



**IN THEIR "FAMILY" TENT**, Carol Morford (above) taught Alexis Hissong, Molly Jansonius, Erin Russ and Garrett Scott a saying to repeat. The Rev. Doug Hasty of the Oberlin United Methodist Church, (right) told stories from the Bible on Friday night.



**WITH ONE ARM UP** and one leg out, Kade Brown danced around Friday night during the Marketplace 29 A.D. Vacation Bible School.

# Bible school sends youths to Galilee

Dressed in colorful robes of the time — pink, blue, yellow, orange and green, tied with various colors of rope — kids stepped back in time last Wednesday as they entered Marketplace 29 A.D. at Sappa Park Shelter House.

The park had been set up with tents for the "families" made up of kids and one house mom at the Vacation Bible School. Bigger tents were set for crafts.

Near the entrance to the shelter house were several panels chained together to keep horses, donkeys, and sheep and a cow in. To one side were chickens, goats and ducks.

The three-night event, for kids in kindergarten through sixth grade, was sponsored by the Church of Christ, and the United, Faith Lutheran, Lund Covenant, United Methodist, Evangelical Covenant, Assembly of God and Jennings United Methodist churches. The school was held three nights from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Bill Duncan of the Church of Christ, director of the event, said he owed a big thanks to everyone for making Marketplace 29 A.D. a success. Each night pulled in an average of 91 kids, he said.

Students had opportunities to go through the marketplace and make jewelry, bricks, carpentry items, musical instruments, baskets and even learn a song and how to dance, all in praise of the Lord.

The kids got the chance to hear stories from the Bible, run from the tax collector, who would take their wooden money, and from the Roman soldiers, choose whether or not to give to beggars and meet Zaccheus and Jesus, or at least men who portrayed them.

Each night the kids brought a sack dinner and ate with their families before heading back out to do more activities.

On Friday, the last night, kids had invited parents to come to eat with them and see what was going on. Parents started showing up around 6:15 p.m. with coolers and bags. The kids spread out on the lawn with their families to eat brown-bag dinners.

After eating, the kids were able to show their parents the bridge — they had to pay one coin to go over — and the arts and crafts they had created

the last two days. Some even bought some old-time candy from the candy maker to share with their relatives.

Some of the kids found artist Anna Shaw over by the petting zoo. Mrs. Shaw was working on her pottery wheel and showing kids how to use the wheel and how to work with pottery.

That evening, the kids showed their parents the dance and song they had learned. The finale was two skits by the TNT Drama group from Hoxie.

Mr. Duncan said the steering committee, comprising 13 people from eight churches, had met weekly since February to plan the event.



**USING HER GUITAR** and voice, Anita Hirsch (left) taught kids a song and dance Friday night. Wade Juenemann (above) held his arms up high, preparing to dance.



**Story and photos by Kimberly Brandt**