John had every reason to be angry with the world. When he was only 6 years old, a group of men burst into his house in the middle of the night and killed his father and oldest brother.

The family was devastated and confused. As the youngest child, John helped his mother by wandering along the streets of his hometown in El Salvador, selling anything of value. The money he earned went toward the day’s food. Life was hard. The family barely survived.

For six years John worked on the streets. It seemed his life would never change. Then one day he saw a crowd gathered around a group of people. He went over to see what was happening. A team from King’s Castle, a children’s outreach, was doing a program with drama, mime and puppets.

John watched intently. When a team member asked who wanted to accept Christ, John went forward. Later he asked if he could join the team. The members agreed. They showed John how to use puppets and taught him more about Jesus.

Soon John became the leader of a children’s ministries team. The group often risked danger as they traveled to needy places. Sometimes people shot at them. But John knew their message was worth the risk. Many children needed to hear the good news of Jesus’ love.

Once, John’s team went to a needy area where they planned to do three programs in one day. Most of the children had little to eat. Life was a struggle.
At the end of each program, the team members always gave cookies to the children. But when they checked their supplies, they discovered a problem. They had only a few cookies to share—not even enough for the children at the first program!

The team discussed what to do. Finally they put their small supply of cookies in a box and prayed that God would supply the need.

(picture 3)
At the first location, they gave each child a cookie . . . and they still had some left! The same thing happened at the second place . . . and the third. When the day was over, every child had received a cookie, yet the box still had cookies in it. Just like Jesus multiplied the fish and the bread in the New Testament, God multiplied the cookies so everyone would be included!

Today John is a missionary and an evangelist. God has used him to reach many people—including his mother and several other family members. His brother now pastors a church.

John still spends much of his life on the streets, but for a different reason. Once he sold things to get money. Today he gives away his most precious possession—his faith in a loving God.

Information for this story was supplied by Don and Terri Triplett, missionaries to El Salvador.

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