I especially enjoyed meeting the core group of committed Libertarian activists. Joram is a young man who spent several months in prison after he painted some pigs yellow (the color of the ruling party), and set them loose in the parliament. We met another young man who is very enthusiastic about the idea of taxation being theft, who also took us on a tour of his startup company that makes lemongrass flavored pineapple wine -- it is really quite delicious.

The moment I knew that the core group of activists really understands the philosophy of liberty came when one of the camp attendees (who was a ruling party loyalist) asked how "stubborn people" would be punished in a libertarian society. The phrase "stubborn people" means homosexuals, and in Uganda this is a hot political topic. Moderates are the ones who consider lengthy prison sentences to be sufficient. These libertarians explained in a rational way that the role of the state is not to enforce morality. Given the unpopularity (and potential danger) in voicing such a position, it served as clear evidence that these young people grasped the entirety of our philosophy, and embraced it.

That same ruling party activist became very angry when a speaker from Tanzania criticized several African leaders. In fact, he made veiled threats about what he would do with the video of the talk. This student activist held his ground and wouldn't give in to those lame arguments from intimidation.

I couldn't have been prouder to see these extremely solid libertarians who demonstrated beyond doubt their deep understanding of our ideas and their courageous moral commitment to them.

I also had a very spirited conversation with a couple of young ladies from Kenya who had never contemplated the idea that a country may want to legalize marijuana. When I told them that my party has been fighting for decades to legalize all drugs, and that we are very proud of the progress we have made legalizing marijuana in a few states, they were shocked, and told me that in Kenya I would be considered the worst person in the world. However, it was an opportunity to talk about the role of the state in the regulation of private conduct, as well as the concept of self-ownership. I can't say I changed their minds on the spot -- but they had never heard these ideas until speaking with me. One of them emailed me asking for a copy of Harry Browne's "How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World."

The work we did at this Liberty Camp in Uganda is extremely meaningful and useful. We are planting seeds of liberty and I am convinced that we made tangible contributions to a better world.

– Kyle Varner, MD