

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – THURSDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 2025
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Good morning.

Good morning. A story on the BBC news website this week caught my eye. It was about a poor man in Myanmar who travelled to India to sell a kidney for around \$2,000 dollars to pay off his debts and buy some land. There were several similar stories from his community. While buying and selling organs is illegal almost everywhere in the world, the [United Nations](#) describes the organ trade, including human trafficking for organ removal, as a lucrative criminal business.

The abyss between the wealthy few and the impoverished multitudes is growing, and the more despairing people become, the more vulnerable they are to exploitation, even to the extent of selling their body parts. The modern dream of progress towards a golden age of prosperity and peace is being overshadowed by a much darker reality.

Political responses to such crises vary, but I believe that it is a fundamental responsibility of Christians like myself to speak out for those abandoned to the forces of greed and violence which have plagued humankind throughout history. Little has changed since the biblical prophet Amos fulminated against the wealthy elite of ancient Israel: “Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, ... buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals”. Today, he might mention buying organs from the bodies of the poor. Amos goes on to predict a time of famine and darkness. We would do well to heed this warning, that when justice fails and the rich lay claim to the earth, we are on a slippery slope towards environmental and social catastrophe.

But there are and always have been communities united in the quest for a more just and sustainable world, and they come from every religion, race, class and culture. A coalition of billionaires and millionaires from around the world delivered [a letter](#) to the World Economic Forum in Davos in Switzerland last month, demanding that world leaders “draw the line and tax the super-rich”. This call for a change of mindset wouldn’t solve all our problems, but it would be a significant start and might send a message to the poor that their cries are being heard. But even if they’re not heard, the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Scriptures repeatedly promise that God hears. “The Lord hears the cry of the poor,” says the psalmist. For me, this means that Christians cannot be silent in the face of the most ancient and enduring of world wars: the oppression of the poorest by the most powerful.