By Carolyn Lee
The Imperial Republican

Pastor Roger Doyle is in the process of moving furniture and decorating the walls of his new office at Berean Fundamental Church.

Since beginning his duties at the church a month ago, he's been moving the office from off the sanctuary to a new location near the front doors.

He and wife Diane have also been getting used to the quiet of a small town.

Pastor Doyle grew up in Bakersfield, Calif. He started assisting his minister father in 1981. "After I started I realized I was pretty young. About 1994 I realized I needed to get a formal education."

He received his Masters in Biblical Counseling from Andersonville Theological Seminary in Georgia in 2000. At that time he was pastor of Bridgebuilders Church in Meridian, Miss., where he ministered for 16 years.

Last year he returned to Bakersfield and was a hospice counselor before being hired by the Imperial church.

"It's a really great church," he enthused, with a tightly knit congregation. "I really want to deepen their relationship and faith in God."

He also said the church has big plans, one being the construction of an addition and landscaping this year.

A constant goal and challenge is to "bring people back to a God-centered life," rather than a self-centered life, he added.

The Doyles have been married for 27 years. Son Kevin and his wife and three children live in Bakersfield, while daughter Leah and her husband and child live in Yuma, Ariz.

Pastor Doyle, 47, lists playing the guitar, biking, fishing and hunting as hobbies.

He replaces John Engbrecht, who resigned to pursue his career in real estate. Engbrecht said "The church needed a full time pastor."

Office hours at the church, at 1530 Broadway, are 8 a.m. to noon, Tuesday through Friday.