

## **R. Craig Golden**

R. Craig Golden was born and raised on a farm in Pine Valley, New York. At nine years of age, he was born again and at sixteen was baptized and became a member of the Pine Valley Baptist Church. In 1958, he graduated from Horseheads High School and then served a short term in the United States Army Reserves. Prior to going to Bible College, he worked six years at Schweizer Aircraft.

On March 16, 1963, he married Shirley Fleming, a native of Norwich and a 1961 graduate of Baptist Bible College. As lay people, they were actively serving in the Pine Valley Baptist Church when the Lord called them into the Gospel ministry. Craig attended Baptist Bible College in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania where he earned his Bachelor of Theology degree graduating in 1969. He earned his Master of Ministry degree in 2001. He is a member of the school's Alpha Gamma Epsilon Honor Society. He was ordained into the Baptist ministry in May of 1970.

He, along with the faithful support of his wife, has pastored three Regular Baptist churches in the state of New York. His pastorates included Dresserville Bible Baptist Church (4 years); Breesport Baptist Church (10 years); and First Baptist Church, Newark Valley (6 years).

He served thirteen years on numerous committees on the Council of Ten of the Empire State Fellowship of Regular Baptist Churches before the churches called him as their State Representative in 1988. He has served as a council member of Baptist Church Planters and for several years as camp director and board member for two Baptist youth camps, Lamoka and BaYouCa. He was, along with others, instrumental in helping to start Twin-Tiers Baptist High School and chairman of its board. Through the ministry of First Baptist Church of Newark Valley, he was used of the Lord to start a daughter church. For several years, he served on the Council of Eighteen of the GARBC and as a trustee at Baptist Bible College/Seminary.

He is known for his administrative ability and organizational skills. He has a pastor's heart and is a man with a gentle spirit. His preaching is practical and is characterized with an easy to understand, down to earth expounding of the Word of God.