

[Subscribe](#)

[Share](#) ▼

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

Being present : Have we exchanged the glow of the Campfire for the glow of the iPhone

[View this email in your browser](#)

# REND COLLECTIVE

EST. 2006



Image by [Dmitriy Shpak](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

car parks while everyone DJ-ed their favourite tunes from their car stereo. To Christians virtually everywhere it used to mean singing Kumbaya along with that slightly weird kid in youth group who brought his ukelele to Summer Camp. (We still, unfortunately, are those weird kids!).

Something has changed in recent years... we still gather together to "hang out" but for some reason we are hanging out with different people in a different place via our smart phones. Instagram seems to have more to amaze us than the faces of those right in front of us. Stories from Buzz Feed seem to captivate our attention more than the stories and struggles of our friends and family.

At the risk of sounding like everyone's dad, I can't help but wonder what this shift does to the health of our communities.

We have exchanged the glow of the campfire for the glow of our phones. Instead of being present and engaged with the world around us we have become distant and obsessed with a world that isn't actually "real". Instead of gathering round the shared flame of friendship we each huddle round our own individualised, artificial glow.

I really hope the future doesn't look like that one guy who walks around my supermarket with his ear-phones in. Almost justified in his rudeness as he ignores those around him just because he is playing loud music in his ear. I like to watch him and laugh as he swaggers down the cereal aisle picking up his Rice Krispies in a zombie-ish way that he obviously thinks is cool. Being detached doesn't make you make you cool - it makes you alone. Does the future really turn us all into drones? (Not the flying robot ones...although that would actually be pretty brilliant!)

Are we addicted to the Internet?

I love this new world with all its new ways of interacting with others, but I wonder, will the generation after us just ban phones all together because humanity has forgotten how to be... human?

The heart of the campfire is intimacy and openness. Round that fire we don't keep our lives to ourselves but we hold them out in full view for those with us to see who we really are, unashamed and unafraid.

The world of social media tends to be a world of pretending. Pretending we're more important, successful, good looking or funnier than we actually are. I can tell you for certain, it takes an embarrassing number of filters to make me look Insta-ready. And each one of those filters creates distance between the real me and the virtual one that x number of people online have "liked". If sharing our scars forges community, surely airbrushing them away destroys it.

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

---

## IF SHARING OUR SCARS FORGES COMMUNITY, SURELY AIRBRUSHING THEM AWAY DESTROYS IT.

---

Are we suggesting life without technology? Absolutely not. We are not theologians but we're pretty sure Netflix is one of the ways the Lord has communicated that He loves this generation! No, just a return to simplicity and authenticity I guess.

A return to using our phones and loving people; not the other way round.

A return to being fully present when we're with others - awake, aware and alive to the divine spark inside every one of us.

A return to the gospel truth that our real, unfiltered selves are worth loving. Jesus' unconditional love and acceptance means we don't have to hide behind VSCO.

A return to the campfire.

---

## CAMPFIRE

OLD ALBUM, NEW WAY TO LISTEN



In honour of Campfire II coming out later this year, we decided to bring Campfire I to Spotify for the first. time. ever. Which means it's now available to stream for free worldwide!

Being Irish we love free stuff and we love you all! We hope this album brings you joy as you're able to stream it anywhere.

**[LISTEN HERE](#)**

**Subscribe**

**Share** ▼

**Past Issues**

**Translate** ▼

TWITTER . FACEBOOK . INSTAGRAM . SPOTIFY



---

*Copyright © 2016 Rend Collective, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)