

## Jake Harriman

Former Marine Force Recon Platoon Commander, Mission-Driven Changemaker, Founder of Nuru International and The Brickyard

**Bridging the Divide: Veterans Building Unity in Times of Turmoil.** Convinced that America's greatest threat isn't external but internal, Jake founded The Brickyard in 2021—a national civic and service organization rebuilding trust the only way it's ever been built: locally, in person, shoulder to shoulder. With chapters growing across the country, The Brickyard is proving that Americans don't need to agree to show up for each other. Jake shares what it takes to rebuild a fractured country—one gathering, one service project, one neighbor at a time.

**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 Operators to join his ranks but also identify and training local leaders in war-torn parts 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.

**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 special operations 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 attack, 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 U.S. government. He shares the lessons learned along the way about innovating past unforeseen challenges and continuously adapting to new environments.