

Day 9, Saturday, August 9, 2008

Today we have only a short paddle, taking a little over an hour. While we were at the ranger's station yesterday Janice called our outfitters to let them know that Cathy and I would take a tow boat back from Hook Island. Allan and Chris have decided to paddle all the way in. I'm glad they are finally going to get to paddle together. We had a leisurely breakfast of biscuits and gravy, then we broke down camp. Just before we loaded up the canoes I offered a short devotion taking a reading again from Psalms, this time some select passages from Psalm 107. I read from the thanksgiving Psalm. *"He stilled the storm to a whisper; and the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm and he guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and wonderful deeds."* We all offered up the things for which we were thankful. We gave thanks for our good health, our strong bodies that worked, for a canoe partner who worked, for Chris' youth and strength to carry the canoes, for Allan's leadership, for great weather, and beautiful surroundings, we went on for a while as we truly had much to be thankful for.

After our thankfulness prayer, we loaded up the canoes. We stopped for lunch at an island that Allan had camped at some years before and he and Chris went exploring the site. They particularly were looking for a huge 28" pine tree that had snapped during the Boundary Waters 1999 fourth of July cyclone, when more than 50 million trees were downed. After our lunch of beef jerky, we paddled to Hook Island. Allan and Chris took off in their canoe for the outfitter. Cathy and I sat and waited just under an hour for the tow boat. We had a nice conversation while we waited. Right on schedule, five minutes early actually we heard the sound of the motor boat coming for us. We loaded up and watched for Allan and Chris as we motored across the lake. After about ten minutes we saw them and waved. They were smiling and waved back. We got back just fifteen minutes later. The van was sitting waiting for us right by the dock. These outfitters are great, they have thought of every little detail. We unload our packs and head for the showers. Warm water! Flushing toilets! AAhhhh, the comforts of home. By the time I am out of the shower I am surprised to see that Chris and Allan are already back. They made excellent time; only two hours of paddling. They hit the showers and then we all had a beer and dinner of pizza and brownies at Voyageurs Lodge. We checked out the Voyageurs store and bought a few maps, clothes and other items.

