

## Turkey Casserole

There is a dish we prepare fairly frequently in our family which we call turkey casserole. It was originally intended as a way to get rid of Thanksgiving left-overs, and includes shredded turkey meat, stuffing, white sauce, and cranberry sauce. We usually substitute chicken for the turkey (dark meat when I do it, white meat when my wife does). Whatever the exact ingredients, it is a family favorite.

It was not always so. When my wife and I first found the recipe our children were grade school age down to toddlers. They did not like anything they hadn't eaten before, which made menu selections difficult. Turkey casserole didn't look like anything they had eaten before, and not a one of them would touch it. I knew it was delicious, and they would love it if they tried it. I cajoled, I threatened, but to no avail. They would choke down a small serving, threatening to vomit the whole time, but they would not enjoy it. I explained to the kids that if they would try it they would enjoy it. They would point out that they had tried it, and hated it. My response was that, although they had certainly eaten some, they hadn't really tasted it. I knew, because if they had tasted it, they would love it. It took years, but with the passage of time each of them became a little more open to new foods, and discovered that they love turkey casserole. We enjoy recounting the whole experience whenever we get a chance<sup>1</sup>.

So what does this have to do with the Book of Mormon, or anything else religious? I have had occasion to interact with people who have dedicated great amounts of time and energy to combing through the Book of Mormon, looking for things to prove it false. They focus on what they consider questionable doctrine, historical anachronisms, and even grammar in an effort to prove their point.

I claim that if these people would read the Book of Mormon they would find out for themselves that it is true. They may object that they have read it, but I would respond that, notwithstanding the effort they have invested in it, they have not yet read it – certainly not in the manner that Moroni prescribes. I know, because if they had actually read it, they would love it.

Next time I want to reject anything without understanding it, I hope I think of turkey casserole.

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<sup>1</sup> In case you are wondering; yes, even my children now find the story humorous.