

Jake Harriman

Founder, Nuru International and Founder, More Perfect Union

Building Great Leaders: How To Unlock Hidden Potential. While developing and deploying Nuru International, Jake Harriman was faced with the monumental task of not only recruiting fellow Marines to join his ranks but also identify and training local leaders in war-torn part of Africa to take up his cause and continue Nuru's work *after* the NGO's physical exit from the region.

Having crafted a model for Nuru's success that is "fundamentally based on building leaders to innovate past the challenges they will experience"—coupled with his impressive experience as a Presidential Leadership Scholar—Harriman is able to discuss in moving detail how to inspire and equip the leaders of tomorrow. He shares stories that are equal parts heart-breaking, gripping, and hilarious to illustrate the importance of strong leadership in war and business. In particular, Harriman focuses on how to identify and nurture the unique qualities that make a leader, why it's better to invest in leaders than infrastructure, plus how to unlock potential within your current ranks.

Servant Leadership: Put Yourself Last To Finish First. How does a leader become someone their team *wants* to follow? According to Jake Harriman, by practicing the principles of servant leadership. With this practical, hands-on talk, he explains how to become a servant leader as well as the bottom-line benefits to servant leadership—including learning implementable solutions to existing problems from those you lead, creating an engaged culture with less lost time, and developing a resilient staff who is willing and able to withstand seismic shifts.

Finding Common Ground to Reach Higher. Following multiple tours of duty and humanitarian work in conflict regions across the globe, retired marine platoon commander Jake Harriman returned home to find that the United States had become divided. Thus began his mission to empower Americans to find common ground in order to reach higher ground and work together to create positive, meaningful change in our communities and beyond. Drawing from his experiences uniting groups in war-torn regions, Harriman emphasizes the importance of understanding, empathy, and belonging, while also discussing the importance of embracing diverse perspectives as the foundation for genuine connection and collaboration. He shares battle-tested approaches for conquering division and emphasizes the collective responsibility of creating a more resilient and united front within our country and our organizations.

Fail Fast, Learn Fast: Innovation Under Pressure. When Harriman launched Nuru International, it was the first organization of its kind: a fusion of the best aspects of NGOs paired with a staff of combat veterans with experience operating in war zones. With this talk, he tells stories of the early days of Nuru and the challenges he faced, including being robbed, a malaria diagnosis, a black widow spider bite, an earthquake, and being struck by lightning—all in one week. With a motto of "fail fast, learn fast," Nuru became an agile organization that is now a major success story soon heading into new global territories with the backing of the White House. He shares the lessons learned along the way about innovating past unforeseen challenges and continuously adapting to new environments.

Why America Must Lead. Having witnessed conflict, violence, and desperation in the third world firsthand, Harriman has come to passionately believe that America must lead the global effort to eradicate extreme poverty. With this talk, he explains his experiences abroad and the life-changing moments that brought him to this conclusion. He discusses the effects of extreme poverty, including forced indoctrinations into radical terror groups, and outlines why, from a national security perspective, America must lead the international effort to eradicate extreme poverty.