

Luminous Dark

Leaning into pain, holding on to God, breaking through to light

Alain Emerson



Muddy Pearl

'Brutal honesty and extraordinary insight disguised in the most beautiful prose.'

Pete Greig, 24-7 Prayer

Alain Emerson felt like the luckiest man in the world. The talented pastor of a thriving church and national director of a prayer movement, he had found and married Lindsay, the girl of his dreams, his soulmate. He could never have imagined that in a matter of months he would be nursing his beautiful twenty-three-year-old wife through the final stages of cancer, and would find himself as a young widower, distraught and alone...

In *Luminous Dark* Alain walks through the stages of grief, pain and shock, choosing to lean into the pain, and to face God with his disappointment. He experiences the bewildering silence of God, the absence of simple answers, and life in the dark tunnel of despair. Finding great comfort from the Psalms and the work of writers who truly understand – Wiesel, Brueggemann, Moltmann – Emerson wrestles with God and with his grief.

Through this, he emerges with a stronger and deeper faith, and a sense of having seen God's face – the one who walks beside us, suffers and weeps with us, and who ultimately restores our joy.

Author

Alain Emerson is Irish National Director of 24-7 Prayer and a lead Pastor at Emmanuel Church, a thriving young church in Lurgan, Northern Ireland. Alain has a passion to see God do a 'new thing' in Ireland. He is married to Rachel and they have two daughters, Annie and Erin.

Alain is a former Irish league footballer who now enjoys watching sport rather than playing it, especially the mighty Liverpool! He enjoys hanging out with friends, reading and helping his wife run a dental practice.

'Exceptional, inspiring ... deeply courageous ... one of the most sensitive and comprehensive books on the theology of grief in our time.'

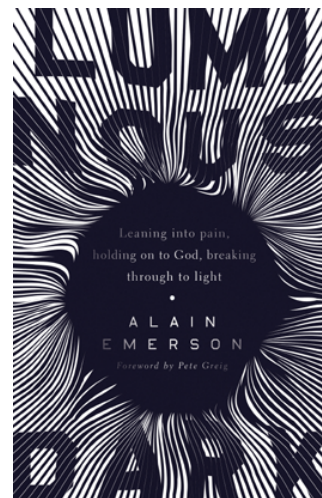
Andrea Wigglesworth, MSc Counsellor, Psychotherapist and Life Coach

Readership

- Anyone who has experienced or is currently experiencing bereavement, grief and suffering
- Their families and those who are caring for them
- Christians struggling with unanswered prayer and disappointment with God
- Pastoral care teams

Key Selling Points

- Help for those experiencing loss to fully face and work *through* their grief, and into a deeper understanding of God and a stronger faith in him
- Tackles the difficult question of 'Why God?' in a deeply honest way
- Foreword by Pete Greig, director of 24-7 Prayer
- Told with real honesty, understanding and compassion
- Insight into the Psalms of lament
- Endorsements by John Lennox, Bishop Harold Millar, Andrea Wigglesworth, Peter Lynas, Steve Stockman and Helen Warnock



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GATECRASHING

The story of 24-7 Prayer in Ibiza

Brian Heasley



MuddyPearl

40,000 Ecstasy tablets sold every single day. The most pubs, clubs and bars in a square mile in the whole of Europe. Hundreds of thousands of young people, intent on having the best time they possibly can. Excess leading to violence, injury and incapacity. What could anyone possibly do in a place like that?

'One of the most important ministries in the world is the ministry of presence. Here is the story of that ministry - of moving in and listening. Let it invite you to find your own Ibiza.'

Shane Claiborne

In 1998 the British Vice Consul to Ibiza resigned, saying, 'These degenerates are dragging us through the mud.' Ibiza was branded a modern day 'Sodom and Gomorrah' by the British press.

24-7 Prayer took it as an invitation. A challenge. A call to go to the party island and pray. So Brian and Tracy Heasley and their boys left their comfortable life in a sleepy Norfolk market town and started a new life in Ibiza. They started out praying – simply walking and praying – around the walls of San Antonio.

Each summer they were joined by teams of young volunteers, and would walk through the city at night chatting to clubbers and offering prayer. Many would open up with their deepest worries and concerns.

Soon they began to give practical help – taking people home when they were too sick to remember their hotels, looking after those who were in danger of being raped or robbed, building bridges with the bar owners and prostitutes. The familiar T-shirts of 24-7 became much loved as a third emergency service that the bar owners could call on and frightened tourists could trust. Their journey took them to some of the strangest places: they saw things they never thought they would see, and they saw the Lord answer their prayers in amazing ways.

Author

Brian and Tracy Heasley helped to pioneer the remarkable work of 24-7 Prayer on the Mediterranean island of Ibiza, where they lived with their two sons for over seven years. Raised in Northern Ireland, Brian became a Christian at a young age but, after a number of difficult years, recommitted his life to Christ in prison. Brian communicates his faith with contagious humour and passion. He is now Director of 24-7 Prayer GB.

Readership

- Christians, especially in their twenties and thirties.
- Christians who long to reach out to their communities, but don't know where to start.
- People involved in the work of Street Pastors and other similar organisations.

Key selling points

- Practical help for those wanting to serve God in urban communities.
- Inspiring, gritty stories of God at work from the 24-7 Prayer community.
- Endorsements by Shane Claiborne and Tim Hughes.
- Told with honesty, humour and compassion.
- Foreword by Pete Greig.



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