
Upstream
Collective
2026 Annual Report
LIVING SENT, TOGETHER
Celebrating a year of walking with churches through the entire sending journey



A YEAR OF MOMENTUM

This has been a milestone year for the Upstream Collective. Since we met our Global Fund goal last year, we began 2026 on strong footing and stepped into new ministry opportunities around the world.

Equipping Church Leaders
More church leaders joined our cohorts this year than at any point in our 18-year history. These cohorts are about more than attendance. Leaders work alongside our team to strengthen how their churches prepare, send, and care for missionaries. We also removed our resource paywall, making 200 training tools and videos free to churches everywhere.

Expanding the Sending Network
Our Sending Network now includes more than 30 committed sending churches. Through application, assessment, and ongoing development, these churches are embracing high standards of missionary care and community. Together, they have more than 44 adults serving on the field and 23 candidates preparing to go soon.

Global Equipping and Multiplication
Because sending belongs to the global church, our Equipping team traveled to Kenya this fall to train about 100 pastors and leaders who are eager to send to the nations. A Cameroonian missions pastor we trained in 2024 taught alongside us. It was multiplication in action.

Looking Ahead to 2027
We enter 2027 with eager expectations. Testimonies of gospel breakthrough among unreached peoples, churches caring deeply for their sent ones, and growing relational cohorts all point to what God is doing. With your continued generosity and partnership, we look forward to walking alongside even more churches as they send well.

With gratitude,

Larry McCrary
Co-Founder, President, CEO



EQUIPPING

Opening the Library, Widening the Table

In 2026, the Upstream Collective took three steps that broadened who we serve.

1

We removed the membership paywall from our online library, making roughly 200 resources and training videos free to every church, everywhere.

This is something we've wanted to do for a long time. We believe access to tools that strengthen sending shouldn't be limited by a church's size or ability to pay.

Because of our generous supporters, we are finally at a place where we can remove barriers and make these resources available to churches around the world.

2

We also launched *Not Another Missions Podcast*, hosted by executive directors Bradley Bell and Nathan Sloan, drawing from their experience as missionaries, missions pastors, and longtime friends. It takes on the practical, honest, and often messy questions that senders and sent ones face.

Scan the QR code with your mobile device to check out the latest episode of *Not Another Missions Podcast*!

3

In September, we carried our conviction to Kenya. Through trainings and Global Missions Breakfasts in Nairobi and Mombasa, about 100 pastors, bishops, and missions leaders engaged our sending church frameworks. Through a Nairobi publisher, we also provided 500 copies of *The Sending Church Defined* and *The Sending Church Applied*. Best of all, a Cameroonian missions pastor whom we trained in 2024, Chofong Alfred, taught alongside us.

Kenyan leaders have invited us back to train local guides who can carry this work forward. That model could open doors in Cameroon, Brazil, Mongolia, South Asia, and beyond, helping majority-world churches send from the resources God has already given them. None of this happens without our generous givers. Your investment is helping churches around the world send well.

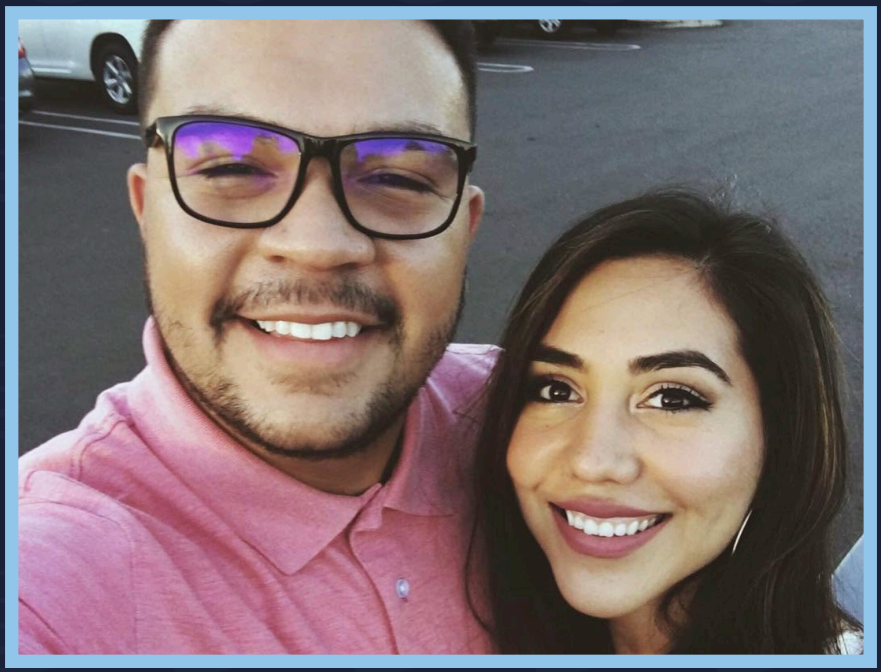


"Upstream Collective has strengthened my ecclesiology and missiology to give structure and practical steps to uphold healthy missions practices within and through the local church."

