

Kenneth W. Hermann

Faculty Fellow, Au Sable Insitute. 국제적으로 저명한 역사학자이며 기독교 환경운동가로서 현재 고신대학교의 교환교수로 방문 중이다. 환경문제에 대한 국제적 기독교 운동의 일환으로 Au Sable Insitute를 소개한다.

# CARING FOR CREATION: THE MISSION OF AU SABLE INSTITUTE

Over the last several decades our world, especially the Western hemisphere, has witnessed the phenomenal growth of cities, technologies, and economic systems. Each one of these development shave consumed enormous amounts of the earth's resources, profoundly upset delicate ecosystems, and strained our environments to the breaking point. God's call to be faithful stewards and caretakers of the earth's fruitfulness and integrity has often been ignored.

We are finding that much of what we considered to be "progress" cannot be sustained indefinitely, that our desires have been purchased at the expense of the creation, through degrading, expending, and destroying the larger creation

which sustains us all.

Thankfully, in the midst of this crisis many Christians from around the world have stepped forward to lead all of God's people in the paths of faithful stewardship of the creation.

One of the most prominent leaders in the movement of Christian environmental stewardship over the past sixteen years has been Au Sable Institute located in the Great Lakes ecosystem of northern Michigan. The board, faculty, and staff of Au Sable confess that God has given human beings the awesome responsibility to care for all of the creation and its many creatures as faithful stewards. Through its diverse programs it nurtures the respect, love, and care for creation that is expected from all those who love and worship the Creator.

Au Sable Institute serves as a professional and vocational institution of higher education that complements the role of colleges and universities. Au Sable 1) provides courses and programs of environmental stewardship for evangelical Christian colleges and seminaries; 2) provides courses and programs for all college and university students with professional, vocational and/or academic interests in developing an understanding of environmental stewardship; 3) provides environmental education, information, and analytical services to school systems and governmental agencies; 4) provides services to evangelical Christian colleges to nurture and develop their own environmental

curriculum and stewardship goals; and 5) cooperates with and assists churches and denominations, educational institutions, and environmental stewardship organizations in responding to environmental needs and issues in a manner consistent with the proper care, keeping and restoration of the Creation. People from around the world have attended its conferences, taught its courses, and been encouraged by its vision of environmental stewardship.

Calvin B. DeWitt, the Director of Au Sable Institute, is professor of Environmental Science at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin. DeWitt is widely known in America for his bold public witness to God's call to faithful stewardship of creation. He most recently led a well-publicized and effective campaign of Christian environmentalists to renew the Endangered Species Act. He has written many articles, delivered countless lectures, and published several books over the past twenty years to stir up God's people to assume their stewardship responsibilities. He is also a highly regarded wetlands specialist whose advice is frequently sought by various governmental officials at all levels, from county to national.

In recent years Au Sable Institute has begun to establish links with Christians in other parts of the world who share its vision of environmental stewardship. At present it has a sister institute, Heber Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies, at Bishop Heber College in south India. It is currently in the final stages of planning for a similar institute affiliated with Daystar College in Nairobi, Kenya.

Finally, you might be interested in exploring the Web site of the Christian Environmental Studies Center at Montreat College. Although not officially affiliated with Au Sable, it has links to many other Christian environmental web sites. In particular, check out the Global Stewardship Initiative which surveys new courses proposed by Christian college professors. Many of these professors have taught at Au Sable as well. If there is a similar web site in Korea I am sure they would be delighted to add it to their homepage. The address is: <http://cesc.montreat.edu> □

**To Readers :**

I have been commissioned by the Au Sable Board of Trustees to explore the depth of interest in stewardship issues among Christians in Korea, to survey what Korean Christians are already doing along these lines, and to create a network of those with deep interest in these issues. If you are interested in learning more about Au Sable and the call of environmental stewardship or to alert me to the seeds of environmental stewardship already growing in Korea, please get in touch with me. My home phone in Korea is (51)414-5925; my email is [kuyper@aol.com](mailto:kuyper@aol.com). I will be leaving Korea on December 20, 1996. I look forward to hearing from you.

- Kenneth Hermann