or cell phones. Steve had the young youth who helped him earlier come and hand out some clickers to those who didn't have a way to use their cell phone. This allowed for information to be collected that helps in the planning process.

Steve began by testing the family to see if they have been paying attention to earlier news sent out.

#### Where will the 2020 Smith Family Reunion be held?

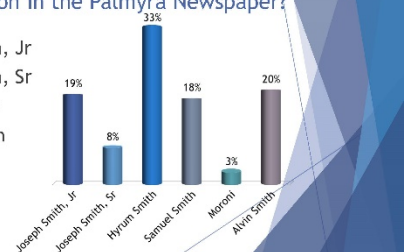
- A. Nauvoo, IL
- B. Kirtland, OH
- C. Sharon, VT
- ✓ D. Palmyra, NY
- E. Soda Springs, ID
- F. Dodge, KS



This question was fun interaction to excite everyone about going to Palmyra.

#### Who wrote the first advertisement for the Book of Mormon in the Palmyra Newspaper?

- A. Joseph Smith, Jr
- B. Joseph Smith, Sr
- C. Hyrum Smith
- D. Samuel Smith
- 😊 E. Moroni
- F. Alvin Smith



The answer to who wrote the first advertisement for the Book of Mormon was: Moroni.



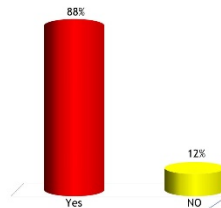
Wherefore, it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites—Written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile—Written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation—Written and sealed up, and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed—To come forth by the gift and power of God unto the interpretation thereof—Sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by way of the Gentile—The interpretation thereof by the gift of God.

GRATEFUL, SO DEDICATED  
 EXCITED AND READY TO ATTEND  
 I'LL BE ON A MISSION, SO HAVE FULCRUM  
 A VISCERAL "SWAN" TO GO (THE MORE, THE BETTER...)  
 CANT WAIT! EXCITED!! EXCITED!  
 WARM AND FUZZY  
 BOLD EGO  
 GREAT EXCITED  
 EXCITED  
 YES  
 YES  
 YES  
 WORKED  
 YES  
 I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE  
 EXCITED TO BE THERE!  
 UNUSUAL  
 EXCITEMENT  
 I WOULD BE GOOD  
 REVERENT  
 LOOKING FORWARD TO IT  
 BE NICE TO GO  
 ADVENTUROUS  
 PALMIRA THO SPRING IS  
 AWESOMELY NICE  
 ZOOLOGICAL I CAN SAY CLEARLY NOW  
 DECIDED TO MAKE IT A PROUDLY REVEALING  
 DECIDED TO TAKE OUR OWN RISK WHEN WE...

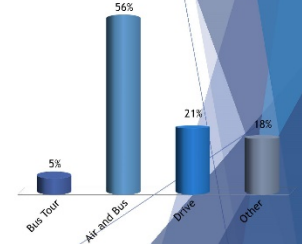
Points	Participant	Points	Participant
3222.22	O, Sterling		
3219.88	60C5C7		
2989.51	Rabe, Brent		
1923.8	Adams, Dan		
1923.1	5D6FD2		
1919.26	Ballard, Alina		
1919.24	Nixon, Elizabeth		
1917.13	5D5B5B		
1914.4	Skeen, Joe		
1914.38	Knapi, Cheylynn		

A. Yes

B. NO



- A. Bus Tour
- B. Air and Bus
- C. Drive
- D. Other



As our family exited the building, Bob Smith handed out gingerbread cookies to remember Father and Mother Smith and how they pulled their family together through work and prayer as they built their home and community.