

## **MAN'S BEST FRIEND**

No! No! No! It's not your dog or cat. It's not your spouse, significant other or your soulmate. As a matter of fact, it's none of the above. Let me explain.

Recently, my wife and I embarked on a trip to Nashville from Atlanta to enjoy some country music and attend the Grand Ole Opry. It was a relatively uneventful four hour drive until, on the outskirts of music city, I had difficulty locating the hotel. We had booked it on line and didn't realize it was off the beaten path!

Having driven to Nashville before, I was fairly familiar with the area so I didn't take time to get the specific directions. As I began to drive around in circles, my wife asked the typical seemingly straightforward question. "Honey, why don't you stop and ask for directions?" As any man knows, those are words we'd rather not hear. Don't we just hate it when our manliness is challenged?

"I'm not lost, I replied. I'm just exploring the area." I could tell from *that* look, she was not pleased with my sense of humor. Still determined not to stop for directions and believing that I could find my way to the hotel, I decided to relieve the tension building in the air. With tongue in cheek, I suggested what I really need is a new car with a built in navigational system. Her comment was straight forward. "REALLY! Don't you think that's an expensive way to get directions?" It was obvious from the expression on my wife's face she wasn't buying into my idea.

Of course, the alternative to stopping to ask directions is a road map. I pulled over into a rest area believing I had a Tennessee map in the glove compartment. Unfortunately, the North Carolina and Georgia maps I found did not solve my problem. If that wasn't frustrating enough, I recognized that my problem with maps is that I can't hold them, I can't read them and my worst challenge is trying to fold them back to their original form.

Then it happened. Having traveled with me on many road trips, my wife, knowing that I rarely ask for directions, had decided in advance she would provide the solution. With a grin on her face, she lovingly handed me a sealed envelope. I opened it, removed its contents, and burst out laughing. To my surprise and delight, there were the directions from my front door to the hotel!

I am no longer directionally challenged. I have discovered my best friend:

**MAPQUEST**

I welcome your comments.

Phil

Phil Parker, a former CEO and successful businessman, is a speaker and author. His book, *Kiss Yourself Hello! From A Life Of Business To The Business Of Life* encourages his readers to discover the possibilities before them and the potential within them. His second book, *The Gift of Perspective~Let My Hindsight Be Your Foresight* shares his lessons learned. Visit Phil online: [www.philparker.com](http://www.philparker.com) or email him at: [phil@philparker.com](mailto:phil@philparker.com) or contact him at 888-489-9393

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