**Longtime South African deacon dies**

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JOHANNESBURG-Evan North du Plessis, 82, the longest-serving deacon in the Worldwide Church of God's Johannesburg Central mother church, was buried Nov. 18 after being paralyzed with cancer of the spine from the waist down for 10 weeks.

"Mr. du Plessis was known for his consistent, faithful and selfless service to God, His law and His people," said Geoff Neilson.

Mr. du Plessis was ordained in 1964. He twice escaped from Italian prisoner-of-war camps in World War II and held a high position at a gold mine at the height of South Africa's prosperity, which he gave up to keep the Sabbath.

The funeral was conducted by Mr. du Plessis's pastor, Art Holladay, and attended by members of the WCG, Global Church of God and United Church of God.

Mr. du Plessis was never married and leaves no living relative.