Chofong Alfred, missions pastor, Bamenda, Cameroon

SENDING

What it looks like to send well



In December 2023, Gabriel and Diana came home from a Canyon Hills Community Church trip to Japan ready to go back. Gabriel, a mathematician from the Dominican Republic, couldn't shake one statistic: only about half a percent of Japan's people are Christian. Diana had been wary of the emotion that often follows short-term trips, so they prayed together for six months. By the end, she shared his call.

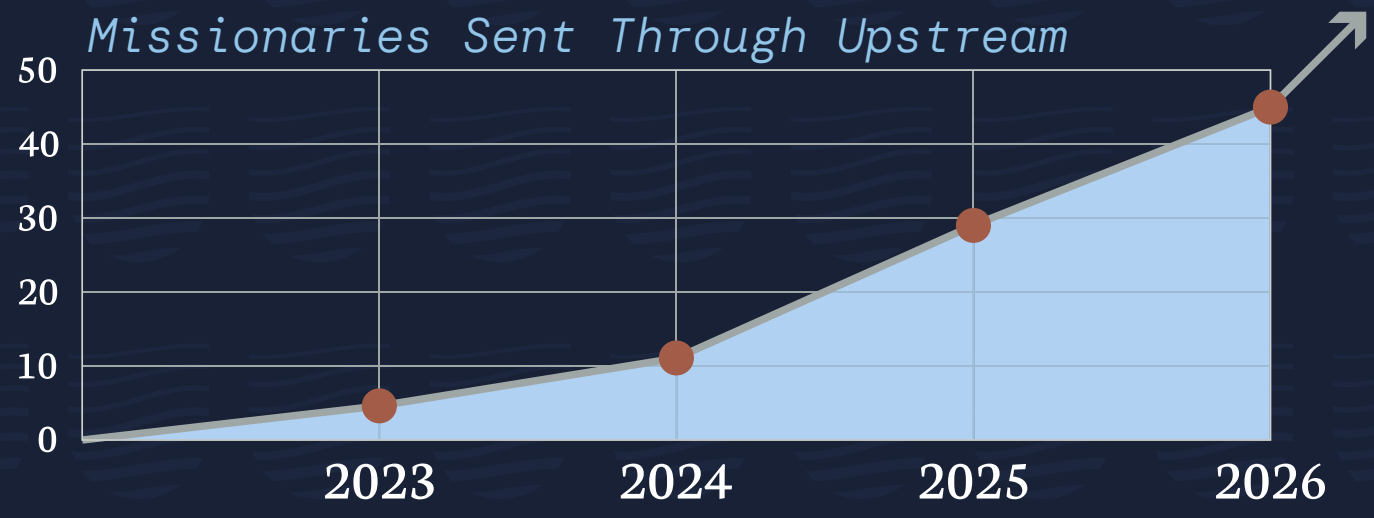
When they brought it to their pastors, the answer surprised them: slow down. Canyon Hills walked them through its sending pipeline, which included evangelism training, ministry at home, and honest questions about their readiness. One question was simple: do you have any Japanese friends? Within weeks they met Lenny, a young man from Japan, whom they led to faith. He was baptized that fall.

Today, Gabriel and Diana are preparing to launch to Japan in 2027. They are confident in their call and clear on how their church will care for them. As their pastor puts it, partnership in the gospel starts long before commissioning. This is what it looks like to send well.

Canyon Hills is one of 33 churches now partnering with Upstream to send healthy missionaries who make disciples and plant churches around the world. Together, these churches have 44 missionaries on the field and 23 more in the pipeline to be sent. More churches are choosing to walk the sending journey with us, and each one strengthens how sent ones are prepared, sent, and cared for.

