



One last load

Steve Vinton, June 6, 2007

Godfrey's wife Veronica had organized the preparation of voluminous quantities of food and it was all out on the table in their dining room ready for the big going-away party for Fadhili last night. Everything was all set, we even had sodas! Everything except for Fadhili being there. True to form, on his last night with us, Fadhili was out hauling "one last load" of boards with his beloved truck Chapakazi ("Hard Worker" in Swahili!). We didn't end up having our dinner until just before midnight but at least the guest of honor was with us! Fadhili is off today to the university to get hopefully a degree in computer science. He might not be driving Chapakazi anymore but he'll always remain a part of Village Schools Tanzania, he'll do stuff for us in Dar es Salaam

and he'll come back on every one of his vacations to help us out here.

Godfrey summed it up well last night when he said that, while we are convinced that God is not poor and lacking in good people to serve Him, and so we know He will send us another man like Fadhili to drive the trucks, it is humanly speaking hard to imagine that there will ever be someone to replace the big hole we feel not having Fadili around working with us. For today, anyway, Chapakazi is finally getting a rest, sitting up on the top of the hill here at Madisi waiting for Fadhili to come back.

Sometimes it's possible to be happy and sad all at the same time.