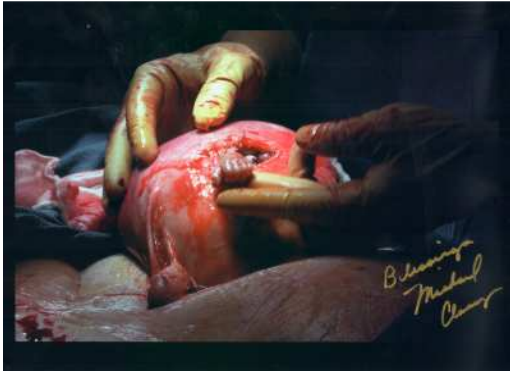


*The world-famous
"Hand of hope"
picture*



Samuel Armas at the age of 21 weeks,
in his mother's womb.
Complete story inside!

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In this photo taken August 19, 1999, entitled "The Hand of Hope", Samuel Armas is 21 weeks old (half-term). While still in the womb, he is grasping the finger of Dr. Bruner, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, in Nashville, Tennessee, after his operation to correct spina bifida.

Freelance photographer Michael Clancy is there for the *USA Today* newspaper to photograph this novel surgery, which leads him to capture this totally unexpected movement on the part of Samuel, namely **the earliest human interaction ever documented in the history of mankind** (the anaesthesia given Samuel through his mother's blood has by this time worn off).

Since *USA Today* has published the picture in its September 2000 issue, the photo has gone around the world many times, and the photographer has been the victim of numerous persecutions for having succeeded in showing the humanity of the unborn child, this despite numerous attempts to prevent him from doing so.

Visit www.michaelclancy.com for the complete story as well as his photo.



Samuel at the age of 4, in 2003, with his mother, Julie. Samuel is said to be "bright and outgoing" and to have "avoided many of the problems spina bifida children otherwise have to get corrected after birth".

April 2009

Français au verso