CONTINUED GROWTH

in sending the unsent



2026 IMPACT

10 Cohorts

103 Cohort participants

100 African missions leaders trained

33 Sending Network churches

44 missionaries on the field

23 missionaries in the pipeline

FIELD LEADERS RETREAT



Last year, generous partners like you gave so we could gather missionary leaders in Cyprus for respite and restoration from their frontline work. This gathering took place in October 2026 and provided the space for them to slow down, process the joys and challenges of ministry, and receive meaningful care for both their souls and their work.

"As an emerging team leader, it was so good to be surrounded by seasoned mature leaders who have pioneered and led churches in hard contexts and remained faithful to the gospel. I serve in a serious culture, so it was also refreshing to have fun and just laugh together."

— Emanuel Bosson, missionary in Sweden

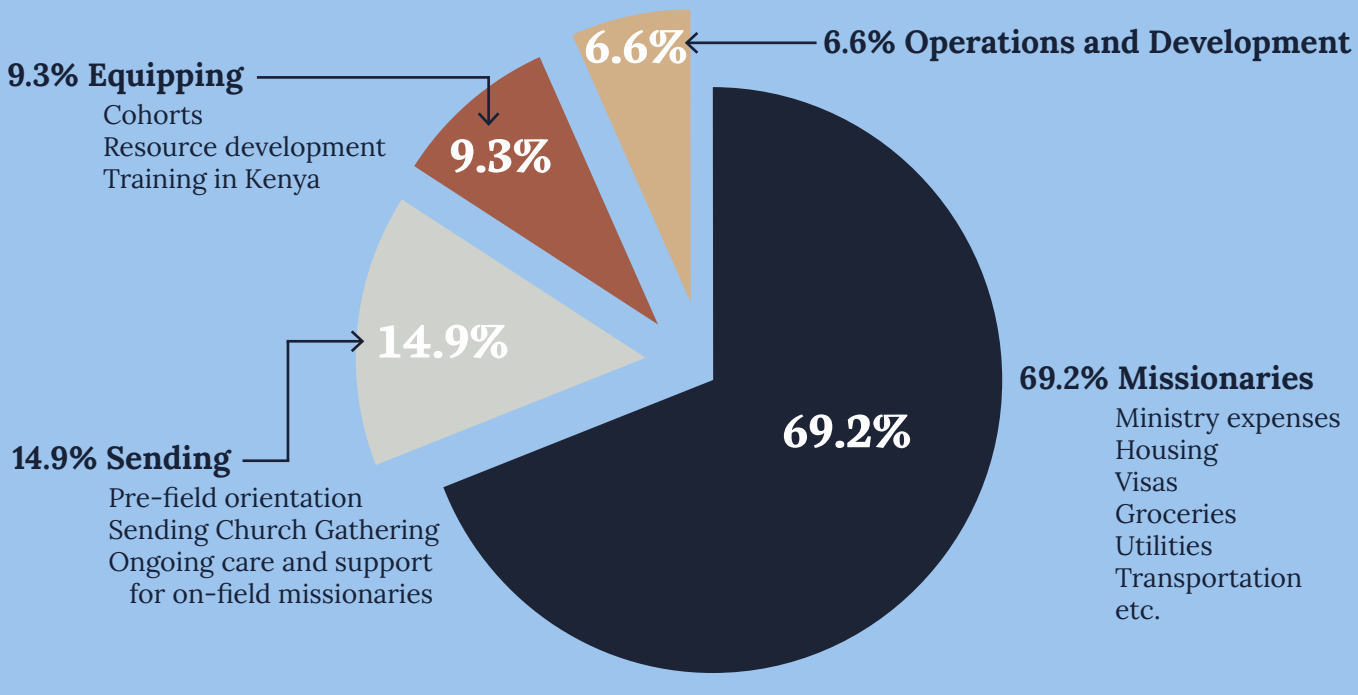
LOOKING AHEAD

Behind every healthy missionary is a church that knows how to send. The Global Fund—our end of year giving campaign—helps churches become that kind of church through training, coaching, and resources. We offer these to churches of every size and context, including those with limited budgets, so that every church can grow in its calling to send well.

Upstream Global Fund

We have a big vision for 2027—growing our Sending Church network and their pipelines, gathering all missionaries for a rest and development retreat, and collaborating with our global partners on more trainings for sent identity and sending.

Your generosity sends the unsent. Thank you for giving in 2026 to help churches find their sent identity, mobilize churches on every continent, and send missionaries through a church ready to stand behind them. Here's a look at how we stewarded your generosity:




The church sends. We help.
Thank you for investing prayer, people,
and resources in this mission.
Upstream
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theupstreamcollective.org