With the kind sponsorship of Atlas Network, Africa Youth Peace Call (AYPC) was able to bring four teachers from each of Ghana’s 10 regions to participate in the first ever Teachers For Liberty Workshop from 27 February – 1 March 2015. The weekend workshop hosted twenty-one (21) female and nineteen (19) male teachers totaling forty (40).

On Friday evening AYPC’s President Afrikanus Kofi Akosah welcomed the teachers and urged them to get involved in spreading the ideas of liberty & entrepreneurship in their schools and communities. They went through an orientation and what to expect at the weekend that was facilitated by AYPC’s Programmes Manager Akwasi Adusei.

Saturday Morning was kicked off with the screening of Prof. Ken Schoolland’s Animation of the Philosophy of Liberty. This enlightened participants on the principles of individual liberty. There was a lengthy discussion about the video. At the end, all participants agreed that no one has the right to use force on others.

Mr. Ajibola Adigun, an Executive Board Member of African Students for Liberty (ASFL) who joined us from Nigeria did a yeoman job lecturing on “Libertarianism 101” (social and political). He made participants to understand that every adult individual have the right and responsibility to decide about their own lives, but they should not infringe on the rights of others. He followed it up on Sunday with the Economic perspective of the Libertarian.

The teachers were then introduced to the T.V. Series called the Shark Tank. This Show is about tough, self-made, multi-billionaires who want to invest in America’s best businesses and products. The Sharks give people from all walks of life the chance to pitch their business ideas & products with them. This was aimed at exposing participants to business ideas and how to present it to investors.
Prof. Raf Vlummen of Business & Entrepreneurship Training Academy (BETA) in the Philippines ran two sessions of Business Planning on Saturday & Sunday. He took them through the basis of planning and executing business ideas. He emphasized that many businesses fail because a lot of efforts were not placed in the planning stage.

After an hour break participants resumed and discussed business opportunities in their community. Moderated by Afrikanus Kofi Akosah, he suggested to the teachers that they should start businesses to create jobs in their communities as they have much time after school & vacation.

Vice President of Atlas Network, Dr. Tom G. Palmer ended the day with a lecture on Peace, Love and Liberty based on his recent book. He made participants to understand that peaceful cooperation can be harnessed through free markets, trade, and mutual respect which can and is changing the world.

On Sunday Morning Prof. Nigel Ashford’s insightful Video “Ten Views of Classical Liberals” was screened. It was supposed to be followed by Questions & Answers Session with the IHS Scholar but he was under the weather. We therefore utilized the time and discussed how the teachers can spread the ideas of Liberty in their communities especially to their students. Most of the teachers were of the view that the school curriculum is full of socialist ideas and as such they would have to push for a change.

The internet spews ideas and opportunities without borders. Gregory Diehl a Business Consultant from California who is a Permanent Tourist did a presentation on how to market your products and ideas online. He explained how one can start a business with just a PC & a good internet connection.

Prof. Noel Berge of Colorado, a Business Coach with more than 40 years experience made Financing your Start up very lucid. He was of the view that communicating your business ideas very well to others makes a great difference. He identified family, friends & Crowd Funding as the first step in financing start ups, but more importantly developing a saving culture.

We also took the opportunity to introduce them to Crypto-Currency. Matt Mckibbin of Washington DC did a presentation on Bitcoin/Blockchain Opportunities. His suggestion that Bitcoins can end the situation where majority of Africans are unbanked and facilitate cross border trading went down well with the teachers.

Mr. Richard Siaw a teacher and an entrepreneur shared his experience as a Street Hawker, Teacher & a successful entrepreneur in a lecture dubbed, ‘Don’t Put your Eggs in One Basket’. He beseeched his fellows to engage in other profit ventures to supplement his income and invited them to join him in a new venture of starting a budget school for the poor.
This lecture brought the Workshop to a fruitful end. In his closing remarks, Mr. Adusei Akwasi, the Programs Manager of AYPCC entreated all participants to help spread the ideas of liberty. He proposed that teachers should set up Liberty Clubs in their schools.

SOME PARTICIPANTS’ POST WORKSHOP COMMENTS

“It was one of the few productive weekends in my adult life” - Andrew Kwame Asamoah

“Nobody organizes anything for the teacher except the government. Thank you AYPCC and Atlas Network for the enlightenment” - Nartey Edmund

“There’s no doubt the road to prosperity is via Free Markets”- Akosua Agyapomaa

“This workshop has helped me draw more pictures on how to be a Libertarian. I won’t depend on the government again for my survival on this earth”- Manu Priscilla

APPRECIATION

We are very grateful to Atlas Network for the funds to run the workshop. We are also very thankful to the AYPCC Board and our affiliates for their continue support. We salute all our teachers especially Ajibola Adigun who traveled all the way from Nigeria to spend the weekend with us.

WHAT NEXT

We are hoping to organize more of these workshops to reach out to more teachers so that they can impart these ideas on their students and community. We will also work with all the participants of the maiden Teachers for Liberty Workshop to set up Liberty clubs in their various schools. More importantly Teachers For Liberty is going to be developed into a Movement for Teachers who advocate & spread the ideas of Liberty.
TFL WORKSHOP

THEME: POSITIONING THE TEACHER TO SPREAD LIBERTY & PROSPERITY

Program

Friday – 27 February, 2015

5:30 - Welcome Address
6:00 – Dinner
7:00 – Socialisation

Saturday 28 February, 2015

6:00 – Wake Up Time
7:00 – Philosophy of Liberty (Animation)
7:30 – Discussion
8:00 – Breakfast
9:00 – Libertarianism 101 (Social & Political)
10:00 – Shark Tank
11: Business Plan I
12:00 – Lunch
13:00 – Internet Marketing
14:00 – Peace, Love & Liberty
15:00 – Ten Views of Classical Liberals
15:30 Discussions with Prof. Ashford Nigel
16:00 – Games
18:00 – Dinner
20:00 Documentary
Sunday 1st March, 2015

6:00 – Wake Up Time

7:00 – Business Plan II

8:00 – Breakfast

9:00 – Libertarianism 101 II (Economic)

10:00 – How To Finance Your Start – Up

11:00 – Discover Bitcoins

12:00 – Bitcoin Vs. Political Power

12:30 – Photo Shoot

1:00 – Don’t Put Your Eggs in One Basket

2:00 – Lunch & Departure