

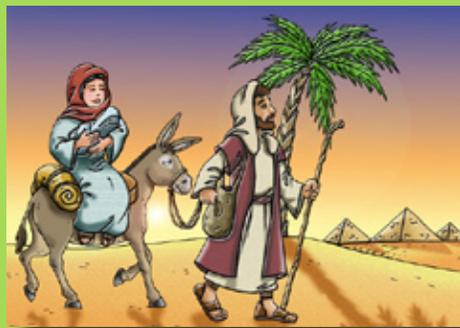
# Ricardo Ramirez



**R**icardo Ramirez Gallo was born in Cali, Colombia in 1966. When he was a child his family moved to Bogota, the capital city of Colombia, where he grew up and received the better part of his education.

In 1983 two big events occurred in brother Ramirez' life. First, he and his little brother were hired as 2D graphic and animation designers by a cartoon studio, making them the two youngest persons working on a professional level in that field in their country. Second, "but the most important experience" was to be baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Later, several other family members joined the Church as well.

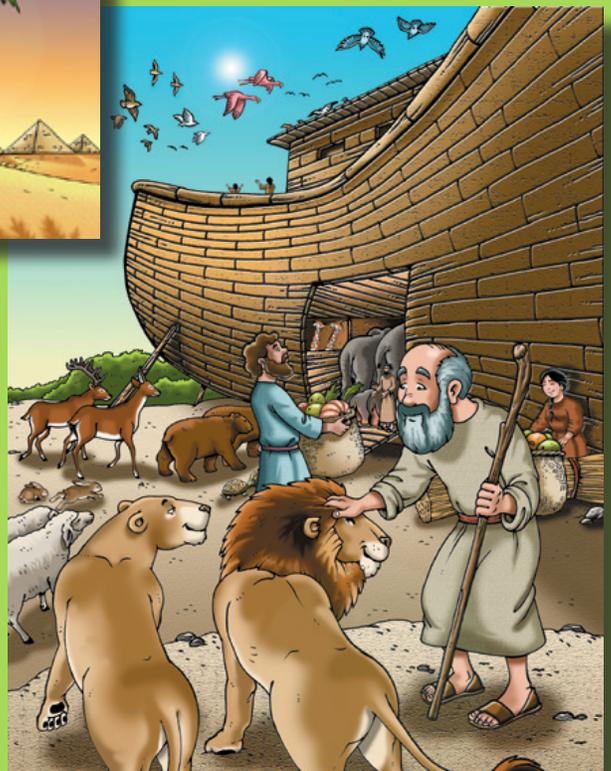
After four years of working for the Animation Studio he quit in order to serve a full time Mission in Cali, Colombia. Brother Ramirez said of his mission, "Definitely the mission service has been one the most rewarding experiences in my life. Because of the knowledge, opportunities to serve, and experiences." Following his mission service he was hired as an



▲ *Mary, Joseph, and the Child flee into Egypt*  
Digital artwork

► *Noah and the Ark*  
Digital artwork

◀ *Self Portrait*  
Digital artwork



illustrator by an advertising agency in Medellin, Colombia. A few years later he moved back to Cali where he decided to work on his own as a freelance illustrator.

Brother Ramirez stated, "Though I am self-taught, I have always tried to value and improve this talent that my Heavenly Father has given me. I consider that the 'glory of God is intelligence' and I try to acquire it by taking courses with teachers of art in various areas, reading good books about art and above all practicing, that is to say, through personal effort." He has worked on advertising and editorial projects in his own country as well as internationally. He uses different techniques of traditional media such as watercolors, pastels, colored pencils, feather brush, acrylics, aerografo, as well as digital illustration.

In speaking of the motivation for his work brother Ramirez states, "Although I enjoy family life, I am unable to have children. Nevertheless, my 10 nephews and nieces, whom I love with all my heart, help to make this trial more tolerable. They are, in great measure my motivation and inspiration to work on the projects that I have been called on to participate in."

Brother Ramirez has served faithfully in many different callings and assignments in the church. He is currently serving as the 1st counselor in the Sunday school presidency in the Kennedy Stake. In addition he says, "I also enjoy attending the beautiful Temple to serve. I like to go with the youth of our stake to perform Baptisms for the dead."

In Brother Ramirez' own words he explains, "I am very thankful to my Father in Heaven for the love and mercy offered me, for the opportunity to serve and for the talents that He has blessed my life with. To show my gratitude toward Him, I always strive to achieve excellence in all that I do. I can describe this with the following words: 'If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things'." ■



▲ Rose  
Digital artwork

► Armor of God  
Digital artwork



## Database News & Events

April 2008



Esther Tsai, an International Artists and Photographers Database member, was recently featured in the April 26, 2008 issue of *LDS Church News*. In the article, "Taiwan artist will set brushes aside for mission", Elder James Phillips and Sister Judith Phillips, Asia Area Public Affairs Missionaries, discuss Esther's work and plans to serve a mission.

Esther's portrait of a loving Asian mother and child appeared in the April issue of the *Ensign* and *Liahona* magazines. The inclusion of Esther's paintings in the magazines was a direct result of her participation in the International Artists and Photographers Database.

As we have discussed in recent issues of this newsletter, many database participants have expressed a desire to have a way to contact the individuals featured in the newsletter to compliment them and to learn more about their work. To accomplish that we will now begin including the email address of those that are featured in the newsletter. The email addresses of two of the individuals featured in recent issues are:

colin.ligertwood@afp.gov.au (Colin was featured in February)  
dannysoleta@yahoo.com (Danny was featured in March)

Please keep us informed of any changes that occur to the contact information we have for you in the database. It is critical that we have accurate information in order to provide you with assignments and important news. Thank you for your participation.